

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bob Monetza in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 519 Washington Ave.

**Present:** Council Members Mike Fritz, Karen Lowe, Kevin McLaughlin, Mayor Pro-tem Ryan Cummins, and Mayor Bob Monetza.

**Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** City Manager Ashley Latsch, City Clerk Maria Boersma, and Assistant City Manager Tim Price.

**CALL TO AUDIENCE**

**Jim Hagen, 400 Lake Ave:** Commented on Harbor Island and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council grant program.

**PRESENTATIONS**

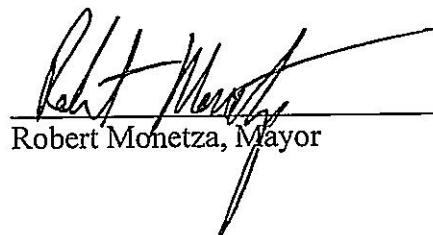
City Manager Ashley Latsch gave a review of accomplishments achieved by the City in 2023.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

City Council discussed goals that were previously submitted to the City Manager. The goals fell into the following categories; Excellence in Government, Environmental Stewardship, Community Livability, Economic Development and Affordability, Recreation/Culture/Learning, Health and Safety for All, and Engaged/Informed/Connected Community. **Attachment A**

**ADJOURNMENT**

After hearing no further business, Mayor Monetza adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Monetza, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Boersma, City Clerk

Attachment A



Strategic Pillars



Outcome Statements



Key Objectives



## Excellence in Government

Improve/Maintain fiscal accountability and responsibility by committing to proactively pay down unfunded pension liability

- Consider commitment of 50% or more of proceeds from any city property sold for purposes of paying down liability

Optimize use of technology to fully leverage the knowledge and expertise of employees, reduce cyber security risk, and Improve service to citizens

- Assess/develop overarching IT Strategy (3-5 years) for City operations

Evaluate and implement seasonal parking opportunities along lakefront (Harbor/Lake)

Make additional payments towards unfunded pension liabilities

Invest additional dollars in paving streets

Successfully roll out paid parking in waterfront areas

Complete an update and listing of all city owned properties that are rented to private individuals or commercial businesses in the city. With lease terms and rental rates

Off street paid parking is implemented in the Spring of this year

Continued effort to decrease expenses and increase revenue. This should include the increase of fees for all services, including short term rentals to compensate the administrative costs associated with these services. Because of the recent developments of both the ponson and Harbor Island more and more city funds are being diverted to these activities

No increase in taxes for 2025

Review status of current goals, plans, and efforts, and treat new goals as an extension of those efforts

Maintain service levels by review of the needs of staff for personnel, training and equipment to effectively delivery municipal services to the public. Prioritize and budget at department level as funds are available

Chinook Pier proposals, selection, and negotiation with a developer. Hopefully get a project underway this year

Updating By-Laws of the various Boards is a part of RRC recertification. City Council should formalize certain council procedures in the form of updated (or new) Bylaws. In particular, spell out election procedures for replacement council or BLP members, nomination process for mayor pro-tem, and for the selection of council members when appropriate board or committee assignments become available

Establish a regular schedule for joint meetings with the BLP Board to discuss issues of mutual or overlapping interest

Review and build upon the infrastructure inventory and project plans. Carefully plan and reserve funding for future infrastructure replacement projects

Karen  Kevin  Ryan  Mike  Bob



## Environmental Stewardship

Continue to support and fund holistic approach to remediation of contaminants on Harbor Island

Support funding of Forest Management Plan, including prioritization of aggressively treating the Oak Wilt Disease that threatens to destroy our urban forest

Secure additional outside funding support for Harbor Island Remediation

Complete collaborative Community Energy Plan and implement recommendations

Harbor Island land-use planning, outreach, and remediation alternatives, ultimately to be reflected in an Administrative Consent Order. Find funding for implementation



## Community Livability

Continue to promote transportation choice by supporting regionalization of public transit

Add more trees, greenery and art along the Beechtree Corridor

Strengthen the Historic District Ordinance

A long term agreement with the DDA on the closing of the first block of Washington

Work with downtown stakeholders to improve the attractiveness of the downtown generally and the social district in particular

Karen  Kevin  Ryan  Mike  Bob



## Economic Development & Affordability

Find a development partner for Chinook Pier, including potential new indoor/outdoor market and/or boutique hotel

Complete an inventory of all vacant land owned by the city. I think it is important that excess city land be either developed or sold to increase revenue to the City

Work with Ottawa Parks in entering into an agreement for the city owned property on the North Shore. Millions of dollars of revenue could be brought into the city that could be moved into decreasing the pension liability

The naming of a developer for the Chinook Pier area

Bring Economic Incentive Policy back to Council for final adoption

Discuss opportunities with Covenant Life Church regarding their parking lot. Could City lease and maintain?

Follow-through with the Diesel Plant and the Fire Barn redevelopments

Seek opportunities to partner with the GHCLT and housing agencies/non-profits to supplement housing in the city. Review regulations regarding ADUs. Find ways to incentivize development of existing vacant lots and improvement of obsolete or deficient structures

Karen  Kevin  Ryan  Mike  Bob



## Recreation, Culture & Learning

Gather outside funding support for boardwalk needs

Karen  Kevin  Ryan  Mike  Bob



## Health & Safety for All

Plan and provide for a stable, high-quality, sustainable water supply that meets or exceeds public health standards and supports a healthy and safe community

Continue to provide training, equipment and technology to support a high-caliber, cross-trained (police, fire, EMS) Department of Public Safety force

Continue to educate public regarding and actively promote market emergency preparation plans, response plans and recovery plans for potential hazards (floods, loss of power, etc.) across departments and throughout the community

Funding support for Public Safety training

Karen  Kevin  Ryan  Mike  Bob



## Engaged, Informed & Connected Community

Create equitable opportunities to serve on board and consider how to ensure the voices of vulnerable and underserved are adequately represented

- Leverage council meetings, website, and social media to promote volunteerism for open positions
- Direct each board/commission to review and update their on-boarding materials/process for new commission members and solicit input to address known barriers to volunteerism

Engage new residents and younger generations to volunteer for boards and commissions

Improve outreach to business and industrial citizens, particularly on the context of employment, city services, perceived obstacles. Perhaps re-institute round-table or breakfast gatherings of leaders, similar to those hosted by former Mayor Bergman. Work with Chamber, MSDDA, etc., to reach out to interested parties

Karen  Kevin  Ryan  Mike  Bob