

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025**

The Special Work Session of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bob Monetza in the Council Chambers of Grand Haven City Hall at 419 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Present: Council Members Mike Fritz, Mayor Pro-tem Kevin McLaughlin, and Mayor Bob Monetza.

Absent: Council Member Karen Lowe.

Others Present: City Manager Ashley Latsch, City Clerk Maria Boersma, Assistant City Manager Dana Kollewehr, and Water Filtration Plant Supervisor Eric Law.

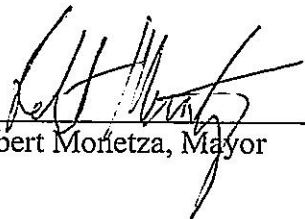
PRESENTATION

Jean Madden of the Sustainability and Energy Commission introduced an update from the Forest Management Subcommittee. The focus of the update was on deer overgrazing and the completion of a deer census. Due to the overpopulation of deer, which has caused overgrazing, the forests in the city have mostly lost their understory, and the natural biodiversity has decreased. There are also numerous indicators that there is no longer enough food to support the local deer population. The Grand Haven deer census range discovered that there were likely 123 deer living in the City and an estimated maximum of 167 deer. The deer numbers were likely undercounted due to the inability to access certain areas in the city. This data was based on drone thermal energy and street surveys of deer.


Nik Kalejs of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Biologist, presented on frequently asked questions based on the deer census data and deer populations across Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Monetza adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



Robert Monetza, Mayor



Maria Boersma, City Clerk