

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held February 17, 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.

2026-23. The agenda was approved as presented.

2026-24. Public comment:

Nancy Pattison, 2104 Gorham, she likes to read and has learned a lot and spoke about the PUD.

Kayla, Maplewood, is in favor of Resolution 2026-1.

Mandy Sharp Eizinger, 1643 Whitfield, would like Resolution 2026-1 on the agenda.

Martha, Berwyck, would like clarity on ICE and wants to know if it will be discussed again with public comment.

Emily, would like Resolution 2026-1 passed.

Tina Murun, 1031 Lakeside, is in favor of Resolution 2026-1.

Liz Aldrich, Oakwood, asked Commissioners to support the Resolution 2026-1 and would like to hear from Public Safety on this.

Glen Anderson, 2444 Berwyck, said that Resolution 2026-1 should be voted down.

Marc Armstead, 2202 Elmwood, would like Resolution 2026-1 voted down.

Eric Williams, Albert Dr., supports Resolution 2026-1.

Chris Hoffman, Oakwood, supports Resolution 2026-1.

Chip, Berwyck, is not in favor of Resolution 2026-1.

Bethany Chavez, Boston, is in favor of Resolution 2026-1.

2026-25. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Skaggs spoke about comments being made at the Federal level of government relating to elections and thanked all of the workers and everyone involved that keep Michigan's elections safe and secure. She also thanked everyone who came out to share their comments tonight.

Commissioner Burdick thanked everyone for their comments and would like to give the Public Safety Chief time to speak about the current practices of the department relating to immigration practices.

Public Safety Chief Buikema said that he is working on a FAQ page that will be posted on the website and noted that the department does not, has not and will not enforce immigration.

Commissioner Burdick thanked Public Safety Chief Buikema and the department for the work they do and noted that the Parks and Recreation meeting was great.

Commissioner Wessely thanked everyone for coming out and noted that there were already things in place and stated that it was his commitment to keep everyone safe.

Commissioner Hunter thanked everyone for coming out and speaking.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak thanked everyone for coming out and those that came to the town hall.

Commissioner Schwartz thanked Public Safety Chief for the information and everyone that came to speak tonight.

Mayor Favale thanked City Manager Charles for his 5 years of service to the City.

City Manager Charles said that it has been a pleasure to serve the community.

2026-26. Financial reports for the three-month period ending December 31, 2025.

Finance Director Seath reviewed the information.

2026-27. Consider approval of the resolution amending the FY 2025-26 budget.

Finance Director Seath reviewed the information.

2026-027-A. Skaggs-Schwartz. To approve the resolution amending the FY 2025-26 budget.

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

2026-28. Consider approval of water main rehabilitation, replacement, and improvements as noted and authorize the Deputy City Manager/Director of Public Works to award and implement noted projects.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

Commissioner Hunter asked if Cambridge would be reconstructed on both sides of the street. Deputy City Manager La Fave said that it would be and the median would be a little smaller with new curb.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned the pre-authorized portion of the request. Deputy City Manager La Fave said that street projects are done the same way because it helps to get the bids out sooner and projects scheduled easier with the short expectations of construction season. City Manager Charles also noted that if the bids exceed the approved amount, it would come back to the Commission for approval.

2026-028-A. Burdick-Skaggs. To approve the water main rehabilitation, replacement, and improvements as noted and authorize the Deputy City Manager/Director of Public Works to award and implement noted projects.

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

2026-29. Consider awarding the Lake Drive and Hall Street traffic signal project in the amount of \$290,524.69 with contingency of 10%.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the information.

Commissioner Hunter left at 7:02 p.m.

2026-029-A. Groff-Blaszak-Schwartz. To award the Lake Drive and Hall Street traffic signal project to Strain Electric Co. in the amount of \$290,524.69 with contingency of 10%.

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

2026-30. Schwartz-Groff-Blaszak. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2026-030-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 2, 2026.
- 2026-030-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$321,882.16; county and school disbursements of \$299,343.72, and total remaining disbursements of \$239,981.12.
- 2026-030-C. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on November 24, 2025.
- 2026-030-D. Consider approval of the purchase of 6 – Cisco C1300-48P-4x switches for \$6,467.04 and installation services, transceivers and cables for \$4,319.34 for a total of \$10,786.38.
- 2026-030-E. 2026-27 Meeting Schedule.
- 2026-030-F. Communications

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

2026-31. An executive session is requested for attorney client communication in accordance with Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

2026-031-A. Wessely-Burdick. To enter into an executive session at 7:09 p.m. as requested for attorney client communication in accordance with Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.
Roll call vote taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 2, 2026.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk