

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

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, 23 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; Mayor Pro-Tem Rick Lantz; and Council Members Brett Gillespie, Tom Jancek, Dave Logel, and Lynne MacDowell  
– Council Member Don Willems was excused

**OTHERS PRESENT** – Adam Smith, City Manager; Gregory Newman, City Clerk; Brad Rizzo, Finance Director/City Treasurer; Ron Erickson, Chief of Police; Nicholas Montry, Zoning Administrator

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**III. PRESENTATION**

- A. Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission** – Matthew Silverthorn, Accreditation Program Director, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Mayor Mulder introduced Chief of Police Erickson and Matthew Silverthorn, Accreditation Program Director, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the 2022 & 2023 City Council Priorities included Police Department and Public Safety Initiatives, and recognized Chief of Police Erickson, Lieutenant Juras, and the Rossow Group for the significant amount of work spent on the accreditation.

Ron Erickson, Chief of Police, explained the accreditation timeline from initial work to the accreditation certificate approval.

Ron Wiles, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, explained the professional accomplishment of obtaining accreditation.

Matthew Silverthorn, Accreditation Program Director, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, reviewed the accreditation process, mentioned the approximately 600 standards required, and explained the review and approval processes.

Brian Ergang, Deputy Director, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, commented on the work involved in preparing for and completing the accreditation process.

Ron Wiles, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, presented the accreditation certificate to Chief of Police Erickson.

#### **IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The public did not comment.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** – To approve the Monday, 23 March 2026 City Council consent agenda, as follows:

- i. Financial transactions and bills.
- ii. Monday, 09 March 2026 City Council minutes.
- iii. Resolution #14 of 2026 for decertification/vacation of a portion of Jones St. from W. Lincoln St. to Spring St.
- iv. Resolution #15 of 2026 to rescind Resolution #08 of 2026, to approve a bid award and authorize a contract for Oakwood Cemetery Grounds Maintenance with Woodbury Lawn Snow, LLC, and to approve a bid award and authorize a contract for Oakwood Cemetery Grounds Maintenance with Lansing Real Green Lawn Care, Inc.
- v. Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor job description.
- vi. Parade Permit Application from Cole-Briggs Post 48, American Legion, for the 23 May 2026 Memorial Day Parade.

COUNCIL MEMBER MACDOWELL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **VI. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

**A. Motion** – To approve the Monday, 23 March 2026 City Council regular agenda.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER MACDOWELL SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LANTZ SECONDED, TO ADD AN ITEM ABOUT DISPLAYING MATERIALS FOR THE GRAND LEDGE AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY PROPOSAL AT CITY HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **VII. COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS**

**Board of Cemetery Trustees**

Adam Smith, City Manager, reported the Board of Cemetery Trustees did not have a quorum at its 12 March 2026 meeting.

### **Downtown Development Authority**

Adam Smith, City Manager, reported the Downtown Development Authority met on 11 March 2026 and received an update on the Jaycee Park ADA Observation Platform.

### **Water and Sewer Disputes Committee**

Adam Smith, City Manager, reported the Water and Sewer Disputes Committee met on 16 March 2026 and approved one dispute.

## **VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

### **Manager's Office**

#### **Clerk's Department**

Gregory Newman, City Clerk, reported on 2026 Election Cycle training and the Channel 12 broadcast equipment is ordered.

#### **Finance Department**

Brad Rizzo, Finance Director/City Treasurer, reported on tax collection settlement, Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget work, and training.

#### **Police Department**

Ron Erickson, Chief of Police, reported on the successful St. Patrick's Day parade, personnel training, and a new Police Officer swearing-in.

The City Council discussed the accreditation renewal process.

#### **Planning and Zoning Department**

Nicholas Montry, Zoning Administrator, reported on on-boarding, policy and ordinance review, open enforcement audit, the Planning Commission review of the proposed prohibited vegetation ordinance, and a site plan for Lake Trust Credit Union.

The City Council discussed the Lake Trust Credit Union site plan.

- A. Motion** – To receive and place on file the February 2026 staff reports from the Clerk's Department, Finance Department, Police Department, and Planning and Zoning Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE SECONDED, TO RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE FEBRUARY 2026 STAFF REPORTS FROM THE

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Public Hearing** – On a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Grand Ledge Ball Park Phase III development project.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Grand Ledge Ball Park Phase III development project which is the third and final ball field adjacent to Fitzgerald Park and mentioned the anticipated 2028 construction schedule.

MAYOR MULDER OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF) FOR THE GRAND LEDGE BALL PARK PHASE III DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AT 7:33 P.M.

The public did not comment.

MAYOR MULDER CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF) FOR THE GRAND LEDGE BALL PARK PHASE III DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AT 7:33 P.M.

- B. **Resolution #16 of 2026** – Resolution of Authorization Local Unit of Government Match Without Donated Funds.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #16 OF 2026, RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH WITHOUT DONATED FUNDS.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the formal template resolution required by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #16 OF 2026, RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH WITHOUT DONATED FUNDS, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. **Public Hearing** – On an ordinance to repeal Article VI – Noxious Weeds of City Code, Chapter 16 – Environment, and replace with Article VI – Titled Prohibited Vegetation, to Establish Purpose, Prohibited Vegetation Definitions, Notice, Civil Infraction, Abatement and Costs, and an Effective Date.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the ordinance introduced on 09 March 2026 underwent legal review and mentioned the marked and clean copies are included in the packet of supported material.

MAYOR MULDER OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ARTICLE VI – NOXIOUS WEEDS OF CITY CODE, CHAPTER 16 – ENVIRONMENT, AND

REPLACE WITH ARTICLE VI – TITLED PROHIBITED VEGETATION, TO ESTABLISH PURPOSE, PROHIBITED VEGETATION DEFINITIONS, NOTICE, CIVIL INFRACTION, ABATEMENT AND COSTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AT 7:35 P.M.

The public did not comment.

MAYOR MULDER CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ARTICLE VI – NOXIOUS WEEDS OF CITY CODE, CHAPTER 16 – ENVIRONMENT, AND REPLACE WITH ARTICLE VI – TITLED PROHIBITED VEGETATION, TO ESTABLISH PURPOSE, PROHIBITED VEGETATION DEFINITIONS, NOTICE, CIVIL INFRACTION, ABATEMENT AND COSTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AT 7:36 P.M.

- D. Ordinance#617** – To repeal Article VI – Noxious Weeds of City Code, Chapter 16 – Environment, s and Replace with Article VI – Titled Prohibited Vegetation, to Establish Purpose, Prohibited Vegetation Definitions, Notice, Civil Infraction, Abatement and Costs, and an Effective Date.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #617 TO REPEAL ARTICLE VI – NOXIOUS WEEDS OF CITY CODE, CHAPTER 16 – ENVIRONMENT, S AND REPLACE WITH ARTICLE VI – TITLED PROHIBITED VEGETATION, TO ESTABLISH PURPOSE, PROHIBITED VEGETATION DEFINITIONS, NOTICE, CIVIL INFRACTION, ABATEMENT AND COSTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Adam Smith, City Manager, mentioned the Planning Commission and staff recommend the ordinance.

MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #617 TO REPEAL ARTICLE VI – NOXIOUS WEEDS OF CITY CODE, CHAPTER 16 – ENVIRONMENT, S AND REPLACE WITH ARTICLE VI – TITLED PROHIBITED VEGETATION, TO ESTABLISH PURPOSE, PROHIBITED VEGETATION DEFINITIONS, NOTICE, CIVIL INFRACTION, ABATEMENT AND COSTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- E. Resolution #17 of 2026** – To adopt a City of Grand Ledge Support Emergency Operations Plan.

COUNCIL MEMBER MACDOWELL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #17 OF 2026, TO ADOPT A CITY OF GRAND LEDGE SUPPORT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the impact of the August 2023 Declaration of Emergency and the need for continuous improvement of the city’s emergency management plans and processes to respond to emergencies, the time spent with Eaton County Emergency Management in developing the Support Emergency Operations Plan, and state law stipulating jurisdictions having less than 10,000 population fall under the county emergency operations plan.

Ryan Wilkinson, Eaton County Emergency Manager, thanked the city for developing a Support Emergency Operations Plan.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #17 OF 2026, TO ADOPT A CITY OF GRAND LEDGE SUPPORT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- F. Resolution #18 of 2026** – To appoint Sergeant Sean Read as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, per City Code Chapter 14 – Emergencies, Article I – In General.

