

**CITY OF GHENT**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL/EDA MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 2025**

The regularly scheduled City Council/EDA meeting for the City of Ghent was held on Tuesday, August 12th at 6:35 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Doug Anderson, Adam DeRoode, Zac Boerboom, Tim VanKeulen, & Mike Warren. Administrator/Clerk, Dawn Vlamincx & Public Works Director Jesse Christianson.

**PREMEETING:** Jeff Kuhn from Widseth met with the residents of South Chapman Street in their yards regarding the plans for the street reconstruction of County Road 5 South. Primary discussion included sidewalk location, tree removals, drainage issues, and sidewalk maintenance concerns. Items that require follow up include a rogue pin located between 204 & 208 Chapman Street South that does not line up with the Right of Way. Additional discussion needs to be had regarding who will be responsible for the maintenance of the new sidewalk/trail, can we include replacement trees into the project where requested, and additional planning with the drainage between 212 S Chapman & 221 S Collins Street.

**OPEN MEETING:** Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order @ 6:35 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Boerboom to approve the minutes of the July meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A motion was made by VanKeulen and seconded by Warren to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** No comments were heard.

**LYON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT:** Sheriff Wallen was present. They saw a rise in underage drinking during Belgian American Days. We should consider fencing the dance area in to have more control.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: TO HEAR COMMENT ON ZONING VARIANCE APPLICATION 211 CHAPMAN STREET SOUTH –**

**MARK ESPING GARAGE:** A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by VanKeulen to open the public hearing. Mark Esping has started construction of a garage/accessory building located directly on his lot line. The required setback is 4'. Comments were heard. The council received a letter of support from Ag Plus, which is the adjacent property owner. The hearing was kept open for 30 minutes as other agenda items were addressed. A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by DeRoode to close the public hearing. All in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by VanKeulen to approve the zoning variance as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**WIDSETH: WATER/ SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, IN-TOWN PORTION:** Jeff Kuhn followed up with some of the items that were discussed in the premeeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: APPROVE NEW MEMBERS:** A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Boerboom to approve the new fire department members Chase Bernaert & Josiah Kroger. This will bring our membership to 24. All in favor, motion carried.

**FUNDING FOR NEW TANKER PURCHASE:** The City has \$32,000 in the Fire Truck Fund and \$49,402.03 in the MAHA fund that would be available for use towards the purchase of a newer tanker truck. These funds along with relief association funds would probably not be enough to make a cash purchase. Chief Maertens asked that the council increase the amount that is budgeted for this purpose. The department will be keeping their eyes open for a tanker that would meet our needs.

**BOLTON & MENK: RESOLUTION #08-12-25-1: AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SUBMIT A POINT SOURCE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION TO THE PFA FOR 2026 SANITARY POND IMPROVEMENTS:** A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Warren to approve the application. All in favor, motion carried.

**TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE: ENGINE RETARDING BRAKE (C)** It shall be unlawful for the operator of any truck to intentionally use an engine-retarding brake on any public highway, street, parking lot or alley within the city which causes abnormal or excessive noise from the engine **because of an illegally modified or defective exhaust system**, except in an emergency. A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by DeRoode to remove the highlighted words in this section to change the intent of this ordinance and allow it to be enforced. All in favor, motion carried. Dawn will forward this update to John Engels to update the state system.

**TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING:** A motion was made by Warren and seconded by VanKeulen to set Ghent's Truth in Taxation Meeting for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:30. All in favor, motion carried.

**CITY OF GHENT TAX ABATEMENT POLICY:** The City of Ghent has a residential policy at this time, but no commercial policy. After discussion, a motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Warren to have the commercial abatement policy mirror the terms of residential policy. All in favor, motion carried.

**PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION:** An application for abatement was received from Jodi Maertens from 2 Arrow Apparel. A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Boerboom to accept the application. All in favor, motion carried. Because this parcel is included in the TIF district, it must be removed before it can be considered for abatement.

**RESOLUTION #08-12-25-02: A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE PARCEL #25-104012-0 FROM THE TIF DISTRICT:** A motion was made by VanKeulen and seconded by DeRoode to adopt the resolution as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**SET PUBLIC HEARING:** A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by Warren to set a public hearing to hear comment on the tax abatement application received for parcel #25-104012-0 for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.. All in favor, motion carried.

**2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:** The Council reviewed the 2026 second draft budget. Council asked Dawn to include an additional column showing a 4% increase in the budget so that funds could be included for tuckpointing the city hall. Dawn will research how much of the increase will be offset by new construction this year.

**ADJOURN:** A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Boerboom to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Vlaminc  
Administrator/Clerk