

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Meeting Held December 15, 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, Schwartz, Skaggs and Mayor Favale.

Absent: Commissioners Hunter and Wessely.

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.

2025-165. The agenda was approved as presented.

2025-166. Oath of Office for Commissioner Skaggs.

City Clerk Parmenter gave the oath to Commissioner Skaggs.

2025-167. Public Comment:

Nancy Pattison, 2104 Gorham, wants video communications from the city and spoke about Reeds Lake.

Marc Armstead, 2202 Elmwood, wants tax dollars transferred to homeowners for repairs and maintenance of their homes.

2025-168. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Schwartz gave a brief synopsis of the Planning Commission meeting and noted that there would be a public hearing for the Master Plan on February 10, 2026. She congratulated Commissioner Skaggs and wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioners Groff-Blaszak and Skaggs wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Burdick reminded everyone that the lake is not safe to be on yet and wished everyone happy holidays.

Mayor Favale said that she was elected Vice Chair of the Rapid Board at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. She congratulated Commissioner Skaggs, noted that Commission committee assignments would be moving around and wished everyone happy holidays.

City Manager Charles said that the new sidewalk ice tools have been deployed, noted DPW's work on snow removal and wished everyone happy holidays.

2025-169. Public Safety Youth Community Fishing Event Partnership – Presentation.

Public Safety Chief Buikema gave an overview of the event and introduced Pastor Gregory from Uptown Church.

Pastor Gregory spoke about community outreach and the event.

Lionel, Co-Director for non-profit, spoke about policing and the event.

Commissioner Burdick asked what the next steps were.

Public Safety Chief Buikema noted that no permits were needed for the event and that they would like all of the captains to be officers.

Pastor Gregory said that they hope to have 75-80 boats lined up by June with community engagement.

Commissioner Skaggs thanked them for bringing this event here and asked if the poles and tackle boxes are donated as well. Pastor Gregory said that they were donated.

2025-170. Consider approving the attached resolution opting out of the health care premium 80/20 employer/employee contribution amounts required under State of Michigan Public Act 152 (Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act) for the calendar year of 2026.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

2025-0170-A. Skaggs-Burdick. To approve the attached resolution opting out of the health care premium 80/20 employer/employee contribution amounts required under State of Michigan Public Act 152 (Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act) for the calendar year of 2026.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Schwartz, Skaggs and Favale – 5

Nays: None.

2025-171. Consider approval of a Metro Act Right-of-Way Unilateral Permit Extension for existing aerial and buried private communication lines through December 5, 2030.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak asked if this was the first extension. Deputy City Manager La Fave stated that it was not.

2025-0171-A. Schwartz-Groff-Blaszak. To approve of a Metro Act Right-of-Way Unilateral Permit Extension with MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services for existing aerial and buried private communication lines through December 5, 2030.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Schwartz, Skaggs and Favale – 5  
Nays: None.

2025-172. Consider awarding carpet, vinyl tile, and ceramic tile flooring improvements in an amount of \$85,745 plus 15% contingency.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

2025-0172-A. Burdick-Skaggs. To approve awarding carpet, vinyl tile, and ceramic tile flooring improvements to Seelye Group. LTD-Shaw Industries in an amount of \$85,745 plus 15% contingency.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Schwartz, Skaggs and Favale – 5  
Nays: None.

2025-173. Consider setting the annual Strategic Planning Session for Saturday, February 7, 2026.

City Manager Charles reviewed the request.

2025-0173-A. Groff-Blaszak-Schwartz. To approve setting the annual Strategic Planning Session for Saturday, February 7, 2026.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Schwartz, Skaggs and Favale – 5  
Nays: None.

2025-174. Consider changing the vesting schedule from 5 years to 3 years for Non-Union Department Directors.

City Manager Charles reviewed the request.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned moving supervision ahead of the unions and wondered if this should wait until after negotiations.

2025-0174-A. Schwartz-Skaggs. To approve changing the vesting schedule from 5 years to 3 years for Non-Union Department Directors.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Schwartz, Skaggs and Favale – 5  
Nays: None.

2025-175. Waterfront Park grant award for informational purposes only.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville outlined the award and the process.

There was discussion regarding amenities and public engagement.

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

2025-162. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 1, 2025.

2025-163. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$10.56 and \$328,699.82; county and school disbursements of \$57,959.74, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,127,065.55.

2025-164. Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held on September 22, 2025.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Schwartz, Skaggs and Favale – 5  
Nays: None.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 5, 2026.

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Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk