

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Work Session Held June 2, 2025

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center.

Present: Commissioners Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Public Safety Director Buikema; Finance Director Seath; Parks and Recreation Director Melville; City Clerk Parmenter.

2025-68. Work session to review the Proposed 2025-26 Annual Budget.

City Manager Charles reviewed the proposed budget.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak asked if the additional 1.9 million fund balance was for the purchase of the new aerial truck. City Manager Charles stated that it was and that it may transfer to a separate capital fund.

Commissioner Skaggs asked how long the City had been contributing \$60,000 to Joint Facilities and if that amount was sufficient. City Manager Charles noted that there was also a turf and playground fund on top of the annual contribution.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak asked how the 3% increase in water/sewer rates was determined. City Manager Charles stated that there was an increase from Grand Rapids in water/sewer rates, personnel wages and benefits costs.

2025-69. Public comment: None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 16, 2025.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held June 2, 2025

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Public Safety Director Buikema; Finance Director Seath; Parks and Recreation Director Melville; Zoning Administrator Gianotti, City Planner LaBlanc; City Clerk Parmenter.

2025-70. Motion was made by Commissioner Wessely and supported by Commissioner Skaggs to remove Item 7 from the agenda and approve the agenda as amended.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: None.

2025-71. Public comment:

Betsy Anderson, 435 Edgemere, has concerns over communication and said that our website is not user friendly.

Erica Dunten, 2100 Gorham, offered services for communication.

Judith Baxter, Hall St., wants a table of contents for the agenda packets, separate meetings for larger topics and spoke about the Jade Pig lawsuit.

John Chronowski, 775 Bagley, said that the new concept plan does not alleviate his concerns.

Nancy Pattison, 2104 Gorham, has a lot of questions about the PUD.

Jerry Anderson, 435 Edgemere, spoke about the density of the concept plan.

John Fuger, 2738 Elmwood, quoted Steven Ross and spoke about the PUD.

Suzanne McCarty, 1138 Kenesaw, spoke about statistics from past comments.

Janet Dietsch, 562 Greenwood, concerned about safety, traffic and parking with new development.

James Panter, 2100 Gorham, is concerned about school and PUD construction at the same time.

Tom Miller, 1756 Asbury, said that there is a lack of understanding with the PUD.

Nyal Deems, 701 Laurel, spoke about the PUD and ordinance.

2025-72. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak stated that it seemed the timeline has been controlled by the developer and doesn't understand why we are giving them more time.

Commissioner Hunter stated that it seemed that it is the developer against the residents and wants the Brownfield to wait until final concept plan is complete.

Mayor Favale wished the teachers and students a happy and safe summer break and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

City Manager Charles reminded everyone about the After Dark Party on June 7th from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

2025-73. 2025-26 Annual budget public hearing.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

Public hearing opened at 6:53 p.m.

Erica Duntun, 2100 Gorham, would love to have a breakdown of millages that have been passed.

Nancy Pattison, 2104 Gorham, stated that the streets were being repaired with Band-Aids.

Public hearing closed at 6:55 p.m.

City Manager Charles reviewed the process of street repairs in relation to the millage.

2025-74. Consider authorizing the purchase of Pickleblock sound curtains for the Manhattan Park pickleball courts for a total cost not to exceed \$24,600.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request.

Commissioner Skaggs asked about a warranty and the height of the curtain. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that it was a 1-year warranty, and it would be the same height as the fence.

Commissioner Burdick asked about the lead time. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that it was 4-5 weeks.

Commissioner Hunter asked if it was recyclable. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that it was.

Mayor Favale asked if it could be cleaned if needed. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that it could be cleaned in case of graffiti.

Judith Baxter, Hall St., questioned if the noise would travel out the other sides of the fence where there are no curtains.

Jerry Anderson, 435 Edgemere, spoke about noiseless pickle balls that a local person makes.

Nancy Pattison, 2104 Gorham, said that the material is dark and will make it too hot on the court.

2025-74-A. Burdick-Schwartz. To authorize the purchase of Pickleblock sound curtains for the Manhattan Park pickleball courts for a total cost not to exceed \$24,600.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak like that it is sustainable.

Commissioner Schwartz stated that green was chosen because it does not get as hot.

Commissioner Hunter looked up 3D pickleballs and would be on board for it.

Commissioner Skaggs stated that this was talked about in Parks and Recreation meetings and the closest house is 400 ft. from the court.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: None.

2025-75. Review and consider taking a vote to authorize the distribution of the Draft Master Plan Update to neighboring communities and other agencies pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reviewed the request.

City Planner Paul LaBlanc reviewed the information and the process.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned the traffic data and if we knew why people were being stopped in traffic enforcement and if changes were going to be made today to the plan. City Planner LaBlanc stated that it was put in because citizens had traffic concerns and he does not know why they were pulled over. There will be no changes made today.

Commissioner Burdick stated that he heard multiple residents say that traffic safety was a concern.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak asked if there was any talk about rezoning north Wealthy area or about removing minimum lot sizes in all zonings. City Planner La Blanc stated that there was not any talk about either of these items.

Commissioner Hunter asked if the bike mobility plan would be included in the Master Plan. City Planner La Blanc stated that it would not be since they are two separate plans.

Commissioner Skaggs noted on page 14 in the first paragraph it states that the concept plan for the PUD was approved. She would love to see the language tightened up by not saying it was approved. City Planner La Blanc said that he took the liberty of saying it was

2025-75-A. Schwartz-Wessely. To approve the distribution of the Draft Master Plan Update to neighboring communities and other agencies pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Commissioner Schwartz said that the PUD was a big topic in Planning Commission.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak would like the language regarding approval of the PUD tightened up before it is sent out.

Deputy Manager La Fave stated that the points have been noted, and it will come back to the Planning Commission and City Commission for changes and they can put a disclaimer on regarding the PUD prior to sending it out.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: None.

2025-76. Schwartz-Burdick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2025-76-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 19, 2025.

2025-76-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$305,101.36; county and school disbursements of \$0, and total remaining disbursements of \$642,003.04.

2025-76-C. Communications.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 16, 2025.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Special Meeting Held June 2, 2025

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center.

Present: Commissioners Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Public Safety Director Buikema; Finance Director Seath; Parks and Recreation Director Melville; Zoning Administrator Gianotti, City Planner LaBlanc; City Clerk Parmenter.

2025-77. The agenda was approved.

2025-78. Public comment: None.

2025-79. Resolution adopting the FY 2025-2026 budget and setting of millage rates for FY 2025-2026.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

2025-79-A. Burdick-Wessely. To approve the resolution adopting the FY 2025-2026 budget and setting the millage rates for FY 2025-2026.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: None.

2025-80. Resolution adopting the FY 2025-2026 fee schedule.

City Manager Charles reviewed the changes.

2025-80-A. Hunter-Groff-Blaszak. To approve the resolution adopting the FY 2025-2026 fee schedule.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: None.

2025-81. Resolution adopting water and sewer rates for FY 2025-2026.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

Commissioner Hunter asked how often rates are increased. City Manager Charles stated that they are evaluated every year.

2025-81-A. Schwartz-Hunter. To approve the resolution adopting the water and sewer rates for FY 2025-2026.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 16, 2025.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk