

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026**

The Special Work Session of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Robert Monetza in the Ballroom at Central Park Place, 421 Columbus Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Present: Council Members Mike Fritz, Sarah Kallio, Erin Lyon, Mayor Pro-tem Mike Dora, and Mayor Robert Monetza.

Absent:

Others Present: City Manager Ashley Latsch, City Clerk Maria Boersma, Finance Director Emily Greene, Treasurer Nick Brown, Accountant Annie Hamstra, Director of Public Safety Nichole Hudson, Fire Marshal Terry Turkelson, Captain Lee Adams, Lieutenant Kelvin Miller, Lieutenant Ryan Enlow, Project Management Director Derek Gajdos, Assistant City Manager Dana Kollewehr, Human Resources Manager Tahlor Carlen, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Eric Law, City Planner Brian Urquhart, Public Works Director Michael England, Facilities and Grounds Manager Derek Lemke, Streets and Utilities Manager Logan Cuddington, and Waterfront and Events Manager Brian Jarosz.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Leann Crowel, Downtown Property Owner: Commented on a desire for downtown property owners to work with the MSDDA to educate property owners on necessary infrastructure upgrades.

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake: Commented on the Public Safety budget.

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET REVIEW

City Manager Ashley Latsch presented the draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget. The proposed budget is balanced while funding key priorities such as treatment of invasive species in the city's urban forests, a tree canopy survey, updating the city's website, refurbishment of the overlook on Harbor Island, infrastructure improvements, citywide sidewalk clearing in the winter, surplus contributions to the city's pension program, and contributing to the firetruck replacement fund.

Members of City Council discussed the proposed budget and asked city staff members clarifying questions about the budget. Items discussed included the fee schedule, increasing fines for ordinance violations, estimated timelines for projects on the capital plan, prioritizing planning for the replacement of the downtown snow melt system boilers, the firetruck replacement fund, the city's general fund balance, and plans for the Public Safety Millage funds.


The Public Hearing for the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget will take place on Monday, May 4, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing no further business, Robert Monetza adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.



Robert Monetza, Mayor



Maria Boersma, City Clerk

Attachment A

Fiscal Year 2026-27 BUDGET SUMMARY

The City is pleased to present its Budget in Brief for fiscal year 2026-27. This document is meant to provide a high-level overview of the City's Annual Budget. It includes a snapshot of where our finances comes from, how they are spent, capital project highlights, and other important information. The Budget ultimately defines operations, how we serve our community, and reflects our priorities as established by the City Council.

For the 2026-27 budget process, the City completed a Community Survey in the month of November 2025 to garner public input prior to City Council's strategic priority session in December. With direction from the City Manager, departmental budgets are then prepared based on anticipated available resources throughout the months of January and February. Staff utilizes City Council's strategic initiatives and goals as a guide when developing the budget as well as their internal priorities. A draft budget is then presented to City Council for review and input in April. Recommendations are incorporated, and a final budget is adopted in May before it takes effect on July 1.

The City continues to see a positive trajectory in General Fund revenue. With an increasingly healthy fund balance in fiscal year 2024-25, the City passed a budget utilizing a portion of the fund balance to tackle a variety of priority capital projects that had been previously deferred. With regard to fiscal year 2025-26 and 2026-27, the City has presented a balanced budget still maintaining a healthy fund balance.

The fiscal year 2026-27 budget addresses a number of current City Council priorities. These include, but are not limited to: funding the treatment of invasive species that are threatening the City's urban tree canopy, a website overhaul to improve accessibility and information sharing, a tree canopy survey to assist in the City's forest management efforts, refurbishment of the overlook on Harbor Island among other park improvements, investment in aging infrastructure, reinstatement of sidewalk clearing, and a surplus contribution to reduce the City's pension liability.

The fiscal year 2026-27 budget is balanced, forward looking, and addresses the priorities and goals of the City Council. With this budget, the City can continue to provide a high level of quality service to its residents while maintaining a positive fiscal outlook.

For additional detail on the City's budget, please see the fiscal year 2026-27 Annual Budget on our website at www.grandhaven.org or contact the Finance Department at (616) 847-4893.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE | FISCAL YEAR BEGINS JULY 1ST

