

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
CITY COUNCIL/BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER
519 WASHINGTON AVENUE
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026**

The Special Joint Meeting of the Grand Haven City Council and Board of Light and Power was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Bob Monetza in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 519 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, Michigan.

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

BLP Present: Board of Light and Power Members Todd Crum, Phil Polyak, Mike Welling, and Chairman Michael Westbrook.

Absent: Board of Light and Power Member Kurt Knoth.

Others Present: City Manager Ashley Latsch, General Manager Rob Shelley, City Clerk Maria Boersma, Assistant City Manager Dana Kollewehr, and Finance Director Emily Greene.

Chairman **Westbrook** moved, seconded by Director **Crum**, to excuse the absence of Kurt Knoth.

Roll Call Vote:

This motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro-tem **Dora** moved, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

This motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake: Commented on future joint meetings, the community solar project, and the future of the Board of Light and Power's newly purchased property off 168th.

CITY OF GRAND HAVEN UPDATE

City Manager Ashley Latsch presented the city's strategic priorities and planned projects for 2026/2027. Projects include updating the Centertown Vision Plan and reconstructing 7th Street, increasing sidewalk repairs, lead and copper service line upgrades, and sewer system upgrades.

Project Management Director Derek Gajdos presented updates regarding activities on Harbor Island. Remediation alternatives should be ready in August 2026, and there will be multiple public engagement opportunities during that process. The goal is to have a plan selected and submitted to the EPA and EGLE by March 2027. Due to current low water levels, the City and BLP are planning on moving forward with the North Channel coal remediation project. That contract will go before both bodies later this month.

BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER UPDATE

BLP General Manager Rob Shelley shared that 2026 is the 130th Anniversary of the BLP.

The BLP recently purchased 5.5 acres of property located off 168th Avenue, near the airport. The purchase creates multiple options for future use, and the BLP hopes to have those plans available in 2027/2028.

For 2026, projects will be taking place at Beechtree & Marion, Robbins & Wisconsin, and West Spring Lake Road to harden overhead infrastructure, upgrade capacity, and update tie points. The Harbor Drive project to upgrade and underground the lines has already begun. In 2027, there are plans for a full rebuild at Beechtree and Waverly, along with Phase I of a full rebuild of Circuits 21/22.

Permits have been submitted to the FAA/MDOT for the Community Solar Project. The BLP is also working through the Sensitive Overlay process, and the participant documents are currently under legal review. If everything progresses, construction is tentatively planned for early 2027. There will be an estimated 1,000 shares for customers to purchase at around \$600 per share. Future grant money could potentially lower the initial cost for each share.

For industry trends, the load on the grid is currently growing faster than power generation. Michigan is a high-risk area for reliability, along with most of the Midwest region. There are limited options that can be done locally as a backup due to land constraints and cost. The BLP is currently working with the MPPA and other partners to create plans to help ensure reliability that are cost-effective in case of temporary strain on the grid. This could include some form of backup power generation or battery storage.

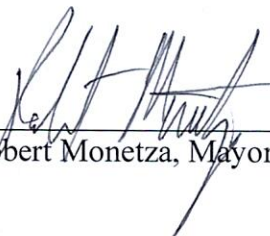
The BLP will begin its Strategic Planning process later this month.

DISCUSSION


The City Council asked questions regarding what potential backup generation and battery storage would look like and how they would work in conjunction with the Community Energy Plan goals. The City Council and BLP also discussed emergency scenarios and options for notifying the public. Moving forward, both groups would like to work more together and create mutual goals.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing no further business, Mayor Monetza adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.



Robert Monetza, Mayor



Maria Boersma, City Clerk