

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held August 18, 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, Skaggs, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager La Fave, Parks and Recreation Director Melville, City Attorney Huff; Public Safety Chief Buikema; City Clerk Parmenter.

2025-110. The agenda was approved as presented.

2025-111. Public comment:

Hilary Snell, 1065 Plymouth, wants permission to park in front of his house like he used to before the bike lanes were put in.

Nancy Pattison, 2104 Gorham, said to refer to her comments from the last meeting and spoke about detention and retention ponds. She wants more testing on Reeds Lake.

Patricia Westveer, 2311 Wealthy, agrees with Mr. Snell about the bike lanes and has concerns about the PUD.

Jerry Anderson, 435 Edgemere, appreciates the sidewalk on Robinson and spoke about traffic.

David Decker, 925 Bellclaire, spoke about character for standards C and D relating to Gaslight Investor's concept plan and standard B relating to the Master Plan.

Erica Duntzen, 2100 Gorham, spoke about what makes EGR special.

Ann Ritsch, 2107 Anderson, said that there is too much going on with the new traffic circles and doesn't like the bike delineators on Franklin/MLK.

2025-112. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Hunter spent time with the high school senior class on Saturday.

Commissioner Schwartz thanked everyone for coming out and speaking and thanked staff for trying new things to keep drivers and pedestrians safer.

Commissioner Wessely noted that it was the first day of school and for the kids to use the flashing beacons at the crossings where available.

Commissioner Burdick echoed Commissioner Schwartz's comments on the traffic circle and said that you have to train yourself with new things and just take an extra pause.

Commissioner Skaggs has received great feedback about the new sidewalks on Robinson and welcomed everyone back to school.

Mayor Favale also received a lot of feedback about the sidewalks and traffic circles. She thanked staff for trying new things and asked everyone to take a pause and slow down.

City Manager Charles noted that Taste of East and Rally on Reeds was this Wednesday. Gaslight Investors is scheduled to be on the September 2nd agenda at this time. He stated that the traffic circles would be removed in October and for people to please do the survey and that if permanent circles were put in, they would be different.

- 2025-113. Consider the final reading and approval of an amendment to the City's Purchasing Ordinance.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

- 2025-0113-A. Skaggs-Burdick. To accept the final reading and approve an amendment to the City's Purchasing Ordinance.

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

- 2025-114. Consider authorizing the purchase of three custom East Grand Rapids Department of Public Works sidewalk snowpack/ice removal equipment attachments.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

- 2025-0114-A. Schwartz-Wessely. To authorize the purchase of three custom East Grand Rapids Department of Public Works sidewalk snowpack/ice removal equipment attachments from Prosource Metal Works, LLC in the amount of \$43,650 with a contingency of \$4,350.

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

2025-115. Consider the purchase of winter maintenance road salt.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

2025-0115-A. Burdick-Wessely. To authorize the purchase of winter maintenance road salt.

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

2025-116. Consider proposed revisions to Snow and Ice Guidelines related to Department of Public Works Operations with respect to winter maintenance.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned the wording and wondered if residents were supposed to clear the sidewalks or not. Deputy City Manager La Fave said that residents should clear the sidewalks if the City's clearing is not up to their standards. He also noted that City ordinance says that residents are not required to clear sidewalks.

Commissioner Skaggs thought that rearranging the sentence would make it clearer.

There was more discussion about ways to make it clearer.

2025-0116-A. Skaggs-Schwartz. To postpone this item to allow staff an opportunity to revise the language.

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

2025-117. Consider proposed revisions to winter maintenance and sidewalk priority routes.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

There was discussion about the area and different areas.

2025-0117-A. Skaggs-Burdick. To authorize proposed revisions to winter maintenance and sidewalk priority routes.

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

2025-118. Schwartz-Burdick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2025-119. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 4, 2025.

2025-120. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$325,566.10; county and school disbursements of \$4,583,028.44, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,402,657.24.

2025-121. Communications.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Skaggs, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 2, 2025.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk