

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026**

The Special 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 Mayor Pro-tem Mike Dora, Mike Fritz, Sarah Kallio, Erin Lyon, Mayor Bob Monetza.

Absent:

Others Present: City Manager Ashley Latsch, Assistant City Manager Dana Kollwehr, Finance Director Emily Greene, Public Works Director Michael England, Project Management Director Derek Gajdos, and Waterfront & Events Manager Brian Jarosz.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Monetza opened the public hearing regarding a resolution to request the Department of Natural Resources to investigate and hold a public hearing to determine the need for speed control on the Grand River adjacent to the frontage of Eastpointe RV Resort Marina located at 200 N Beechtree St.

Derek Gajdos introduced the resolution request. The proposed resolution would extend the current no-wake-zone on the Grand River from Eastpointe RV Resort Marina's easterly boundary at Beechtree Street to their southern boundary. After this public hearing the DNR will conduct their own investigation.

Joel Walker from Eastpointe RV Resort presented further information on this request stating they are requesting a clearly defined controlled speed area immediately adjacent to East Point RV Marina, consistent with the protections provided to other nearby marinas, primarily for safety.

John Bigma from Bar Associates briefly spoke about the boundary map.

Mike Joseph, 7170 Pine Valley Dr: Commented on the proposed no-wake-zone.

Jim Van Tall, 15749 Kitchel Ln: Commented on the proposed no-wake-zone.

Email correspondence from Rob Rogers, Maureen and Gary Pawlak, Jason Van Ittersum, Leda Vander Laan, and Todd Neil regarding the proposed no-wake-zone was accepted and is attached hereto.

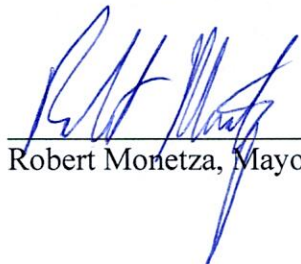
ATTACHMENT A

After hearing no further comments, Mayor Monetza closed the Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing no further business, Mayor Monetza adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Deputy Clerk, Amy M. Vos.



Robert Monetza, Mayor



Amy M. Vos, Deputy Clerk

Attachment A



Outlook

No wake

From Rob Rogers <rogersrob00@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/20/2026 11:14 AM

To Derek Gajdos <dgajdos@grandhaven.org>

I wanted to comment regarding the proposed no wake extension by the Eastpoint Campground. First I oppose extending the no-wake zone any further than it already is. That marina is empty - never is there more than a handful of boats and when there are boats they park near the most eastern end. What you should consider is extending the no wake for boats over 26' further west from where it starts now upriver near Dermo Bayou - pontoon boats and fishing boats on plane make minimal wake - it is the much larger power boats that create the most wake. While I am opposed to any extension of the no wake - if you do extend it you should probably continue it all the way down Lost Channel to the marina where a no wake starts back up. While we are on it - is there ever a plan to improve the Flahive Launch? It's getting shallow and many down trees/branches. Thanks for your time and asking for feedback.

NO to the Extension Request that was submitted by Eastpointe RV Resort

From Maureen Pawlak <pawlakgarymaureen@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/20/2026 3:24 PM

To Derek Gajdos <dgajdos@grandhaven.org>

Derek,

We are unable to attend the public hearing tomorrow evening regarding the extension request submitted by Eastpoint RV Resort.

My husband and I want to make it clear that we do not support the requested extension, nor do we support adding additional no-wake areas along the Grand River.

Eastpoint RV Resort chose to build docks along the Grand River knowing that this area was designated as a wake area. Changing the rules after the fact seems unfair to those who have enjoyed and relied on the existing regulations.

To me, this is similar to purchasing a home near an airport and then later requesting that the airport restrict its operations because of the noise. The existing conditions were known when the decision to build or purchase was made.

We respectfully ask that you consider our position and deny the extension request.

Thank you in advance, Maureen (Allen) and Gary Pawlak



Outlook

Eastpointe RV park no-wake zone extension request

From Jason Van Ittersum <jasonvi@hotmail.com>

Date Mon 9/21/2026 10:53 AM

To Derek Gajdos <dgajdos@grandhaven.org>

I am writing to express my opposition to this proposal. I have a seasonal boat slip in Grand Haven and a home upriver, and frequently use this section of river for both recreation and transit.

If approved, this would add 10-20 minutes of round-trip travel to an already painfully long no-wake zone to every boater; this is an unreasonable inconvenience to impose on the general boating public to benefit a single private developer.

This would also eliminate a valuable recreational area currently used for tubing and waterskiing, and force more congestion into already limited areas where these can be safely done.

The landowner made an extremely ill-advised decision to develop a marina in a location well-known to be subjected to significant wave action; their grievance is self-inflicted, and the remedy should not come at the expense of the rest of the boating community. It is the equivalent of someone moving next to an established farm then requesting the farm be shut down because they object to the smell.

Sincerely,

Jason Van Ittersum
15515 Oak Ridge Dr.
Spring Lake, MI 49456

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Support for Grand River No Wake Extension

From Leda Vander Laan <ledavanderlaan@gmail.com>

Date Mon 9/21/2026 11:57 AM

To Derek Gajdos <dgajdos@grandhaven.org>

Good morning Derek,

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed Grand River No Wake extension east past Eastpointe RV Resort.

My husband and I are currently purchasing a condo slip within the existing No Wake area, and we have personally witnessed how frequently the current restrictions are disregarded by boaters as members at Grand Isle since 2021. Extending the No Wake zone would be a welcome improvement for the safety of everyone enjoying this stretch of the river, while also helping protect boats, docks, and waterfront property from unnecessary wake damage.

We would love to see this extension approved and implemented in time for the 2027 boating season.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Your Personal Realtor,

Leda Vander Laan



Leda Vander Laan ASSOCIATE BROKER | REALTOR®

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proposed extension no wake zone Grand River

From City of Grand Haven Website <grandhaven@foxbrightcms.com>

Date Mon 9/21/2026 12:11 PM

This email was sent via the City of Grand Haven contact form. Please be suspicious of any links or requests for gift cards or money. Todd Neil has contacted you!

Phone: 6162152594

Email: tneil@greatlakesmachinesolutions.com

Message:

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I am writing regarding tonight's public hearing concerning the proposed extension of the no wake zone along the Grand River adjacent to East End RV. I use the Grand River regularly for transportation and have concerns about changing the existing wake zone after development has already occurred. East End RV invested to develop along this stretch of river, and I believe the impacts and operating conditions associated with boat traffic should have been evaluated as part of the planning and approval process before that investment. The Scott Flahive boat launch at East Grand River Park and adjacent properties have operated within the existing wake zone the entire time. In addition, between East End RV and Coastal Zone Marina, there is a fishing dock and another boat launch also operating in this stretch. If the concern is wake impacts, I believe the City and DNR should evaluate the entire section of river and apply consistent criteria to all existing boat launches, fishing docks, marinas, and river users. As a river user, I rely on predictable rules, not shifting restrictions after the fact. Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely, Todd Neil.

Todd Neil

Great Lakes Machine Solutions

1644 Franklin

Grand Haven MI, 49417

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