COUNCIL MEMBER MACDOWELL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #18 OF 2026, TO APPOINT SERGEANT SEAN READ AS DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, PER CITY CODE CHAPTER 14 – EMERGENCIES, ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the City Code requirement to appoint a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #18 OF 2026, TO APPOINT SERGEANT SEAN READ AS DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, PER CITY CODE CHAPTER 14 – EMERGENCIES, ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution #19 of 2026** – FY2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Funding Request, U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin, Resolution of Authorization – Local Unit of Government Match.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #19 OF 2026, FY2027 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING FUNDING REQUEST, U.S. SENATOR ELISSA SLOTKIN, RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION – LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the resolutions for Senators Peters and Slotkin for a Congressionally Directed Spending Funding Request for the W. Front St. water storage tank and corresponding Grand River water main crossing.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #19 OF 2026, FY2027 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING FUNDING REQUEST, U.S. SENATOR ELISSA SLOTKIN, RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION – LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Resolution #20 of 2026** – FY2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Funding Request, U.S. Senator Gary Peters, Resolution of Authorization – Local Unit of Government Match.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER MACDOWELL SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #20 OF 2026, FY2027 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING FUNDING REQUEST, U.S. SENATOR GARY PETERS, RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION – LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. Resolution #21 of 2026** – To authorize a Spring 2026 leaf collection on 06-10 April 2026 due to the impact of Fall 2025 winter weather conditions.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #21 OF 2026, TO AUTHORIZE A SPRING 2026 LEAF COLLECTION

ON 06-10 APRIL 2026 DUE TO THE IMPACT OF FALL 2025 WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Adam Smith, City Manager, explained the Fall 2025 winter weather conditions impacting leaf pickup and now the leaves left are negatively impacting storm drains, and recommended authorizing a Spring 2026 leaf collection on 06-10 April 2026 with a contingency plan of the following week.

The City Council debated the contingency plan, the single pass through the city, the intent to only pick up leaves, and the cost covered by remaining Fall 2025 funds.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #21 OF 2026, TO AUTHORIZE A SPRING 2026 LEAF COLLECTION ON 06-10 APRIL 2026 DUE TO THE IMPACT OF FALL 2025 WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**D. Discussion** – Of displaying materials for the 05 May 2026 Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority proposal at City Hall.

The City Council discussed the 05 May 2026 Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority proposal impacting the city, the information allowed for display, and a legal review by the City Attorney.

COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LANTZ SECONDED, TO ALLOW THE DISPLAY OF 05 MAY 2026 GRAND LEDGE AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY BOND PROPOSAL INFORMATION AT CITY HALL, CONTINGENT UPON LEGAL REVIEW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mike Roman, Fire Chief, mentioned the 6:30 p.m., 30 May 2026, community forum at the Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority on the 05 May 2026 bond proposal.

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Council Member Jancek thanked everyone involved with the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Council Member Logel congratulated Chief of Police Erickson and the Police Department on the accreditation, and commented on a name for the ball fields adjacent to Fitzgerald Park.

Mayor Mulder encouraged everyone to attend the 30 May 2026 community forum at the Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority on the 05 May 2026 bond proposal, congratulated Chief of Police Erickson and the Police Department on the accreditation, and appointed Don Willems to the Downtown Development Authority.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER GILLESPIE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF DON WILLEMS TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**XII. CLOSED SESSION**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

COUNCIL MEMBER LOGEL MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER JANCEK SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, AT 8:06 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA  
MONDAY, 23 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, and Lynne MacDowell  
– Council Member Willems was absent

**II. FISCAL YEAR 2027 ANNUAL BUDGET**

Adam Smith, City Manager, reviewed the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget Water and Sewer Rate Study, Water and Sewer Fund, Capital Improvements Bond Funds, Capital Projects Funds, and Employee Benefits Fund.

The City Council discussed the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget Water and Sewer Fund.

MAYOR MULDER ADJOURNED THE MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, AT 9:26 P.M.

---

Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

---

Keith O. Mulder, Mayor