

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held January 5, 2026

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; Finance Director Seath; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Public Safety Director Buikema; City Clerk Parmenter.

2026-01. The agenda was approved as presented.

2026-02. Public comment: None.

2026-03. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Skaggs wished everyone a happy new year.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak wished everyone a happy new year and would like to revisit changing the city motto and the parking study.

Commissioner Schwartz wished everyone a happy new year.

Mayor Favale wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

City Manager Charles gave kudos to public works for keeping the roads clear, reminded everyone about tree and wreath pick up and noted the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th due to M.L.K Day.

2026-04. Provide direction on amending the City's Room Rental policy to allow City Commissioner to use them for no charge.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

Commissioner Burdick feels that they should be charged like anyone else.

Mayor Favale feels the same.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak said that they should be able to use a room as an elected official.

Commissioner Schwartz said that maybe a non-election time period, event was publicized, open to the public and a set number of free rentals per year could be a compromise.

Mayor Favale does not see the need for this. She has never not been able to engage with residents, and we should not put the burden on staff. This does not need to change based on one request.

Commissioner Skaggs said that there are legitimate reasons to use space and liked the idea that Commissioner Schwartz had for compromising.

Commissioner Hunter is in favor of a limited number of events and noted that the cost is prohibitive.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak said that there are not many options in the area to accommodate larger groups of people and likes the idea of limits.

Commissioner Wessely does not like the idea. He said that if it is a public event, he would like staff to hold the event. He noted there was space in parks and local restaurants.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak disagrees with keeping it the same.

Commissioner Hunter asked if they pay for a room, can they then select the people invited and keep out others.

City Manager Charles said that it would be just like any other group that reserves space.

Jerry Anderson, 435 Edgemere, said that Commissioners should not be charged.

Tom Miller, 1753 Asbury, said that there is value to town hall meetings.

2026-05. Consider purchase of patrol handguns.

Director of Public Safety Buikema reviewed the request.

2026-05-A. Wessely-Schwartz. To approve the purchase of patrol handguns from Kieslers Police Supply in the amount of \$23,338.96.

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

Nays: None.

2026-06. Consider the appointment of Mayor Katie Favale to the Rapid/Interurban Transit Partnership Board.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

2026-06-A. Burdick-Wessely. To approve the appointment of Mayor Katie Favale to the Rapid/Interurban Transit Partnership Board with a term ending December 31, 2027.

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

2026-07. Skaggs-Burdick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2026-07-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 15, 2025.

2026-07-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$374,765.22; county and school disbursements of \$455,835.72, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,195,292.80.

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

2026-08. An executive session is requested for attorney client communication in accordance with Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

2026-08-A. Wessely-Schwartz. To enter into executive session at 6:34 as permitted.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: None.
Roll call vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 20, 2026.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk