



Agenda

City Commission Business Meeting

City of Kalamazoo

Monday, November 8, 2021

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - 53rd CITY COMMISSION

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes from the City Commission business meeting on October 18, 2021 and the Committee of the Whole meetings on June 12, July 19, August 10, September 7, September 20, October 4, and October 18, 2021. **(Action: Motion to approve)**

C. CITY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

D. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

1. Report from the Board of Canvassers for the Municipal Election held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

E. ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Administration of the Oath of Office to the Newly Elected Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners

F. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - 54th CITY COMMISSION

G. OPENING CEREMONY

1. Invocation: Dr. Addis Moore, Mt. Zion Baptist Church
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Proclamations
 - a. Honoring Eric Cunningham for Dedication and Service

- b. Honoring Patrese Griffin for Dedication and Service
- c. Honoring Erin Knott for Dedication and Service
- d. Honoring Jack Urban for Dedication and Service

H. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

I. COMMUNICATIONS

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS

K. CONSENT AGENDA

L. REGULAR AGENDA

M. REPORTS AND LEGISLATION

N. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

O. POLICY ITEMS

P. NEW BUSINESS

Q. PUBLIC COMMENTS

R. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

S. CLOSED SESSION

T. ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Questions regarding agenda items may be answered prior to the meeting by contacting the City Manager's Office at 269.337.8047. Persons who wish to contact members of the City Commission prior to the meeting to provide input about items on the meeting agenda may do so via email to CityCommission@kalamazoocity.org.

Persons who wish to address the City Commission during the meeting to provide input about items on the meeting agenda or to make general comments may do so between 6:30 p.m. and the end of the public comment period by calling 269.226.6573 and leaving a recording.

Agendas for the regular meetings of the Kalamazoo City Commission are available on the Internet at: www.kalamazoocity.org

The Kalamazoo City Commission's business meetings are held on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and are shown live on the Public Media Network (channel 190 for Charter customers, channel 99 for U-Verse customers). Committee of the Whole meetings are held immediately prior to business meetings at 5:00 p.m. Both meetings are also streamed live on the City's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCity/>) and YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIgXSSXLSDxThVaaiRMsR5Q>).

The live stream on the City's Facebook page will feature Closed Captioning in real time. After the meeting a recording with Closed Captioning will be available on both the City's Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

Public Media Network rebroadcasts these meetings on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m., Wednesdays, at 1:00 a.m., and Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

A special meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss future goals and priorities.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Jeanne Hess
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Eric Cunningham
Erin Knott

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioners Excused

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Cunningham and Knott. With a voice vote the motion passed, with Commissioner Urban voting "No."

Public Comments

An opportunity was given for general public comments, but no comments were offered.

2021-00

Discussion of Future Goals and Priorities

Next, the City Commission discussed future goals and priorities.

City Manager Ritsema provided opening remarks and introduced facilitator Demarra West of Change Agent Consulting.

Ms. West reviewed the retreat agenda and explained the purpose of the retreat was to have a discussion of overarching strategies the City Commission wanted to put in place for its priorities for 2022 and beyond. Ms. West indicated she had talked with each Commissioner prior to the retreat and received feedback. Ms. West urged Commissioners to consider whether the City's role in these priorities should be that of Connector, Advocate or Actor. Ms. West also urged Commissioners to consider whether the City should try to have a deep impact in these areas or a scattered impact.

During the meeting the City Commission addressed the goal areas that were not addressed at the March retreat and identified and prioritized strategies under each goal area. Ms. West began the discussion of each goal area by displaying the strategies provided by Commissioners during their pre-meeting conversations with her. Commissioners then discussed the proposed strategies, added new strategies, moved strategies between goal areas, and voted on which strategies should be prioritized. For each goal area, Ms. West asked Commissioners to identify their top five strategies and vote for those strategies when asked. Copies of the slides showing the proposed priorities for each goal area were filed with the papers for this meeting. During the meeting, Ms. West color-coded the strategies in the following way:

Yellow	strategies or markers of success that were already in-progress
Pink	strategies or markers of success where there was a question about the City's role and whether the proposed item was within the City's control
Blue	strategies or markers of success where there was a question about whether the City wanted to take on the project due to scope or cost of the activity
Green	strategies or markers of success that involved work that would be done internally, within the City organization

2021-00
Discussion of Future
Goals and Priorities
(cont'd)

Environmental Strategies

Ms. West shared a slide entitled *Environmental Strategies: Connect, Advocate, Act* and asked for Commissioner feedback.

Discussion took place about the prioritization of "in-progress" strategies versus new strategies. Commissioner Praedel expressed concern about the potential conflict between strategies the Commission prioritized and the Sustainability Plan that was under development, and what "prioritizing" would mean for activities that were already in-progress. Commissioner Praedel also expressed concern about the message that could be sent to staff if new strategies were given higher priority than the current work they were doing.

By consensus, the City Commission agreed that "in progress" items would not be harmed by the prioritization process.

Community Planning and Economic Development Director Rebekah Kik indicated development of the Sustainability Plan was the priority for staff, and she remarked that any new initiatives would need to go through the budget process. Director Kik stated City leadership needed to hear the Commission's priorities so that staff could evaluate them and come back with plans, proposals, and timelines.

City Commissioners prioritized the Environmental Strategies as follows:

- Complete the Sustainability Plan. A plan for measuring a base energy use across both the public functions and more broadly across the City to serve as a dashboard for regular progress. – 5 votes
(5 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Approval of the NFP2 Overlay District Map and associated zoning ordinance changes, substantially as proposed
(5 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Identify larger areas in the City where a commercial size energy generator capacity could be installed (solar farms on Brownfield sites we cannot use otherwise)
(3 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Urban, Mayor Anderson)

2021-00

Discussion of Future
Goals and Priorities
(cont'd)

- Programs and investments across departments and budgets that support a less energy intensive approach to executing City functions, including more efficient buildings and transportation.
(3 votes – Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Reduce emissions of City fleet emissions: electrification, alternative fuels. Continue to make the City fleet more environmentally friendly, add charging stations throughout the City.
(3 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Mayor Anderson)
- Fund upgrades to the older housing stock with roofs, insulation, siding, etc. Programs to assist homeowners improve residential energy efficiency
(3 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Urban, Mayor Anderson)
- Develop a citywide composting plan
(2 votes – Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin)
- Continue to prioritize non-motorized modes of transportation
(2 votes – Commissioner Praedel, Vice Mayor Griffin)
- Switch to weekly recycling
(1 vote – Commissioner Praedel)
- Looking at high-use energy areas to focus on energy efficiency or innovation approaches to those areas
(1 vote – Vice Mayor Griffin)
- Complete Graphic Packaging project
(1 vote – Commissioner Urban)
- Aggressive approach to tree management and repopulating the aging tree stock
(1 vote – Commissioner Urban)
- Invest in wastewater monitoring for pathogens at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
(0 votes)
- Set an ambitious target date to become carbon neutral (e.g. 2030/2035).
(0 votes)
- Improve all parks and Milham Park to reflect their most sustainable and educational features
(0 votes)

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:27
The meeting resumed at 11:35

Environmental Success

Ms. West shared a slide entitled *Environmental Success: Act, Advocate, Plan*. Discussion took place about the definition of success for the environmental strategies.

By consensus, City Commissioners identified the following definitions of success for the environmental strategies:

- Completion of the Sustainability Plan
- Determine how we ensure our success based on direct support to partners who are working on environmental issues
- Environmental planning is integrated into our budgeting process
- Completion of current projects in the pipeline
- Achieved consensus on what is to be done to control speeding and aggressive driving throughout the city
- The deployment of electric vehicles into the City vehicle fleet
- Planning in place for the possible location of significant energy generating capacity in partnership with those with capacity and expertise in otherwise unused areas of the City

Infrastructure Strategies

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Infrastructure Strategies: Act, Convener, Advocate* and asked for Commissioner feedback. Discussion took place.

Commissioners and staff identified the following strategies as in-progress strategies:

- System-wide accessibility for individuals with disabilities
- Investments in water/wastewater infrastructure
- Traffic calming strategies on speeding hot spot areas and continuing to increase safety measures for non-motorized mode.
- Continue to repair/replace unsafe sidewalks and roads. Streets/walkability, neighborhoods. Improved streets with pedestrian and non-motorized focus.
- Safer, more beautified parks.

City Commissioners prioritized the Infrastructure Strategies as follows:

- Continue to repair/replace unsafe sidewalks and roads. Streets/walkability, neighborhoods. Improved streets with pedestrian and non-motorized focus.
(5 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Investments in water/wastewater infrastructure
(4 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Commissioner Urban, Mayor Anderson)

2021-00

Discussion of Future
Goals and Priorities
(cont'd)

2021-00

Discussion of Future
Goals and Priorities
(cont'd)

- System-wide accessibility for individuals with disabilities
(3 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Vice Mayor Griffin)
- Safer, more beautified parks. (add environmental & educational strategies for the parks here)
(3 votes – Commission Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Mayor Anderson)
- Traffic calming strategies on speeding hot spot areas and continuing to increase safety measures for non-motorized mode.
(3 votes – Commissioner Praedel, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Prioritize infrastructure building for neighborhoods that need it the most.
(3 votes – Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Citywide broadband
(1 vote – Commissioner Hess)
- Tree planting in identified areas; move toward renewable energies (integrate planting from environment; remove)
(1 vote – Commissioner Urban)
- A critical review of whether or how the Inkster St. bridge is to be replaced
(1 vote – Commissioner Urban)
- Identify cutting edge infrastructure building opportunities
(0 votes)

Infrastructure Success

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Infrastructure Success: Leader, Convener, Community Collaborator*. Discussion took place about the definition of success for infrastructure strategies.

By consensus, City Commissioners identified the following definitions of success for infrastructure strategies:

- Accessibility for individuals with disabilities
- Having a more interconnected city congruent to Imagine Kalamazoo
- Safer streets, safer planned biking and walking options
- Beautiful parks including additional amenities like splash pads
- Proactively developing and consistent reviewing infrastructure benchmarks
- Upgraded water/wastewater infrastructure

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12:27 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 1:11 p.m.

Homelessness Strategies

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Homelessness Strategy: Connect, Act, Advocate* and asked for Commissioner feedback.

Discussion took place regarding zoning restrictions that blocked homeless shelters, financial assistance for home improvements, and the City's ability to create a governing body around a homeless zoning space.

In response to questions from City Commissioners, City Attorney Robinson stated the City could not pay for improvements to private property, directly or indirectly, unless the improvements served a public purpose. City Attorney Robinson indicated there was some room for experimentation on this issue, and there were certain exceptions.

Deputy City Manager Laura Lam suggested staff do research and make recommendations to the Commission regarding a governing body for a homeless zoning space. Deputy City Manager Lam noted it might take six months just to create such a body.

Discussion took place regarding the City's roles as both a collaborator and provider of services/solutions to address homelessness.

By consensus, City Commissioners agreed to prioritize all the Homelessness Strategies and add them to the Housing Strategies and Priorities developed on March 13th:

- Provide financial support to assist with efforts to create a range of appropriate interim responses so that homelessness is as short as possible and basic health and safety issues are addressed.
- Work as a collaborative partner in the creation of a County-wide plan to address homelessness for both single persons and families who are unsheltered.
- Reduce barriers to transitional housing, homelessness solutions (e.g. staff recommendations as a first step)
- Increase investment in updating housing/rehabilitation.

Housing Success

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Housing Success: Connect, Act, Advocate*. Discussion took place about the definition of success for the housing strategies.

By consensus, City Commissioners identified the following definitions of success for the housing strategies:

- Development of a communications plan to help address housing crises.
- The activation of existing housing resources to create a specific set of physical responses including temporary and permanent units created and in process.

2021-00

Discussion of Future Goals and Priorities (cont'd)

2021-00

Discussion of Future
Goals and Priorities
(cont'd)

- # of housing developers partnering with the City to increase access to affordable housing.
- Advocacy with legislators for low-income tax credits so we can leverage developments.
- The completion of a County-wide plan that includes a range of responses, target numbers for housing success and identified resources to be allocated.
- The leverage of Brownfield Development funding to support projects that increase access to housing.

Employment Strategies

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Employment Strategies: Connect, Act, Advocate* and asked for Commissioner feedback. Discussion took place.

City Commissioners prioritized the Employment Strategies as follows:

- Expand employment/training/ internship opportunities with local employers through enrollments beginning initially in one or more summer youth programs. Strong internship opportunities with local higher education.
(5 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Accelerated and increased frequency of training of trades and other high paid professions including support the certifications and licensing part.
(4 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Praedel, Commissioner Urban, Mayor Anderson)
- A strong positive organization staffed by caring individuals who are representative of the community they serve.
(4 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- A pipeline of neighborhood residents with the skills they need to do the things that we need the most around the city like replacing our sidewalks, roads, lead services, water and wastewater lines, storm water improvements
(4 votes – Commissioner Hess, Commissioner Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Support for small and large businesses that provide good paying employment and opportunity for growth and wealth building.
(3 votes – Commissioner Praedel, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Increased financial & capacity building support for micro businesses.
(2 votes – Commissioner Praedel, Vice Mayor Griffin)
- Be intentional about barrier removal in the hiring process.
(2 votes – Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson)
- Engage neighborhood associations and other key stakeholders in addressing employment gaps.
(1 vote – Commissioner Praedel)

- Have an external process in place to evaluate internal employment engagement.
(1 vote – Vice Mayor Griffin)
- Internally increase the # of promotions for people of color.
(1 vote – Commissioner Urban)
- Increase the quality of our public services.
(1 vote – Commissioner Urban)

The meeting recessed at 2:13 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 2:18 p.m.

Employment Success

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Employment Success: Connect, Act, Advocate*.

By consensus, City Commissioners identified the following definitions of success for employment strategies:

- Supervisors are all DEI trained/qualified (internal focus)
- Positive recruitment/retention numbers (internal focus)
- All 600+ employees have a positive assessment of being employed by the city (internal focus)
- Equity would be reflected through all levels (internal focus)
- Strong relationships with our community partners around business (external focus)
- Increase our small business grant and incubation efforts (external focus)
- Increase in new trades professionals (external focus)
- A streamlined, easy process for businesses to engage with the city (external focus)

Mobile Nuisance Strategies

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Mobile Nuisance: Connect, Advocate, Act*. Discussion took place regarding the proposed strategies.

By consensus the City Commission agreed to prioritize all the Mobile Nuisance Strategies:

- Use community development and organizing tools to work with the neighborhoods, residents to create plans to end such parties. Prioritizing diversity, and youth in the work of finding solutions.
- Further conversations about creative enforcement strategies.

2021-00

Discussion of Future Goals and Priorities (cont'd)

Recess

2021-00

Discussion of Future
Goals and Priorities
(cont'd)

- Significant outreach with community about expectations, structured processes for events and enforcement.
- Create safe and secure spaces in neighborhoods that are open twenty-four hours that the public can access.
- Intentional building of community partnerships (i.e. conversations with community partners about resourcing some alternative opportunities for gatherings and activities.)

Law Enforcement Success

Ms. West displayed a slide entitled *Law Enforcement Success: Connect, Act, Advocate*. Commissioners did not offer any changes to the proposed success indicators

By consensus, City Commissioners identified the following definitions of success for law enforcement strategies:

- The city of Kalamazoo's marketing efforts should be nationwide to include our liveability, affordability, educational prestige so as to attract quality candidates.
- The report on the community/police interactions that occurred in the summer of 2020 is made public.
- Deep and meaningful DEI integration in the hiring process and organization culture. More diversity, cultural competency for hires and promotes.
- A diverse department staffed by a committed, broadly trained and adequately supported public safety team.
- Rebuilt trust with the community.
- Improved internal/external communication.
- An increase in neighbors reporting feeling safe.
- Clear, functional relationships with multi-disciplinary partners including trauma response, mental health, and temporary housing assistance. Strong, positive, broad community relationships tied to neighborhoods, neighborhood watch, block clubs and faith-based partners.

Update on the Use of
Federal Stimulus Funds

City Manager Ritsema reported staff were creating a short survey to get community feedback on the City's use of stimulus funds received from the federal government. City Manager Ritsema indicated the survey would ask people to prioritize a list of items that could address community needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and stated the items on the list would be taken from Imagine Kalamazoo 2025, the City Commission priorities, stimulus fund suggestions already submitted, and data from the United Way COVID Relief Fund. City Manager Ritsema stated the survey would be launched on June 18th, and people would have 30 days to respond. City Manager Ritsema stated the survey would be available online through the City's website, and paper copies would be available at over 20 locations throughout the City.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Manager Ritsema stated people who had one or two ideas for the use of stimulus funds and did not want to complete the survey could call 311 with that idea or send an email to Commissioners or the City Manager's Office.

Ms. West and Deputy City Manager Lam proposed the following next steps:

- Ms. West to compile and provide information on all priorities identified, both from this meeting and the March retreat, within two weeks.
- staff to integrate the City Commission's priorities into the 2022 budget process as part of the criteria for evaluating departmental requests.
- staff and Commissioners to have follow-up discussions to bring greater clarity and specificity to the priorities, the definitions of success, and the tracking of results.
- staff to report back to the Commission with specific next steps and timelines during upcoming Committee of the Whole meetings.

Mayor Anderson noted Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings could be used for deeper, more in-depth discussions on specific topics.

City Manager Ritsema stated he had polled Commissioners, and a majority wanted to continue having the CoW meetings.

Commissioner Urban stated this level and depth of long-term planning was unprecedented in Kalamazoo's history and was very impressive.

City Manager Ritsema thanked staff and Commissioners for participating in the retreat.

Mayor Anderson thanked Ms. West for her help facilitating the meeting, which allowed him to be a participant.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: November 8, 2021

Update on the Use of
Federal Stimulus Funds
(cont'd)

Discussion of Next
Steps

Adjournment

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Erin Knott
Jack Urban*

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioners Excused

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Knott and Urban. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Public Comments

Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Tamara Mitchell, non-resident, requested that the City Commission amend Section 39 of the City Charter to prohibit the use of funds from third parties in City elections. Ms. Mitchell asked that the City Manager and City Auditor audit the City Clerk's budget for 2020 and provide an audit report regarding the handling of private funds and funds used for the November 2020 election. Ms. Mitchell claimed the City repeatedly violated federal Freedom of Information laws by accepting funds from the Center for Tech and Civic Life, funds they were ineligible to receive.

Mark Krai, City resident, spoke about the issue of homeless people on the North Kalamazoo Mall. Mr. Krai stated the situation was becoming dangerous, and he asked that the City provide regulations for addressing the situation. Mr. Krai expressed support for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety as they attempted to address this issue.

Carla, a City resident, spoke about the issue of vagrants and crime on the North Kalamazoo Mall and asked that park benches and outlets on the North Mall be removed.

Ruth Garcia, non-resident, asked that the City continue to have virtual, accessible meetings.

Review of Items on
Upcoming City
Commission Agendas

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reviewed items for upcoming City Commission meeting agendas, including items on the agenda for the 7:00 business meeting and the following topics for future Committee of the Whole meetings: on August 2nd, economic development tax abatements and the process for prioritizing the use of federal stimulus funds.

Community Planning and Economic Development Director Rebekah Kik introduced Community Investment Manager Antonio Mitchell and Neighborhood Business and Special Projects Coordinator Melody Daacon, who provided an update on the Business Development Fund. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

* Commissioner Urban arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Commissioner Cunningham requested data on Black/Indigenous/People of Color (BIPOC) business and property ownership. Commissioner Cunningham commented on the lack of City investment in the Eastside Neighborhood and asked staff to respond.

Mr. Mitchell reported the City had been working with Pat Taylor, Executive Director of the Eastside Neighborhood Association (ENA), to explore ways to get more dollars into the Eastside community. Mr. Mitchell indicated there were four businesses on East Main Street participating in the façade grant program, and other businesses were making sidewalk and lighting improvements.

Director Kik remarked that the City had granted \$275,000 to the ENA in 2020 to purchase property for development on East Main Street.

Mayor Anderson recognized the City's Eastside partners, including Youth for Christ and the Kalamazoo County Land Bank.

Commissioner Praedel remarked on the success of the \$5,000 microgrant for small businesses, but he questioned the need for a one-year operating requirement, noting many businesses could not get up and running in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Mitchell explained the City wanted to see a track record for microbusiness loans. Mr. Mitchell stated the focus of these loans was to help the Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) neighborhoods, but he indicated the City wanted to begin helping start-up businesses in 2022.

Commissioner Praedel observed there was a gap between contractor training and a trained person being ready to start a business or begin working for someone. Commissioner Praedel stated issues like the need for licensing, technical help, and legal help were barriers.

Mr. Mitchell indicated staff were working with the Homebuilders Association of Kalamazoo and were making adjustments to the City's programs. Mr. Mitchell stated the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) Board understood the City was making these adjustments.

Director Kik noted the funds identified in the presentation were 2022 dollars.

Commissioner Urban remarked that it would be important for the City to widely publicize its successes, and he cautioned that the established business community might look at these programs and question whether it was appropriate for the City to invest in new businesses.

2021-00

Business Development
Fund Update

2021-00

Business Development
Fund Update (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Mr. Mitchell clarified the City offered grants, not loans, and he explained the City's investments in businesses were designed to grow the tax base. Mr. Mitchell stated these investments were relatively small, but they triggered larger investments.

Commissioner Urban commended Mr. Mitchell for being closely attuned to the real needs of the business community, and he spoke about the challenge of demonstrating results from investments in people.

Commissioner Hess expressed support for inclusive, holistic business growth. Commissioner Hess urged the City to support growth for the trades. Commissioner Hess questioned whether the City was collaborating with other community resources, like the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Ms. Daacon spoke about the people and businesses in the contractor training program and stated the City was connecting this group to resources in the community, like the SBDC. Ms. Daacon indicated many in the program had applied for a grant through the United Way.

2021-00

Discussion re: a
Return to In-Person
Public Meetings

City Manager Ritsema provided introductory remarks on a presentation entitled *Return to In Person Meetings: Discussion*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting. City Manager Ritsema used the presentation to guide the Commission through a series of decision points regarding in-person meetings.

City Manager Ritsema asked Commissioners whether Kalamazoo's Emergency Order should be extended to December 31, 2021, if possible.

In response to Commissioner comments and questions, City Attorney Robinson provided the following information:

- the City had the ability to declare a local state of emergency, but there should be facts that supported that declaration. The rise of the COVID-19 Delta variant might provide sufficient rationale, but the state had repealed almost all its emergency orders. There was no statewide mask mandate or social distancing requirements. If the City required masks, how would the mandate be enforced?
- the City could establish its own facts, and it was unlikely that a court would overturn a legislative decision if there was a rational basis. The following factors could be used to support an extension of the state of emergency: Kalamazoo was a college town; only 60-65% of adults in the county were vaccinated; people who were vaccinated could still be carriers of the virus; and there was uncertainty about how the Delta variant would behave in the community.
- the City's authority under the Open Meetings Act (OMA) to conduct virtual public meetings under a local state of emergency would expire at the end of the year.
- to extend the state of emergency the City Commission would need to adopt a resolution. The resolution could either declare a new state of emergency or extend the existing state of emergency. Only one meeting was required for this action.

- if the City Commission extended the state of emergency, hybrid meetings would be an option, with people being able to participate both remotely and in person, including City Commissioners.
- there were questions that would need to be answered if the City Commission wanted to resume in-person meetings but reserve the ability for individual Commissioners to continue participating remotely. Decisions would need to be made about where the quorum would be, who would chair the meeting, and whether the public could attend in person.

Commissioner Hess questioned whether the rise of the Delta variant could lead to a return to full masking, and she noted the vaccination rate for Kalamazoo County was 61.6%, not the 70% goal. Commissioner Hess questioned whether the City could require meeting attendees to show their vaccination cards and personal identification. Commissioner Hess stated the Delta variant outbreaks would be devastating this fall. Commissioner Hess indicated she wanted to meet in person, but she wanted the community to be safe.

Commissioner Urban stated he wanted to see a time plot of hospitalizations for COVID-19 in the community and the current vaccination percentages for the City and County. Commissioner Urban suggest the City devise a quantitative rule for these data points that would trigger a return to in-person meetings.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for the hybrid meeting option.

City Manager Ritsema requested that the Commission address the question of whether the emergency order should be extended.

Commissioner Urban expressed support for extending the emergency order, as it would give the City the most flexibility.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, City Manager Ritsema reported the City of Portage had been conducting hybrid meetings, and every other local jurisdiction was operating under the guidance and practice of Kalamazoo County.

Commissioner Praedel stated it was important to give people a timeline for a return to in-person meetings. Commissioner Praedel noted the extension of the local state of emergency did not necessarily mean City Commission meetings would be virtual through the end of the year.

Commission Urban suggested that staff meet with health experts before the next Commission meeting and connect a return to in-person meetings with real data.

City Manager Ritsema expressed his preference for returning to in-person meetings as soon as possible. City Manager Ritsema indicated he would present a timeline for returning to in-person meetings when the Commission took action to extend the emergency order.

By consensus the City Commission asked the City Administration to prepare a resolution to extend the Local State of Emergency until December 31, 2021.

City Manager Ritsema reviewed the remaining decision points and suggested this discussion be continued at a future date.

2021-00

Discussion re: a
Return to In-Person
Public Meetings
(cont'd)

2021-00

Discussion re: a
Return to In-Person
Public Meetings
(cont'd)

Commissioner Urban suggested Commissioners send their thoughts on the remaining decision points to the City Manager in writing.

City Attorney Robinson warned that following Commissioner Urban's suggestion would violate the Open Meetings Act; Commissioners' responses would need to be made public.

Commissioner Praedel stated the inability for Commissioners or staff to participate remotely for health reasons would be a deal breaker for him.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, City Manager Ritsema stated he had received enough feedback to move forward. City Manager Ritsema stated the remaining decision points would be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. City Manager Ritsema reported the Administration was working with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety to put in place personal safety measures for City Commission meetings.

Commissioner
Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners.

Vice Mayor Griffin requested follow-up on public comments regarding the City Clerk's budget and issues on the North Mall.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for Vice Mayor Griffin's requests. Commissioner Cunningham stated Ms. Daacon and Paul Thuringer were doing a great job on the Cannabis Committee. Commissioner Cunningham indicated some ordinance changes might be coming from their work.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: November 8, 2021

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Call to Order/Roll Call

A joint special meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission and Citizens Public Safety Review and Appeal Board was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

The meeting of the City Commission was called to order by Mayor David Anderson.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

CPSRAB Call to Order

The meeting of the Citizens Public Safety Review and Appeal Board (CPSRAB) was called to order by Chairperson Vernon Payne.

Public Comments

Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission and CPSRAB:

Shardae Chambers, City resident, expressed disappointment with the OIR Group report and stated the consultant did not push hard enough or include enough details in the report.

TC Custard, City resident, expressed disappointment with the OIR Group report and questioned why the officers' cameras were not recording and why the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety denied requests for documents.

Zachary Lassiter, City resident, expressed disappointment with the OIR Group report. Mr. Lassiter called for more accountability and stated CPSRAB needed to be a City Commission-appointed board with the Office of Professional Standards under it.

Jacob Johnson, City resident, questioned what accountability for racial injustice looked like. Mr. Johnson stated the events of 2020 were racial terrorism, and the City owed compensation to residents who had endured racial harm and violence.

Will Baker, City resident, expressed disappointment with the OIR Group report and observed the results were similar to the results of the City's internal investigation in 2020.

City Manager Ritsema provided introductory remarks on the independent review of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety's (KDPS's) response to incidents in 2020.

Chairman Payne described the process used to select the OIR Group as the consultant to perform the independent review. Chairman Payne introduced Michael Gennaco and other members of the OIR Group. Chairman Payne highlighted the importance of reviewing the entire report in order to fully understand the nuances of the analysis and recommendations.

Mr. Gennaco, Stephen Connolly, Julie Ruhlin, Jody Stiger, and Teresa Magula delivered a presentation entitled, *Independent Review of Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety in Two 2020 Critical Incidents: Comparison, Analysis, and Recommendations*. A copy of the slides from this presentation were filed with the paper for this meeting.

Mayor Anderson thanked the OIR Group for their presentation and urged people to read the full report. Mayor Anderson thanked Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Director Dorla Bonner for her work on the report.

When an opportunity was given for comments and questions from members of CPSRAB, Chairperson Payne acknowledged the frustrations of citizens and recognized that the outcomes citizens experienced with regard to the Proud Boys rally differed from the City's philosophical position.

CPSRAB member Larry Tolbert stated the report was not one-sided, in favor of either KDPS or the community, and he noted the pastor was vindicated as not being the leader of the counter-protestors. Mr. Tolbert stated he still needed to digest the full report, but it seems like a fair report. Mr. Tolbert observed that KDPS had a new Chief, and many recommendations in the report were already being put in place.

Chairperson Payne noted the 2013 Traffic Stop Study said KDPS needed to address its culture, and he commented on the impact of culture on policy and process. Chairperson Payne stated there had been very few changes since 2013, and he questioned whether there would be changes because of this report.

Mr. Tolbert asked why KDPS and the City Administration withheld information from the OIR Group.

Chairperson Payne added that CPSRAB had requested data on traffic stops and information on all complaints filed with KDPS.

CPSRAB member Jacquis Robertson questioned the current evaluation process for KDPS policies, procedures, and practices.

In response to Mr. Tolbert, City Manager Ritsema stated the City Administration was not prepared to respond to whether information was withheld from the OIR Group. City Manager Ritsema stated the questions raised during this meeting would be compiled, and the City would respond.

In response to a request for clarification from Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley, Ms. Robertson asked if there was an annual review of policies and procedures and an audit to ensure practices were compliant with policies and procedures.

2021-00

Presentation of the OIR Group Report re: the Response of KDPS to Protests in 2020

2021-00

Presentation of the OIR
Group Report re: the
Response of KDPS to
Protests in 2020 (cont'd)

In response to Ms. Robertson, Chief Coakley stated KDPS monitored its practices on a daily basis, and the department was always looking at its policies relative to best practices.

CPSRAB member Curtis Gardner stated the OIR Group did a great job, he agreed with their recommendations; and he saw changes happening already.

Next, City Commissioners were given an opportunity for questions and comments.

Commissioner Urban called-out the phrase “refused to provide documents” in the report, and he questioned whether that meant the documents did not exist or that they existed but KDPS refused to provide them. Commissioner Urban asked about the absence of after-action reports.

Mr. Gennaco stated the OIR Group was challenged in communicating with KDPS because of COVID-19. Mr. Gennaco stated it took a while to get to a final answer on information requests in some cases, and he described the KDPS response as “halting efforts,” but not refusal. For example, Mr. Gennaco said, there might have been multiple requests for information, only to find out the information did not exist. Mr. Gennaco stated he did not believe there were any hidden documents and remarked that KDPS might not be accustomed to providing information. Mr. Gennaco confirmed after-action reports either did not exist, were prepared late, or were too vague to be of any use. Mr. Gennaco stated a key recommendation was that incident planning should include a consideration of how to document the use of force in a mass crowd control situation. Mr. Gennaco indicated body cameras would have helped, but they were not used.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, City Manager Ritsema indicated staff would compile a list of the questions from this meeting and the answers to those questions by the end of the week, at which time an action report with deadlines and milestones would also be released. City Manager Ritsema stated staff were still digesting and understanding the report. City Manager Ritsema remarked the City would need to decide how to move forward, which would require the involvement of the community. City Manager Ritsema stated he wanted to develop a chart showing the report recommendations, the City’s responses, and the deadlines for those actions.

Commissioner Hess suggested another joint meeting with CPSRAB to review the City’s responses to the report recommendations.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Mr. Gennaco stated it would have been helpful for the OIR Group to have been in Kalamazoo in person, especially to meet with City leadership and walk the various venues where events took place. Mr. Gennaco noted that some members of the public did better with virtual listening sessions.

Ms. Magula stated there was a lot of email correspondence from the community, and this mode of communication probably resulted in the OIR Group getting more feedback than normal.

Commissioner Praedel stated feedback on performance should be timely, and he asked whether the City should have been timelier in having the independent review performed, with the resulting feedback.

In response to Commissioner Praedel, Mr. Gennaco stated Kalamazoo was average in terms of the timeliness of an independent review. Mr. Gennaco remarked that it was important the City took action while waiting for the results of the independent review.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Mr. Gennaco stated the big timely information versus accurate information was the big question – the balance between “getting it out and getting it right?” Mr. Gennaco acknowledged social media was making this difficult, and there needed to be more of a focus on communication strategies, like hiring a Public Information Officer. Mr. Gennaco remarked on the potential for inaccurate information to create a whole added level of distrust, and he stated he would sacrifice timing for accuracy.

Commissioner Praedel commented that the City needed to initiate an independent review as part of the healing process, even if the report did not contain any new information. Commissioner Praedel stated the process had been good for the City Manager, Chief Coakley, and the City Commission.

Mr. Gennaco stated there was new information in the report, and he noted it was important to put all the information in context and evaluate it. Mr. Gennaco stated an internal evaluation would not have the same credibility.

Commissioner Praedel remarked on the following elements that had been put in place and/or were being monitored: the recommendations of the First Amendment Assembly Sub-Committee; the City Manager’s work plan; the hiring of a DEI coordinator and assistant; the DEI audit; a new Public Safety Chief; a new KDPS hiring process; a new Public Information Officer; and an Assistant Public Safety Chief who worked directly with the DEI coordinator. Commissioner Praedel expressed hope that the OIR Group’s 40 recommendations would push the City beyond its current position. Commissioner Praedel stated the City could not dwell on this issue forever, but City leaders needed to recognize the trauma people experienced and the challenges KDPS faced with the events of 2020.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Griffin, Mr. Gennaco stated the report was not available in other languages.

Vice Mayor Griffin stated the report needed to be translated into Spanish and then a host of other languages as soon as possible. Vice Mayor Griffin asked for clarity on the information that was requested by the OIR Group but not received.

Mr. Gennaco indicated he did not believe any documents were withheld, and the language in the report was really describing the intricacies of getting information.

Vice Mayor Griffin questioned what the City was going to do to listen to the community moving forward. Vice Mayor Griffin spoke about the need for accountability and noted it was the City Manager and City Commission who were accountable for what happened in 2020. Vice Mayor Griffin remarked that the City never revisited the 2013 traffic stop study and stated she did not want that happening in this case. Vice Mayor Griffin stated City leadership should have been thinking about goals and objectives prior to this moment.

Commissioner Cunningham spoke about the line of responsibility and accountability between citizens, the City Commission, and City Administration. Commissioner Cunningham pointed to the 2013 traffic stop report as a key

2021-00

Presentation of the OIR Group Report re: the Response of KDPS to Protests in 2020 (cont’d)

2021-00

Presentation of the OIR
Group Report re: the
Response of KDPS to
Protests in 2020 (cont'd)

example of a report with no follow-up. Commissioner Cunningham stated he was experiencing tension with understanding what was being done to change KDPS. Commissioner Cunningham urged the community to read the OIR Group report and ask questions. Commissioner Cunningham encouraged the staff at KDPS that the department and City leaders would move forward as a team. Commissioner Cunningham commended the OIR Group for doing a pretty good job but stated he was looking for a more impactful report with facts and opinion. On page 21, did that statement/sentiment come from someone in the community or the City Administration.

In response to questions from Commissioner Cunningham, Mr. Connolly indicated the statement on the bottom of page 21 of the report was based on feedback the OIR Group received both from people who were out on the street and from KDPS. Mr. Connolly stated the crowd was very upset at seeing a black man getting arrested. Regarding the episode at Bronson Park described on page 31, the situation was unclear due to the lack of body camera footage.

Commissioner Cunningham asked that this information be added to the report. Commissioner Cunningham spoke about the strong decision-making of KDPS as a strength but identified examples of poor communication on the day of the curfew. Commissioner Cunningham stated the curfew should have been a cautionary measure, not a mandate. Commissioner Cunningham stated KDPS showed bias during the Proud Boys rally, and he noted there were no benchmarks for the City Commission and City Administration in the area of equity. Commissioner Cunningham stated KDPS needed to do a better job being consistent in their enforcement and communicating accurately before, during, and after events. Commissioner Cunningham expressed appreciation for the communication efforts of Chief Coakley. Commissioner Cunningham stated CPSRAB was important and should be an integral part of reviewing policies and procedures. Commissioner Cunningham noted the KDPS union contracts would be expiring soon.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Mr. Gennaco stated there was a section and recommendation in the report about the National Guard. Mr. Gennaco stated there was some credence to calling in the Guard, as KDPS was facing resource issues and needed support. Mr. Gennaco noted, however, that in this type of situation more consideration should be given to the competing considerations of addressing resource issues versus the potential for crowd agitation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Ms. Magula made reference to the report and stated Chief Thomas called in the National Guard.

CPSRAB Member
Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments from CPSRAB members.

Commissioner
Comments

Chairperson Payne thanked the OIR Group for their presentation and asked that they include CPSRAB in any future communication to the City.

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments from City Commissioners.

Mayor Anderson thanked Chairperson Payne for helping lead the meeting, and he thanked City staff for being present. Mayor Anderson offered a quote from former City Commissioner Matt Milcarek and spoke about the need for humility in order

to make things better. Mayor Anderson remarked that school would be starting soon, and the issue of gun violence would be moving into the schools. Mayor Anderson spoke about the importance of talking publicly with Kalamazoo County, Kalamazoo Township, and school districts about gun violence.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor

Dated: November 8, 2021

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Adjournment

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, September 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Eric Cunningham

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Cunningham. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Public Comments

Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Jeff Messer, City resident, listed institutions and venues that had resumed in-person gatherings as well as options he had given the City Commission for meeting in-person. Mr. Messer urged individual City Commissioners to take matters into their own hands, attend meetings in person in the City Commission Chambers, and invite the public.

Benjamin remarked that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board bylaws provided that board members “shall have access” to materials, items, and documents, and he asked how a member could get those materials and documents without submitting a freedom of information request.

Casey Coker, City resident, asked that the City Commission appointee reviews and pay increases be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

Doug Kirk, non-resident and President of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, spoke about the lack of traffic enforcement in the City and asked that the Public Safety Department be directed to enforce speed limits and the prohibition against the use of cell phones while driving.

Review of Items on
Upcoming City
Commission Agendas

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reviewed items for upcoming City Commission meeting agendas, including items on the agenda for the 7:00 business meeting and the following topics for the September 20th Committee of the Whole (CoW) meeting: the work of the Parks and Recreation Department and youth programming.

2021-00
KDPS Response to the
OIR Group Report

City Manager Ritsema provided introductory remarks on the response of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) to the report and recommendations from the OIR Group. City Manager Ritsema noted the Public

Safety Transparency page on the City's website included an addendum to the OIR Group Report regarding KDPS's response to records requests during the review process.

Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley delivered a presentation entitled *OIR Recommendations Implementation Plan, September 7, 2021*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

City Manager Ritsema and Chief Coakley presented a tracking spreadsheet that would be available on the Public Safety Transparency page, showing the OIR Group recommendations, the staff/office assigned to address each recommendation, the action steps being taken, and the current status of the action steps. A copy of this spreadsheet was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Praedel referred to pages 75/76 of the report that talked about live narration of the KDPS actions to be captured by the body cameras.

Chief Coakley stated narration could happen, and he noted he had been doing something similar on social media to explain officers' intentions. Chief Coakley agreed that KDPS needed to get better at communicating, both before, during, and after events.

Commissioner Praedel questioned whether the City's mutual aid partners should be included in the trainings that the OIR Group recommended. Commissioner Praedel observed there was a high likelihood that large events would involve mutual aid partners, and they needed to be on the same page as KDPS.

In response to Commissioner Praedel, Chief Coakley stated KDPS regularly invited its mutual aid partners to participate in trainings.

Vice Mayor Griffin asked City Manager Ritsema for his thoughts. Vice Mayor Griffin remarked that Chief Coakley was not the Chief for most of 2020, and the plan he presented was a good plan. Vice Mayor Griffin stated the Commission needed to know there was full and complete understanding coming from the City Manager.

Commissioner Urban thanked KDPS staff for the tracking spreadsheet and its availability online. Commissioner Urban asked whether it was reasonable to expect that the To-Be-Determined (TBD) items could be completed within one year.

In response to Commissioner Urban, City Manager Ritsema stated individual response steps would be completed sooner than one year, but the overall outcome should be completed within a year.

Commissioner Urban remarked that the City would be tested again with first amendment events. Commissioner Urban noted the tracking spreadsheet was an internal document that contained jargon, and he expressed hope that the Public Information Officer and others would prepare a final report that provided an interpretation of the spreadsheet for the public.

City Manager Ritsema stated he was part the KDPS command structure last year, he was aware and approved of the actions taken, and he relied on the training and expertise of Public Safety staff. City Manager Ritsema stated he would hold Chief Coakley accountable for the report and recommendations from the OIR Group, and

2021-00

KDPS Response to the
OIR Group Report
(cont'd)

2021-00KDPS Response to the
OIR Group Report
(cont'd)

he expected the City Commission to hold him accountable. City Manager Ritsema stated the City would be tested again. City Manager Ritsema remarked he was looking forward to working with the community and City Commission to address the recommendations, but he acknowledged he was the one who was ultimately accountable.

Commissioner Urban recommended that staff provide examples when trying to explain the tracking spreadsheet to the community, but he acknowledged that people could take an example and cling to it as a precedent.

Commissioner Praedel discussed the challenge of being an elected official and stated Commissioners were not trying to be critical or disrespectful of staff with their questions. Commissioner Praedel indicated Commissioners knew the work was hard, but they needed to ask the questions the public was asking them. Commissioner Praedel spoke of the need for Commissioners and staff to work together.

Chief Coakley thanked Commissioner Praedel and all Commissioners for their support.

Commissioner
Comments

Next an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners.

Mayor Anderson asked City Manager Ritsema to provide an update on the City's hybrid meeting plan. Mayor Anderson noted the City was trying to keep everyone safe and healthy, and if Commissioners did not want to attend meetings in person it was due to health concerns rather than a disregard for transparency and accessibility.

City Manager Ritsema explained the City was following the recommendations of the Kalamazoo County Health Department to the County Board of Commissioners regarding meetings of public bodies.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor

Dated: November 8, 2021

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Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Public Comments

Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Roxanna Maier, non-resident, spoke about the tent city near Hotop Avenue and asked the City for a plan to relocate people in the camp by September 29th.

Catherine Neima, non-resident, expressed concern about the unhoused in the City of Kalamazoo and asked the City Commission to talk about housing and getting people “back on their feet.”

Dick Shiltz, non-resident, spoke about his efforts to help the homeless and asked where they would go after September 29th.

Review of Business Meeting Agenda

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reviewed items on the agenda for the 7:00 business meeting.

2021-00

Presentation re: Youth Programs

City Manager Ritsema provided introductory remarks for a presentation on the City’s youth programs.

Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher, Youth Development Coordinator Chad Wendt, and Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Aerts delivered a presentation entitled *Youth Development, Monday, September 20, 2021*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Hess thanked the presenters for their work with Kalamazoo’s youth and for the partnership with KYDNet. Commissioner Hess offered that youth development programs were a great use for Foundation for Excellence (FFE) funds. Commissioner Hess stated Kalamazoo College students loved working with Swim for Success programs.

In response to questions from Commissioner Hess, Mr. Aerts and Mr. Wendt provided the following age ranges for the various youth programs: Camp K-Zoo – Kindergarten to 12 years old; all other camps – 7 to 12 years old; All Things

Possible – 12 to 14 years old (entering high school); and Counselors in Training (CIT) – 13 to 17 years old. Children aged 5 to 6 years were not allowed in the youth programs because they could not handle the full-day schedule. Financial assistance was available for Camp K-Zoo in the form of a 75% scholarship, and there was no cost for the All Things Possible program. Once an All Things Possible participant completed their first year of high school, they could be eligible to have the City pay for their driver's education class.

Commissioner Cunningham stated the City needed to do more for the 13–18-year-old age group. Commissioner Cunningham stated he was glad to see the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) as a youth development partner. Commissioner Cunningham offered remarks on the need to do better with black and brown kids, the need for cultural competence, the need to invest in more than just sports, the need for partnerships, and the need for the City to be intentional with its youth programs. Commissioner Cunningham stated community leaders needed to do this work, as kids did not know what they needed. Commissioner Cunningham questioned what data was available on the number of youths participating in City programs and the cost for each program. Commissioner Cunningham stated the City needed to start with young people in its efforts to address gun violence. Commissioner Cunningham commented the community could not allow KDPS to bear the burden of gun violence alone.

Commissioner Praedel thanked the presenters and remarked on the joy of seeing activity at South Side Park.

In response to questions from Commissioner Praedel, Director Fletcher stated there was a form to complete to get financial aid for youth programs. Director Fletcher explained the criteria for receiving aid were being in the federal free/reduced price lunch program and being a City resident. Director Fletcher reported these funds came to the Parks and Recreation Department as a reimbursement from the Friends of Recreation and usually totaled \$12,000-\$20,000 each year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Mr. Aerts stated the CIT program fed itself as kids transitioned from being campers to wanting to be CIT's. Mr. Aerts indicated staff knew families and teens in the community who might be interested in being CIT's, and they had started doing some marketing in middle schools.

Commissioner Praedel urged the City to eliminate barriers to youth programs and suggested 100% scholarships, as 25% of the cost was still a challenge for some people. Commissioner Praedel stated having 9-5 childcare for the summer was a "game changer." Commissioner Praedel remarked that he was proud of the work the City was doing and the investment the City was making in human capital.

Next an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners.

Commissioner Urban spoke about the Graphic Packaging tax abatement item on the business meeting agenda and stated people should be aware that the question before the Commission was whether the abatement should be approved for 5 years or 11 years.

2021-00

Presentation re: Youth Programs (cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

City Manager Ritsema agreed with Commission Urban and indicated there was a narrow set of criteria under state statute that would disqualify a business from receiving a tax abatement, and those criteria were related to employment and the company fulfilling its commitments.

Commissioner Cunningham asked if the closed session could be moved up in the agenda.

In response to Commissioner Cunningham, City Attorney Robinson stated the City Commission could move items around on its agenda by a majority vote.

Mayor Anderson questioned whether moving the closed session to the beginning of the meeting would affect people who wanted to participate in the scheduled public hearings, as the hearings would be moved back until later in the meeting.

Commission Cunningham asked for an explanation of the narrow reasons for revoking a tax abatement.

Mayor Anderson asked City Attorney Robinson to be prepared to answer the revocation question during the business meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: November 8, 2021

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Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Jack Urban*

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Urban. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Public Comments

Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Alphonso Harris, City resident, stated rules that prohibited sleeping in parks were anti-homeless.

Review of Items on
Upcoming Agendas

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reviewed items on the agenda for the 7:00 business meeting. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain stated the October 18th business meeting agenda would be a full agenda, including the Graphic Packaging tax abatement item. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain stated the October 18th Committee of the Whole (CoW) agenda would include a presentation on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) internal assessment as well as other presentations.

2021-00
Energy Efficiency
Program

Redevelopment Project Manager Jamie McCarthy and Brittany Cullimore, Program Coordinator for Consumers Energy, delivered a presentation entitled *Kalamazoo Energy Collaborative: City Commission Update, October 4, 2021*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

*Commissioner Urban arrived at 5:14 p.m.

Public Services Director James Baker described the Helping Neighbors program, which was a partnership between the City and Consumers Energy to help people identify water leaks and other energy inefficiencies. Director Baker noted program was for both in-City and outside-City customers, and he reported there were 3,899 participants to-date, including 257 full energy audits performed or scheduled. Director Baker indicated lead and copper testing through the City was free, and free water filters were available for those who needed them.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Ms. McCarthy stated the City had identified multi-family residential buildings that would qualify for the Energy Collaborative.

Ms. Cullimore indicated apartment buildings needed to be 20,000 sq. ft. (15-20 units) or larger to qualify for the program.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel Ms. Cullimore stated the Kalamazoo Energy Collaborative was the first of its kind in the nation. Ms. Cullimore indicated there were other benchmarking programs, but the Kalamazoo program was the first one in Michigan to partner directly with a city.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, Ms. Cullimore stated Consumers Energy was hoping to have 5-6 buildings signed up for the program by the end of October, with onboarding and deployment of the online tool happening in November.

Mayor Anderson expressed excitement that Kalamazoo was the first city in Michigan to be engaged in an energy benchmarking partnership, and he asked how the City Commission could help.

Ms. Cullimore stated the Commission could help by expressing public support for the program and for energy efficiency. Ms. Cullimore noted programs like this were able to help the City achieve its climate action goals.

Ms. McCarthy indicated the Energy Collaborative team would like to highlight participants and their results/growth in spring, when the participant group would be larger. Ms. McCarthy stated City staff had been engaging with owners of commercial buildings, but there would be more direct outreach after the pilot group was through the program.

Commissioner Urban remarked on the shockingly high price of utility bills, and he asked whether the City would share personal stories of how the energy audits reduced those bills.

Director Baker commented that the City hoped to see results from the 257 home energy audits, but there was no mechanism to tell the before/after story. Director Baker stated he would work with Consumers Energy on the storytelling.

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain provided introductory remarks about the work of the Bronson Park Education Committee that resulted in a ground penetrating radar survey of the Bronson Park Mound.

Councilwoman Phyllis Davis from the Match-E-Be-Nash-E-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians provided introductory remarks.

Dr. David Brose, Deputy City Manager Chamberlain, and Councilwoman Davis delivered a presentation entitled *Summary of Archeological Interpretations: Bronson Park Mound Ground-Penetrating Radar Survey*. (A copy of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for the meeting.) Dr. Brose briefly described the history of Native American habitation of Michigan and Kalamazoo County, and he reviewed the history of excavation at the Bronson Park Mound. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain summarized the results of the survey as follows: the mound was not a burial area; there were no significant structures

2021-00
Energy Efficiency
Program (cont'd)

2021-00
Presentation re: the
Bronson Park Mound

2021-00

Presentation re: the
Bronson Park Mound
(cont'd)

buried in or around the mound; the mound and the area around it appeared to have been used for ceremonial purposes; and the mound was around 1,000 years old. Councilwoman Davis described the importance of the four quadrants and four sacred medicines. Councilwoman Davis indicated the tribe's desire was to preserve and use the mound to teach the community about the history of native peoples. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain described the plan for the mound, which included the installation of four interpretive signs near the mound at the four points of the compass. In addition, "Grandfather Stones" would be placed around the outer edge of the mound itself with an inner ring of native plants related to the Four Directions. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain indicated the timeline was to contract for the project over the winter so that work could start in early spring of 2022.

Councilwoman Davis offered closing remarks.

Commissioner Cunningham stated he was honored that City staff continued the journey to move this work forward from 2018. Commissioner Cunningham noted the Potawatomi made decisions with an eye to their impact for seven generations, and he stated he had tried to apply this principle. Commissioner Cunningham remarked on the relative youth of the United States and its relatively short history compared to other countries.

Commissioner Hess thanked the Education Committee for its work and for their presentation. Commissioner Hess stated the markers would do a lot to educate people, as most people had no idea what the mound was. Commissioner Hess observed that both presentations during the meeting involved thinking about future generations.

Commissioner Urban thanked the committee for its persistence in doing the work over a span of years. Commissioner Urban stated the mound would have formal presence.

Commissioner
Comments

Next an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor

Dated: November 8, 2021

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Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Public Comments

Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Dorothy Appleyard, City resident, asked that item G-17, approval of minutes, on the business meeting agenda be moved to the Regular Agenda to discuss lack of compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Shardae Chambers, City resident, thanked City Commissioners for their service and specifically Vice Mayor Griffin for her work on the Commission. Ms. Chambers urged Commissioners to continue their service to the community after they were off the City Commission.

Meg Adams, City resident, asked why the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) survey results were not in the agenda packet. Ms. Adams offered suggestions for how the City could develop its plan to become an anti-racist organization.

Leander Rabe, non-resident, expressed opposition to the City's decisions and actions regarding the homeless encampments and stated the decisions needed to be more equitable.

Ashante Collins, non-resident, stated the DEI report needed to be released to the public, and the City Commission needed to hold the City Administration accountable for transparency.

Carly Walter, City resident, expressed opposition to the City's recent response to the homeless encampments.

Review of Business Meeting Agenda

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reviewed items on the agenda for the 7:00 business meeting and stated the City Manager would be requesting that Item G-10, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for The Creamery, be removed from the agenda and that Item G-12, a resolution authorizing collective bargaining with the Public Safety unions, be moved to the Regular Agenda.

Greg Rosine, Chair of both the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) and Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA), provided an overview of governance structure of the CCTA and KCTA. Sean McBride, Executive Director for Metro Transit, delivered a presentation entitled *Metro Meets the Challenge: Fall 2021*.

Mayor Anderson thanked the presenters and expressed support for the KCTA millage.

Ryan Rowe, Kaylyn Williams, Karie Morgan, and Darnell Blackburn from the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) delivered a presentation entitled *The City of Kalamazoo Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assessment*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

DEI Director Dorla Bonner discussed the timeline and next steps, including the development of a DEI plan.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, City Manager Ritsema stated the FFE Budget presentation to be moved to the Communications section of the 7:00 business meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Director Bonner stated the timeline for a reassessment would be a part of the DEI plan.

Mr. Rowe indicated MPHI could help build City's capacity to do their own DEI assessments.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed appreciation for the idea of the City doing its own DEI assessments, but he noted there was an accountability and trust factor in government that required an outside assessment. Commissioner Cunningham stated the importance of this study was that it provided quantitative and qualitative evidence of the reality of the City organization. Commissioner Cunningham urged City staff to be open to having conversations about DEI and observed that people needed conflict to grow. Commissioner Cunningham stated it was better to have DEI conversations sooner rather than later so issues could be addressed. Commissioner Cunningham thanked staff and MPHI for their work. Commissioner Cunningham urged people to vote for the City Commission candidates who naturally looked through a Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) lens.

In response to questions from Commissioner Praedel, Director Bonner indicated the full DEI report was on the DEI page of the City's website right now. Director Bonner stated all City employees would receive the full report, and there would be large and small group meetings to discuss the report. Director Bonner noted these meetings would continue into 2022.

Commissioner Praedel stated he would like to see members of the public included in the City's DEI work groups and discussion groups, and he would like the City to get input from people with disabilities and LGBTQ employees.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Director Bonner stated this presentation marked the end of the contractual relationship between the City and MPHI.

2021-00
Metro Transit Update

2021-00
Presentation on the DEI
Internal Assessment

2021-00

Presentation on the DEI
Internal Assessment
(cont'd)

Commissioner Urban asked if MPHI could offer counseling services through the City's DEI Office to employees and supervisors for advice on reporting or addressing issues like microaggressions.

Mr. Rowe stated MPHI did not offer counseling services, but the organization did provide services in the area of employee engagement to build confidence in the City's processes.

Mayor Anderson thanked City staff who participated in the survey and MPHI for their work to prepare the report.

Commissioner
Comments

Next an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor

Dated: November 8, 2021

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Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Father Antony Rejesh, St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Proclamations
2021-00

Mayor Anderson read a proclamation *Honoring Dr. Vernie Merze Tate, October 8, 2021*. Sonya Hollins, Founder and Executive Director of the Merze Tate Explorers, and Drs. Edwin Martini and Deveta R. Gardner, Dean and Associate Dean at Western Michigan University, received the proclamation.

2021-00

Commissioner Cunningham proclaimed October 28, 2021 *Lights on Afterschool Day – Kalamazoo*. Meg Blinkiewicz, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Youth Development Network (KYDNet) received the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following changes:

City Manager Ritsema requested that Item G-10, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for The Kalamazoo Creamery at 1101 Portage Street, be removed from the agenda; and that Item G-12, a resolution authorizing collective bargaining with the Public Safety unions, be moved to the Regular Agenda.

Commissioner Praedel, on behalf of a member of the public, asked that Item G-17, approval of meeting minutes, be moved to the Regular Agenda.

2021-00
FY 2022 FFE Budget
Presentation

Foundation for Excellence Manager Steve Brown delivered a presentation entitled *The Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence: 2022 Draft City FFE Budget, October 18, 2021*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

An opportunity was given for Commissioner questions, but no questions or comments were offered.

At 7:33 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving the 2020 Kalamazoo Mall Sidewalk Maintenance Assessment at a per front foot cost of \$16.018.

An opportunity was given for public comments, but no comments were offered.

At 7:34 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to adopt **RESOLUTION #4**, for the purpose of approving the 2020 Kalamazoo Mall Sidewalk Maintenance Assessment at a per front foot cost of \$16.018.

Prior to a vote on the motion, and in response to a question from Commissioner Hess, Public Services Director James Baker explained the date was 2020 because the assessment was based on actual costs from 2020 and billed retroactively.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

When an opportunity was given for public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

The following speakers expressed opposition to the City's treatment of unhoused people and the clearing of homeless encampments, and they asked the City to drop criminal charges against protesters who were demonstrating when the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) removed unhoused people from the encampments. A copy of the talking points use by many of the speakers was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Lindsey Ray, City resident
 Dorothy Appleyard, City resident
 Carly Walter, City resident
 Leander Rabe, non-resident
 Matthew Carl, non-resident
 Tanisha Smith, City resident
 Tim Sheldon, City resident
 An anonymous speaker
 Darien, City resident
 Mabel, City resident
 Victoria, City resident
 Joe Byers, City resident
 Marie
 Melissa
 Andrew Argo, City resident
 An anonymous City resident
 Graham Strazinski, City resident
 Jonson Nelson, City resident
 Murray, City resident
 Christina, City resident
 JoAnna, City resident

2021-00

Public Hearing re: the
 2020 Mall Maintenance
 Assessment

2021-00

Resolution 21-55
 Approving the 2020
 Mall Maintenance
 Assessment

Public Comments

2021-00

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Taylor, City resident
 Allegra Kistler-Ellis
 Antonia Kistler-Ellis
 An anonymous speaker
 Allie, City resident
 Adrien Solitro, City resident
 Kaitlin, City resident
 Lisa Kistler, City resident
 Iris Potter, City resident
 Amy Jeffries, City resident
 Heather Benac, City resident
 Laura, Kalamazoo resident
 Sofia Peters, City resident
 Jim, Kalamazoo resident
 An anonymous speaker
 Rachel Mazzone, City resident
 Joel Klein, Kalamazoo resident
 Olivia
 Jonathan Suha, City resident
 Evan
 Lisa, City resident
 Matt, City resident
 Noelle Massey, City resident
 Steve Deladis, City resident
 An anonymous City resident
 Conner Miller, City resident
 Larkin G., City resident
 Suzie, City resident
 Suzanne Bennett, City resident
 Fantasia Pratt
 An anonymous Kalamazoo resident
 Kaylynn Dexter, City resident
 An anonymous speaker
 Hilary Hunt, City resident
 Timothy Lee, City resident
 Kevin, City resident
 Henry, Kalamazoo resident
 A City resident (sang a song)
 Ruth Hensley, City resident
 Hunter Willard, City resident
 Audrey Gerrard, City resident
 Amber Adams-Fall, non-resident
 Elizabeth, City resident
 Andrew, Kalamazoo resident
 Lauren Ellis, non-resident
 Emily, non-resident
 An anonymous speaker
 Rebecca McCleary, City resident
 Neal Shaw, non-resident
 Julie Merrill, non-resident
 An anonymous speaker
 An anonymous non-resident
 Elyra, non-resident
 An anonymous speaker

The following speakers described unsafe and unsanitary living conditions at 1412 E. Alcott Street and asked the City to do something about the situation:

Amy Albertson, City resident
Kathy Wall, City resident
Nina Siagkris, non-resident
Carol Oakes, City resident

The following speakers expressed opposition to extending the tax abatement for Graphic Packaging:

Audrey Seilheimer, City resident
Joe Byers, City resident
Shardae Chambers, City resident
Taylor, City resident
Brandi Crawford-Johnson, non-resident
Iris Potter, City resident
Heather Benac, City resident
Timothy Lee, City resident
An anonymous speaker
An anonymous speaker
Neal Shaw, non-resident
An anonymous speaker

The following people expressed opposition to the lease of golf carts for Milham Park Golf Course:

David Benac, City resident
Taylor, City resident
Iris Potter, City resident
Matt, a City resident

Audrey Seilheimer, City resident, expressed opposition to the County redistricting plan and asked the City to not dig into and landscape the Bronson Park Mound.

David Benac, City resident, requested that Items G-1, G-2, G-3, G-5, and G-12 be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda. Mr. Benac questioned why the City was spending almost \$1 million on golf carts and almost \$4 million to address odors created by Graphic Packaging.

Shardae Chambers, City resident, thanked members of the City Commission for their service, especially the members whose terms were ending.

Brandi Crawford-Johnson, non-resident, expressed opposition to Item G-3, the purchase of odor suppressant chemicals from Solterra Group.

John Wilson, City resident, stated the City needed to rethink the budget allocation for KDPS.

Sam, a City resident, stated KDPS needed to be reformed and asked that Item G-12, a resolution authorizing collective bargaining with the Public Safety unions, be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Public Comments (cont'd)	Jill Bland of Southwest Michigan First expressed support for extending the tax abatement for Graphic Packaging. Bill, a City resident, spoke about recent crimes against Western Michigan University students in the area around Greenwood Avenue and asked that the City do something to make the area safe, like additional police patrols. Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, spoke about how he had to kick a heroin addict out of his house and how she was now homeless. Doug Jackson, Kalamazoo resident, expressed concern about the lack of police presence in the area around The Bronco Club. Steve Ellis, City resident, suggested the City set aside a large tract of land for the homeless to use, like they had done in Denver, Colorado.
Recess	The meeting recessed at 10:11 p.m. The meeting resumed at 10:22 p.m.
Consent Agenda	Consent Agenda items were presented as follows with a recommendation to approve the items and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the city:
2021-00	- approval of a contract with Hoffman Brothers, Inc. for improvements to Mountain Home Cemetery in the amount of \$598,136.10.
2021-00	- approval of a change order to the contract with Carrier & Gable in the amount of \$150,000 for traffic signal maintenance supplies to be provided through December 31, 2021, bringing the new contract total to \$230,000.
2021-00 Resolution 21-56	- adoption of a RESOLUTION from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Liquor Control Commission recommending approval of an On-Premises Tasting Room Permit for Brewery Outré, LLC to be located at 567 East Ransom Street.
2021-00 Resolution 21-57	- adoption of a RESOLUTION from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Liquor Control Commission, recommending approval of an Off-Premises Tasting Room License for Distilled Kalamazoo, LLC at 1030 Portage Street.
2021-00 Resolution 21-58	- adoption of a RESOLUTION from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Liquor Control Commission, recommending approval of a Redevelopment Liquor License for Dabney & Co/Public Skool, LLC at 344 North Rose Street.
2021-00 Resolution 21-59	- adoption of a RESOLUTION granting a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for the properties located at 508 Harrison Street (Parcel No. 06-15-295-101), and 660 Gull Road (Parcel No. 06-15-287-030), for the proposed 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit project.
2021-00	- approval of an exchange agreement for innerduct utilities between the City of Kalamazoo and Zayo Group, LLC.

- approval of an amendment to the Kalamazoo Small Business Loan Fund Services Agreement with the United Way.
- acceptance of a \$100,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for architecture and engineering costs related to the 140 South Edwards Street mixed use project.
- acceptance of a grant from the Irving S Gilmore Foundation for the construction of updated playground amenities at Milham Park in the amount of \$286,574.

2021-00

2021-00

2021-00

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to approve the consent agenda requests and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the City.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin*, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Vice Mayor Griffin abstained from voting on Item G-11, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for properties at 508 Harrison Street and 660 Gull Road.

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Regular Agenda

City Manager Ritsema explained the lease for golf carts would be funded by DM Golf, the management company behind the City's golf courses, using cart rental fees to cover the lease payments.

2021-00

Lease Agreement for Golf Carts

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, City Manager Ritsema confirmed the decision before the Commission was whether to allow the golf course to spend its own money on golf carts.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to approve an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement with De Lage Landen Public Finance for Milham Park Golf Course golf carts in the amount of \$875,254.84.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

Director Baker reviewed details of agenda items G-2 (1-year extension of the lease with Envirosuite Corp. for odor monitoring, weather monitoring, maintenance, and modelling software), G3 (a contract with Solterra Group, LLC to purchase odor suppressant chemicals), and G-5 (a contract with Xylem Vue Inc. for the sanitary sewer real-time level, flow and rain monitoring decision support system).

Discussion of Odor Remediation Agenda Items

Discussion of Odor
Remediation Agenda
Items (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Director Baker confirmed the odor suppressing chemicals were applied to materials that were sent to a landfill and away from the wastewater treatment plant.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Griffin, Director Baker stated the ingredients in the odor suppressing chemical included lemon grass oil, methol, and methanol alcohol. Director Baker stated there were no large studies of the impact of this chemical on a community, and he noted the primary safety concerns were related to ingestion or undiluted, direct contact with the skin.

2021-00

Lease of Odor and
Weather Monitoring
Software and Sensors

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to approve a 1-year extension of the lease with Envirosuite Corp. for odor monitoring, weather monitoring, maintenance, and modelling software in the amount of \$113,338.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel stated he liked seeing items moved to the Regular Agenda, as it provided an opportunity for educating both Commissioners and the public. Commissioner Praedel noted the odor monitoring system provided transparency and accountability, and he expressed support for the motion.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

2021-00

Purchase of Odor
Suppressant Chemicals

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve a contract with Solterra Group, LLC to purchase odor suppressant chemicals in the amount of \$109,200.

Prior to a vote on the motion, and in response to a question from Commissioner Hess, Director Baker indicated this expense was included in the Public Services Department budget.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 6-1.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: Vice Mayor Griffin

2021-00

Contract for a Sanitary
Sewer Real-Time
Decision Support System

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve a contract with Xylem Vue Inc. for the Sanitary Sewer Real-Time Level, Flow and Rain Monitoring Decision Support System in the amount of \$3,593,556.29.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel remarked on the connection between the purchase of this system and the City's efforts to address flooding and sewer backups. Commissioner Praedel expressed support for the motion.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema read the following resolution into the record:

RECITALS

- A. President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (Task Force) recognized that trust between local law enforcement agencies and the people they protect and serve is essential to the stability of our community, the integrity of the criminal justice system, and the safe and effective delivery of unbiased police services.
- B. However, recent events, both nationally and locally have exposed divisions in the relationship between law enforcement and segments of the community they serve.
- C. Building trust on both sides of the police/resident divide is foundational to the development of a trusting relationship between those who enforce the law and those who are served by it.
- D. As noted by the Task Force, to achieve these goals law enforcement must embrace a guardian rather than a warrior mindset, to build trust and legitimacy both within a law enforcement agency itself and with the public.
- E. This is accomplished in part by law enforcement having a culture of transparency and accountability, collaborating with those neighborhoods disproportionately affected by crime, by improving relationships, increasing community engagement, and fostering cooperation in an effort to reduce crime.
- F. Additionally, law enforcement must have clear, consistent and comprehensive policies on the use of force, be proactively transparent with the community, and ensure that complaints against officers are addressed timely, consistently, fairly, and transparently.
- G. It is recognized by the City Commission that the collective bargaining agreements between the City and the unions representing law enforcement personnel should, to the extent possible, reflect the recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and should incorporate best practices in law enforcement from around the country and peer communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED as follows:

The City Commission affirms and embraces the sentiments set forth in the Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report as reflected in the Recitals and instructs and authorizes the City Manager and his designees to use these values and observations as guiding principles while engaged in the upcoming collective bargaining process with members of the Kalamazoo Public Safety

2021-00

Resolution 21-60
Authorizing Collective
Bargaining with the
Public Safety Unions

2021-00

Resolution 21-60
Authorizing Collective
Bargaining with the
Public Safety Unions
(cont'd)

Officers' Association and Kalamazoo Public Supervisor's Association whose agreements with the City expire December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** setting forth the values to guide the City Manager and his designees and authorize them to engage in collective bargaining negotiations with the unions representing Public Safety Department sworn personnel whose contracts expire after December 31, 2021.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Urban stated the closed session meetings had been helpful by showing Commissioners the uses of collective bargaining agreements for encouraging accountability.

Vice Mayor Griffin spoke about the importance of Commissioners being educated on ways to improve the community, and she stated there had not been a deep exploration of collective bargaining agreements before the recent closed session meetings.

Commissioner Praedel expressed a high level of confidence that the City Administration had heard Commissioners and their expectations for the collective bargaining process.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 6-1.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: Vice Mayor Griffin

2021-00

Approval of City
Commission Minutes

City Clerk Borling acknowledged he had fallen behind on writing the City Commission minutes over the summer, and he was working to catch up. City Clerk Borling stated the approval of the minutes at hand would help address that effort, and he expressed understanding that timely completion of the minutes was important for citizens to be able to follow the actions of the Commission and participate in their local government.

City Attorney Robinson reviewed the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and Robert's Rules of Order regarding the content and publication of meeting minutes. City Attorney Robinson indicated Clerk Borling was not required to include comments and discussion in the minutes, but he worked hard to summarize comments and produce complete minutes.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham moved to approve the minutes from the City Commission business meetings on July 6, July 19, September 7, September 20, and October 4, 2021; and the Committee of the Whole meetings on June 7, July 6, and September 27, 2021.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Hess thanked Clerk Borling for drafting comprehensive minutes, and she thanked City Attorney Robinson for the information he provided.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema provided the following statement regarding the City's recent actions related to homeless encampments:

City Manager's Report

The Decision to Close the Ampersee Encampment

The Ampersee encampment – and homelessness in general – is a challenging, complex and emotional situation for all parties involved. The decision to close the Ampersee encampment was made by the City Manager's Office and myself. This decision came after numerous conversations with our partners – including the County, the Continuum of Care (CoC) and others – where we all agreed that the conditions at the Ampersee encampment were unsafe. Conditions at the Ampersee encampment presented significant risk to the health and safety of those living at the encampment, those who visit the site to provide support and services, as well as those living and working nearby. Additionally, KDPS calls for service doubled between June and August. On Sept. 15 the City posted notices and issued a release indicating our intent to close the encampment on Sept. 29. The closure was postponed to allow for more outreach activities to occur in an effort to connect people with services and shelter.

Why Now?

The safety of everyone living in our community is our top priority. The conditions at the Ampersee encampment were growing increasingly more unsafe. The encampment was located in a brownfield site, which by definition is unsafe and unhealthy for human habitation due to hazardous substances in the ground. The encampment grew significantly in recent months, with many inhabitants coming from outside of Kalamazoo. The increasing dangers at the encampment were not in alignment with the guidelines for safe camping. The CoC participated in a "supported closure" and worked to connect people to shelters and services available in our community prior to enforcement.

Outreach Conducted Prior to Closure

Immediately Before Closure

We paused closure efforts to allow the CoC and service providers to conduct a final, comprehensive, and coordinated outreach effort. On October 4, 12 agencies participated in the outreach event to offer support with housing, shelter, recovery services, and food. Results of the outreach event include: 13 people opted for shelter (Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and Oakland House); 50 people received cell phones to remain connected to services; and two families were provided transportation to be reunited with their families living outside of the area. When we announced the closure, the CoC estimated there were approximately 100 people at the encampment. At the conclusion of the 10/4 event, CoC estimated that about 50 people remained.

City Manager's Report
(cont'd)

Leading Up to the Closure Announcement

Organizations had designated staff to help coordinate housing for encampment residents. Per guidelines from HUD, the first priority is to try to link all individuals with available shelter beds in our community. Kalamazoo has had, and continues to have, ample shelter capacity to accommodate those living in the encampments. If individuals could not access shelter due to a medical condition or extenuating circumstances – alternative options were explored based on eligibility for current programs. This process is established for everyone experiencing homelessness in our community, not just for those in the encampment. We know that some people experiencing homelessness are more visible than others and we have to find ways to support all of our community in need. Other options being pursued, such as exploring master leasing units as they become available. The CoC partners, which provided casework and other support daily since the encampment formed last spring—and prior to that at the Mills Street encampment—launched an “exit strategy” to help inhabitants find safer options:

- outreach coordination focused on connecting people to available support services.
- partners include Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (one-on-one outreach), Housing Resources Inc. (coordinated entry assistance, including available shelter, rapid rehousing and rental aid), HOPE Thru Navigation (one-on-one outreach), and Urban Alliance (one-on-one outreach); shelter services, which currently has the capacity to serve all who are at the encampment. Offering shelter space is Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries (men, women and families), Oakland Houses (shelter with addiction services), Open Doors (men), Next Door (women), YWCA (domestic violence shelter), The Ark for Youth (youth), Keystone (veterans), and Ministry with Community (day shelter and support services).
- addiction services, helping those struggling with substance use disorder. Providing these supports are Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, Recovery Institute and Southwest Behavioral Health.
- food assistance, making sure individuals have enough to eat. Partners include Ministry with Community (provide two meals daily at their location), Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries (two meals daily at their location) and Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (onsite delivery of food and water, and grocery pantry).

What's Next

The City is working closely with the CoC, Kalamazoo County, and community partners to explore numerous housing solutions ranging from temporary to permanent. Staff was recently at a conference in Portland, OR in which they were able to see firsthand some of the creative designs that exist for people working to transition out of homelessness. We are actively evaluating sites and funding sources to bring a pilot to Kalamazoo before the end of the year – recognizing that solutions need to focus even more on providing wrap-around supports than on the physical infrastructure.

Options for the Unhoused**KGM**

CoC, City staff, partners recently toured the facility and talked through who can access shelter and supports at KGM. There are only a handful of individuals that are not currently able to utilize KGM due to violence committed against other residents or staff. Beyond that - the message is that they want to be available to support our community in need. Currently the mission has capacity in all areas and estimate they can easily accommodate more than 100 people. When expansion project is finished likely in December, they will add almost 200 beds. So no longer will people have to sleep on mats on the floor, but there will be a bed for each person that stays at the Gospel Mission.

Continuum of Care

The CoC is working on a countywide plan to reduce homelessness that recognizes the need for a variety of housing options.

City Manager Ritsema indicated the City took seriously complaints against the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, and he provided the website address where people could submit complaints.

In response to questions from Mayor Anderson, City Clerk Borling noted the November 2nd election was quickly approaching, and he reported the Clerk's Office had issued approximately 6,000 absentee ballots, with 3,000 having been returned to date. City Clerk Borling stated qualified voters could still register to vote and be eligible to vote in the November 2nd election, but they would need to go to the Clerk's Office in person and bring proof of registration. City Clerk Borling announced the Clerk's Office at City Hall would be open on Saturday, October 30th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for people to register to vote and receive/return absentee ballots.

Commissioner Hess remarked that information on the candidates could be found at vote411.org.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Clerk Borling stated the polling locations for several precincts had changed, and he encouraged voters to visit mi.gov/vote and confirm their voter registration status and polling location information before election day. City Clerk Borling indicated there would be signage at the old polling locations directing people to their new polling locations.

Community Investment Manager Antonio Mitchell reviewed the history of the request from Graphic Packaging for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate (IFTEC) in 2020 and their request for a certificate extension in 2021.

Director Baker presented highlights of the *Odor Task Force Quarterly Report, 2021-Q3*. Director Baker shared links to webpages for viewing the entire report and supporting documents. Director Baker also shared links to webpages for viewing reports and other resources from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy regarding Graphic Packaging. Director Baker offered remarks on an air quality study being performed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Director Baker stated a recent update

City Manager's Report
(cont'd)

City Clerk's Report

2021-00

Resolution 2021-61
Approving the
Extension of a Tax
Abatement for Graphic
Packaging International

2021-00

Resolution 2021-61
Approving the
Extension of a Tax
Abatement for Graphic
Packaging International
(cont'd)

from the department indicated the results to-date were inconclusive, but the study was on-going. The slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for the meeting.

City Attorney Robinson stated the proposed resolution to extend Graphic Packaging's tax abatement included the following elements: a five-year extension period; approval of an addendum to the existing local agreement; and a new paragraph (paragraph 5) that required the creation of a task force to develop a community benefits agreement (CBA) between the City and Graphic Packaging by April of 2022. City Attorney Robinson stated the CBA would need to correspond to the development project and would run concurrently with the abatement and any extensions.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** to provide a 5-year extension to the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption granted to Graphic Packaging International, LLC in 2020 and to approve an amendment to the Exemption Certificate Agreement between the City and Graphic Packaging International.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Cunningham spoke about City's ability to invest in odor mitigation solutions and noted he had discussed the community's health concerns with Director Baker. Commissioner Cunningham stated these issues should have been dealt with in the past, and everyone at the table was having to deal with situations they did not create. Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for a five-year extension of the abatement.

Commissioner Knott questioned whether the City Commission could approve an abatement term for less than 5 years, and she remarked on the absence of support from the Northside, Eastside, and Edison Neighborhoods. Commissioner Knott stated she would like to see the results of the CBA process before approving a longer abatement period.

Commissioner Praedel remarked that tax abatements were usually not given to support the status quo. Commissioner Praedel noted there had been a lot of good collaboration between the City and Graphic Packaging on the odor issue since the abatement was initially approved in September of 2020. Commissioner Praedel questioned whether there would be an incentive for Graphic Packaging to continue this collaboration if the City ended the tax abatement. Commissioner Praedel stated the issue at hand was not whether Graphic Packaging would expand; the expansion was happening and would be finished by the end of the year.

Commissioner Urban questioned why the City would grant a tax abatement to Graphic Packaging when their expansion was almost complete. Commissioner stated the rational for granting the abatement was to maintain a good relationship with Graphic Packaging and not send a bad message to other companies in Michigan who might want to invest in Kalamazoo.

Commissioner Knott commented that Graphic Packaging's continued collaboration with the City in the absence of a tax abatement would demonstrate they cared about the community.

Commissioner Hess remarked that these types of issues were not discussed very often, and she expressed support for the motion.

Vice Mayor Griffin stated she supported the tax abatement in 2020 to force this conversation. Vice Mayor Griffin observed there needed to be incentives along the way to keep people engaged. Vice Mayor Griffin expressed support for a CBA but not for a five-year abatement period.

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to amend paragraph 3 of the resolution to approve a two-year extension, expiring on December 30, 2023.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Director Baker indicated the City's odor mitigation efforts would come on-line fully in 2023 and 2024.

In response to comments and questions from Commissioner Urban, City Attorney Robinson explained the City Commission's options were as follows: 1) say "no" to extending the tax abatement; or 2) approve an extension of the tax abatement for period ranging from 1 to 11 years.

Commissioner Knott expressed support for a one-year extension, tied to a CBA.

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to amend the proposed amendment to the resolution so that paragraph 3 would approve a one-year extension, expiring on December 30, 2022.

Prior to a vote on the motion and in response to a question from Vice Mayor Griffin, City Attorney Robinson explained the resolution required the creation of a CBA task force by December 1st and the presentation of a CBA to the City Commission by April 1, 2022. City Attorney Robinson explained the CBA would expire on the same date as the tax abatement certificate and any extensions, as the City could not extract a benefit from Graphic Packaging if there was not a corresponding incentive.

Commissioner Urban remarked on the likelihood of success with this approach.

With a roll call vote, the motion to amend the proposed amendment passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, City Attorney Robinson clarified the expiration date for the one-year extension would be December 30, 2022.

With a roll call vote, the motion to adopt the resolution, as amended, passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

2021-00

Resolution 2021-61
Approving the
Extension of a Tax
Abatement for Graphic
Packaging International
(cont'd)

Vote to Amend the
Resolution

Vote on the Amended
Resolution

Commissioner
Comments

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments from City Commissioners.

Commissioner Cunningham offered gratitude to Graphic Packaging for their partnership, KDPS for sending him a condolence card, and City staff for working with Dabney & Co. on their liquor license request. Commissioner Cunningham offered condolences to the family of Geneva Morrow. Commissioner Cunningham noted this was his last City Commission meeting and stated the current Commission had been the best Commission to work with. Commissioner Cunningham stated he would remain in the area and would impart his wisdom to the new City Commissioners.

Commissioner Knott remarked on LGBTQ+ people who were arrested on August 8th and stated Equality Michigan was aware of the situation and would support those who were arrested.

Commissioner Cunningham stated he had watched video of the closing of the Ampersee encampment, both from KDPS body cameras and observers who were there, and he remarked on the different perspectives offered by these video sources.

Commissioner Praedel acknowledged the death of Preston Taverna, a Parks Supervisor for the City. Commissioner Praedel commented on the virtual meeting format and stated the facial expressions of Commissioners during the meeting did not indicate a lack of engagement. Commissioner Praedel spoke about the commitment of the Commissioners whose terms were expiring and stated the current City Commission had done great work in the middle of multiple crises.

Commissioner Hess thanked the speakers who had worked with homeless people at the encampment. Commissioner Hess expressed condolences to the family of Preston Taverna. Commissioner Hess reported the evaluation tool for City Commission appointees had been revised for 2021, and she stated use of the tool would be explained to new Commissioners during their on-boarding process. Commissioner Hess congratulated Kalamazoo College on the opening of their new natatorium. Commissioner Hess offered personal remarks to the members of the Commission whose terms were ending.

Vice Mayor Griffin thanked Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Director Dorla Boner for the DEI assessment and expressed agreement with the idea that the City organization could not be protected if the goals of DEI were to be realized. Vice Mayor Griffin urged the City to communicate transparency and accountability to the community and to be clear in its communications. Vice Mayor Griffin characterized the housing situation in Kalamazoo County as a “failure” and stated all jurisdictions needed to be aligned in their approach to housing. Vice Mayor Griffin stated housing vouchers only worked if landlords accepted them, and she pointed out the City of Kalamazoo was the only jurisdiction in the County that required landlords to accept vouchers. Vice Mayor Griffin indicated she had not seen KDPS video of the encampment clearing, as she thought it was going to be released publicly.

Mayor Anderson spoke about the current housing situation and the federal government’s abandonment of affordable housing 35 years ago. Mayor Anderson remarked that people sleeping outside raised public awareness about homelessness, but the demographics of the encampment residents (white, adult, male) did not match the demographics of the homeless population in general

(black, children, female). Mayor Anderson commented on profound, uplifting events he had participated in over the past week. Mayor Anderson announced the oath of office ceremony for the City Commission would take place in person in the City Commission Chambers.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 a.m. on October 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 8, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor

Dated: November 8, 2021

Adjournment

CANVASS OF VOTES CAST

-AT THE-

GENERAL ELECTION

-HELD ON-

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

-IN THE-

CITY OF KALAMAZOO

**AND CANVASSED BY THE
BOARD OF CANVASSERS**

OF

KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The whole number of votes given for the office of Mayor	Put figures in this column
Was seven thousand six hundred and fifty-three	7,653
and they were given for the following named persons:	
David Anderson received six thousand four hundred and fifty-four votes	6,454
Benjamin Stanley received one thousand one hundred ninety-nine votes	1,199
TOTAL	7,653

The whole number of votes given for the office of City Commissioner	Put figures in this column
Was twenty-seven thousand one hundred ninety-one votes	27,191
and they were given for the following named persons:	
Steven Chandler received one thousand four hundred sixty-two votes	1,462
Don Cooney received five thousand six hundred eighty-nine votes	5,689
Qianna Decker received four thousand seven hundred thirty-seven votes	4,737
Alphonso Harris one thousand five hundred ninety-seven votes	1,597
Stephanie Hoffman received five thousand ninety-five votes	5,095
Esteven Juarez received three thousand six hundred fifty-nine votes	3,659
Marshall Kilgore received three thousand two hundred nine	3,209
James Mitchell received one thousand seven hundred forty-three	1,743
TOTAL	27,191

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO

The Board of Canvassers of the County of Kalamazoo, having Ascertained and Canvassed the Votes of Said City of Kalamazoo, at the General Election, held on the 2nd day of November, two thousand twenty-one.

Do Hereby Certify and Determine

That David Anderson, having received sufficient number of votes, is elected Mayor for a term ending November 13, 2023.

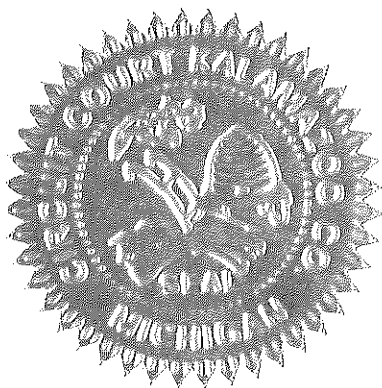
That Don Cooney, having received sufficient number of votes, is elected to the City Commission for a term ending November 10, 2025.

That Stephanie Hoffman, having received sufficient number of votes, is elected to the City Commission for a term ending November 10, 2025.

That Qianna Decker, having received sufficient number of votes, is elected to the City Commission for a term ending November 10, 2025.

That Esteven Juarez, having received sufficient number of votes, is elected to the City Commission for a term ending November 13, 2023.

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of the County of Kalamazoo this 5th day of November in the year two thousand twenty-one.



BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Anthony Green

W. V. L. L.

Guerra Pon

ATTEST:

Meredith Place

Clerk of the Board of Canvassers

Guerra Pon

Chair of the Board of Canvassers