

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Meeting Held December 1, 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, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: Commissioner Skaggs.

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

2025-154. The agenda was approved as presented.

City Manager Charles asked that oaths of office be added to the agenda before public comment.

Wessely- Burdick. To add oaths of office to the agenda before public comment.

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

City Manager Charles asked that the Poverty Exemption be removed from the agenda as we heard back from the State this morning that the resolution passed at previous meeting was acceptable.

Wessely- Burdick. To remove the Poverty Exemption from the agenda.

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

2025-155. Oaths of Office.

City Clerk Parmenter gave the oaths to Commissioners Schwartz and Wessely.

2025-156. Public comment:

Steve Williams, 1038 Wren Ave., spoke about planning and zoning.

Jerry Anderson, 435 Edgemere, spoke about legislative and administrative.

Nancy Pattison, 2104 Gorham, proposed stopping fireworks over Reeds Lake.

Marc Armstead, 2202 Elmwood, spoke about deficits and debts.

2025-157. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Burdick thanked public works for snow removal and said that leave pick up is still going on until December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Wessely is excited for four more years.

Mayor Favale reminded everyone to drive safely with the winter weather.

City Manager Charles said that DPW crews were in over the weekend and some employees stayed overnight to keep the roads clear.

2025-158. Audit presentation by Vredeveld Haefner, LLC regarding the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Finance Director Seath introduced Doug Vredeveld from Vredeveld Haefner, LLC.

Mr. Vredeveld presented the audit information.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak asked if there were any plans to spend down the fund balance. Commissioner Schwartz stated that money was earmarked for the new ladder truck, a new vactor truck and projects that had been delayed.

2025-159. Public Safety Quarterly report.

Public Safety Director Buikema reviewed the information.

2025-160. Consider and discuss initiating an independent review of the Department of Public Safety, including but not limited to an evaluation of traffic-stop demographics, officer training, departmental operations, and policies related to fair and impartial policing.

Public Safety Director Buikema reviewed the information.

Commissioner Wessely questioned why this has come up. Director Buikema said that questions have been raised in previous meetings.

Mayor Favale asked about the low amount of data if this would be possible. Director Buikema said that he had a brief discussion about this, but this would take a look at everything to make sure that nothing is missed.

Commissioner Schwartz thanked Director Buikema for doing this and is in favor of it.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak thanked Director Buikema for moving forward with this and is in favor of it also.

Commissioner Hunter questioned the different mental health categories in the report. Director Buikema explained the difference between them.

Consensus was to proceed with the review.

- 2025-161. Consider authorizing a change order in the amount of \$71,214.00 for the cost to refinish concrete on the elementary school playground sites, with EGRPS reimbursing the City for 50% of the total cost.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville reviewed the information.

Mayor Favale asked if grinding was to permanently fix the problem. City Manager Charles said that once past the first or second year with the top layer removed, it should be good.

Commissioner Hunter questioned if the work was done this summer. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that it was completed in the summer to avoid disruption at school and noted that this was discussed previously in finance and Joint Facilities meetings.

Commissioner Wessely asked about any liability with the concrete company. City Manager Charles said that the change in concrete was initiated by the federal government and noted the discounted rate that was given.

- 2025-0161-A. Schwartz-Wessely. To authorize a change order in the amount of \$71,214.00 for the cost to refinish concrete on the elementary school playground sites, with EGRPS reimbursing the City for 50% of the total cost.

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

Groff-Blaszak-Schwartz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2025-162. Minutes of the regular meeting held November 19, 2025.  
2025-163. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$313,956.47; county and school disbursements of \$52,056.47, and total remaining disbursements of \$377,900.03.  
2025-164. Communications.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until December 15, 2025.

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Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk