

GRAND LEDGE CITY COUNCIL
310 GREENWOOD ST.
GRAND LEDGE MI 48837
(517) 627-2149

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, 09 MARCH 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
310 GREENWOOD ST., GRAND LEDGE MI 48837

- I. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL** – Mayor Keith Mulder; and Council Members Brett Gillespie, Tom Jancek, Dave Logel, Lynne MacDowell, and Don Willems
– Council Member Rick Lantz was excused
- OTHERS PRESENT** – Adam Smith, City Manager; Ameer King, Assistant City Manager; Gregory Newman, City Clerk; Brad Rizzo, Finance Director/City Treasurer; Ron Erickson, Chief of Police; Rich Morrison, Community Development Director; Dave Gutches, Public Services Superintendent; Kurt Ristow, Public Works Superintendent

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mulder led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mike Roman, Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority Fire Chief, commented on the proposed millage at the 05 May 2026 special election, participation at events in local schools, the “Heart Safe Community” initiative, and the Authority’s 14 March 2026 open house.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion** – To approve the Monday, 09 March 2026 City Council consent agenda, as follows:
- i. Financial transactions and bills.
 - ii. Monday, 23 February 2026 City Council minutes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER MACDOWELL SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MONDAY, 09 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Motion** – To approve the Monday, 09 March 2026 City Council regular agenda.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MONDAY, 09 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Abrams Municipal Airport Advisory Commission

Adam Smith, City Manager, reported the Abrams Municipal Airport Advisory Commission met on 03 March 2026 and recommended its Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Adam Smith, City Manager, reported the Parks and Recreation Commission met on 26 February 2026 and recommended an application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Grand Ledge Ball Park Phase III development project.

Planning Commission

Adam Smith, City Manager, reported the Planning Commission met on 05 March 2026.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Manager's Office

Amee King, Assistant City Manager, reported on personnel interviews and hirings, job postings, Abrams Municipal Airport taxiway lighting repairs from a lightning strike, the Jaycee Park ADA Observation Platform, the Veteran Banner Program, and Riverview Park restroom repairs.

Community Development Office

Rich Morrison, Community Development Director, reported on the Planning Commission discussion of the Master Plan and proposed prohibited vegetation ordinance, work on a grant to replace the water main crossing, and the Parks and Recreation Commission discussion of a replacement pavilion at Jaycee Park.

Department of Public Services

Dave Gutchess, Public Services Superintendent, reported on Wastewater Treatment Plant statistics, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Improvements CWSRF Project #5825-01, street maintenance, and repair work on the Public Services Garage.

Kurt Ristow, Public Works Superintendent, reported on the rebid for Well No. 11 Wellhouse Construction, a water main break, and the Iron Removal Plant.

The City Council discussed the Iron Removal Plant.

Assessing Department

Adam Smith, City Manager, mentioned the Assessing Department monthly report is included in the packet of supporting material.

Building Department

Adam Smith, City Manager, mentioned the Building Department monthly report is included in the packet of supporting material.

- A. Motion** – To receive and place on file the February 2026 staff reports from the Manager’s Office, Community Development Office, Department of Public Services, Assessing Department, and Building Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER MACDOWELL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE FEBRUARY 2026 STAFF REPORTS FROM THE MANAGER’S OFFICE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES, ASSESSING DEPARTMENT, AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Resolution #12 of 2026** – To approve a Five-Year Extension and Amendment of the City Manager Employment Agreement with Adam Smith.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #12 OF 2026, TO APPROVE A FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH ADAM SMITH.

Adam Smith, City Manager, thanked the City Council for the opportunity to continue serving as City Manager.

Mayor Mulder mentioned the Human Resources Committee recommends approving the Five-Year Extension and Amendment of the City Manager Employment Agreement with Adam Smith.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #12 OF 2026, TO APPROVE A FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH ADAM SMITH, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion** – To schedule a public hearing for the 23 March 2026 City Council meeting on an application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Grand Ledge Ball Park Phase III development project.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AN APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF) FOR THE GRAND LEDGE BALL PARK PHASE III DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Adam Smith, City Manager, presented an updated memorandum detailing the estimated project costs of \$587,827 with project matching funds of \$187,832, 31% of the estimated total project costs, and explained the Phase II construction schedule and Phase III calendar.

MOTION TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AN APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF) FOR THE GRAND LEDGE BALL PARK PHASE III DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Resolution #13 of 2026 – To assert the right of City Council to approve or reject the Master Plan.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #13 OF 2026, TO ASSERT THE RIGHT OF CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE OR REJECT THE MASTER PLAN.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained Public Act 33 of 2008 requires the City Council adopt a resolution asserting its right to approve or reject the Master Plan.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #13 OF 2026, TO ASSERT THE RIGHT OF CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE OR REJECT THE MASTER PLAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Motion – To introduce and set a public hearing for the 23 March 2026 City Council meeting on an ordinance repealing City Code, Chapter 16 – Environment, Article VI – Noxious Weeds and replacing it with Article VI – Prohibited Vegetation.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO INTRODUCE AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CITY CODE, CHAPTER 16 – ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE VI – NOXIOUS WEEDS AND REPLACING IT WITH ARTICLE VI – PROHIBITED VEGETATION.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the proposed ordinance is subject to legal review.

Rich Morrison, Community Development Director, reviewed the City Council's request for the Planning Commission to review the City Code for "No Mow May" and the Planning Commission's recommendation to leave the City Code as-is, and explained the development of a replacement ordinance to address prohibited vegetation.

The City Council debated the proposed ordinance addressing dandelions and addressing vacant lots.

MOTION TO INTRODUCE AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CITY CODE, CHAPTER 16 –

ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE VI – NOXIOUS WEEDS AND REPLACING IT WITH ARTICLE VI – PROHIBITED VEGETATION, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The public did not comment.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Council Member Gillespie commented on a resident concern about trucks at the Bridge/Jefferson Streets intersection and possible City Council action supporting the Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority bond proposal.

Mayor Mulder mentioned the 14 May 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade and festivities.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MONDAY, 09 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, AT 7:35 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA
MONDAY, 09 MARCH 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
310 GREENWOOD ST., GRAND LEDGE MI 48837**

I. ROLL CALL OF CITY COUNCIL – Mayor Keith Mulder; Mayor Pro-Tem Rick Lantz; and Council Members Brett Gillespie, Tom Jancek, Dave Logel, Lynne MacDowell, and Don Willems

II. FISCAL YEAR 2027 ANNUAL BUDGET

Adam Smith, City Manager, commented on the improved budget process utilizing BS&A, and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Calendar, the 2026 and 2027 City Council Priorities, and the General Fund, Major Streets Fund, Local Streets Fund, Municipal Streets Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, Drug Forfeiture Fund, Police Restricted Fund, Grants Fund, and Equipment Operating Fund.

Brad Rizzo, Finance Director/City Treasurer, explained new accounting rules for lease agreements.

The City Council discussed the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget General Fund, Major Streets Fund, Local Streets Fund, Municipal Streets Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, Drug Forfeiture Fund, Police Restricted Fund, Grants Fund, and Equipment Operating Fund.

MAYOR MULDER ADJOURNED THE MONDAY, 09 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, AT 9:50 P.M.

Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

Keith O. Mulder, Mayor

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