A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Jeanne Hess
Don Cooney
Stephanie Hoffman
Chris Praedel
Alonzo Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Qianna Decker

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

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

Invocation

The invocation, given by Commissioner Cooney, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation
2025-10-01

Vice Mayor Hess proclaimed March 2025 *March for Meals Month* in the City of Kalamazoo. Taylor Benthin, Director of Nutrition for Milestone Senior Services, received the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

Public Comments

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

Tina McClinton, City resident, spoke about flooding and the elimination of greenspace in her neighborhood. Ms. McClinton asked the City Commission to bring back call-in public comments.

Amanda Charbonneau, City resident, asked Commissioners and staff what they had done with the socks she had given to them at the last meeting.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, stated the City needed to address the issue of unhoused people and come up with a solution. Ms. Espinoza spoke about barriers in the social service structure and the connection between homelessness and mental health.

Angela Manning, City resident, expressed appreciation for what the City was doing for the unhoused. Ms. Manning spoke about her personal situation and stated there was no place for the unhoused to go. Ms. Manning stated people needed to know the City was working for them, and she highlighted the need for more funding from the community to address homelessness.

Jesse spoke about his personal situation and stated the City was corrupt.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items were presented as follows with a recommendation to approve the items and authorize the City Manager to sign all related documents on behalf of the city:

- approval of a sole source consulting contract with Main & Meridian, LLC, which is owned by Jeff Chamberlain a City of Kalamazoo retiree, for consulting in areas requiring specific knowledge of City operations in the amount of $42,000.	**2025-10-02**
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Trace Analytical Laboratories, Inc for 2025 IPP Compatibles for Analytical testing services in the amount of $113,721.60; and approval of a budget amendment in the amount of $36,495.	**2025-10-03**
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with RK Davis Inc for various scope of work modifications during construction of the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant's Tertiary Disc Filtration Process Facility in the amount of $116,975.99.	**2025-10-04**
- approval of a contract with Olsen Contracting to remodel four restrooms at 415 Stockbridge in the amount of $118,500.	**2025-10-05**
- approval of a one-year contract extension with Blu Cleaning for custodial services at various city properties in the amount of $191,131.65.	**2025-10-06**
- approval of a contract with Falcon Demolition LLC for the asbestos abatement and demolition of 322 E Stockbridge Ave in the amount of $255,000.	**2025-10-07**
- approval of a contract with A1 Asphalt, Inc. for the 2025 asphalt patch repair project in the amount of $316,300.	**2025-10-08**
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** setting forth the salaries of the City Commission appointees (City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney and the Internal Auditor), effective March 3, 2025.	**2025-10-09** Resolution 25-10
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving a Brownfield Plan for the project located at 447 W North Street and 707 N Westnedge Avenue.	**2025-10-10** Resolution 25-11
- acceptance of a grant in the amount of $50,000 from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation in support of the 2025 Downtown Ambassadors Program.	**2025-10-11**
- approval of the appointment of Jeff Chamberlain to the Utility Policy Committee as an outside consultant.	**2025-10-12**
- approval of the following reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals: - the reappointment of Beth van den Hombergh for a term expiring on March 31, 2028. - the reappointment of Remi Harrington for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.	**2025-10-13**
- approval of minutes from the City Commission meetings on December 16, 2024 and January 6, 2025.	**2025-10-14**

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

Consent Agenda (cont'd)

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Hoffman, Praedel, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

2025-10-15
Resolution 25-12 re: Notice of Intent to Issue Wastewater Revenue Bonds

Chief Financial Officer Steve Vicenzi provided an overview of three proposed bond issues: Wastewater Revenue Bonds ($11,500,000), Water Revenue Bonds ($130,000,000) and Capital Improvement Bonds ($12,200,000).

When an opportunity was given for comments and questions from City Commissioners, Commissioner Praedel noted the "Recommendation" sections of the agenda reports for the three bond items referenced the issuance of "2024" bonds. Commissioner Praedel requested that the reports be corrected to reference the issuance of "2025" bonds.

An opportunity was given for public comments on a Notice of Intent Resolution for the issuance of 2025 Wastewater System Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed $11,500,000, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to adopt a Notice of Intent **RESOLUTION** for 2025 Wastewater System Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed eleven million five hundred thousand ($11,500,000).

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel acknowledged the City was borrowing a lot of money, but he noted there was an opportunity at hand for low interest loans and loan forgiveness.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Hoffman, Praedel, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

2025-10-16
Resolution 25-13 re: Notice of Intent to Issue Capital Improvement Bonds

An opportunity was given for questions and comments from City Commissioners and the general public on a Notice of Intent Resolution for the issuance of 2025 Capital Improvement Bonds in the amount of $12,200,000, but none were offered.

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to adopt a Notice of Intent **RESOLUTION** for the issuance of 2025 Capital Improvement Bonds in an amount not to exceed twelve million two hundred thousand dollars ($12,200,000).

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Hoffman, Praedel, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

An opportunity was given for questions and comments from City Commissioners and the general public on a Notice of Intent Resolution for the issuance of 2025 Capital Improvement Bonds in the amount of $12,200,000, but none were offered.

2025-10-17
Resolution 25-14 re: Notice of Intent to Issue Water Supply System Revenue Bonds

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to adopt a Notice of Intent **RESOLUTION** for the issuance of 2025 Water Supply System Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred thirty million ($130,000,000).

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel remarked that the funds from this bond issue would be used for PFAS mitigation, pumping station improvements, and lead service line replacements, among other things.

Mayor Anderson acknowledged the size of the proposed bond issue, and he stated the 2025 Budget was much higher than average because of these bonds. Mayor Anderson noted the funds would be used for long-term infrastructure investments and to address new regulatory requirements. Mayor Anderson expressed disappointment that local governments were left to themselves address significant issues like this, and he stated there needed to be more national support for critical infrastructure. Mayor Anderson pointed to the annual budget as the most complete statement of the City's priorities, and based on the budget, it was clear the City prioritized clean water.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Hoffman, Praedel, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ritsema provided the following reports and updates:

- the City Commission's annual planning retreat would take place on Saturday, March 8th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Foundry, 600 E. Michigan Avenue.

- the Historic Preservation Commission was accepting nominations for the 2025 Historic Preservation Awards of Merit.

- the Parks and Recreation Department was accepting registrations for their spring programs.

Commissioner Comments

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

Commissioner Cooney made the following affirmations: 1) "the people" had the ultimate power in power in a democracy; 2) we believe in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); 3) everyone needs health care; and 4) nobody is illegal.

Commissioner Wilson reported he had attended the Kalamazoo Community Foundation's launch event for the Rx Kids program. Commissioner Wilson stated Advia Credit Union was making it easy to set up bank accounts for children.

Commissioner Comments (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Hess urged people to pay attention when they were driving and stated her trust in the community had been shaken after a recent car accident (her fourth while living in Kalamazoo). Vice Mayor Hess noted her accident happened on the day the City announced a decrease in crashes over the past few years.

Commissioner Praedel offered remarks about Lent and encouraged people to speak of "giving" rather than "giving up." Commissioner Praedel highlighted the work Commissioners were doing in the community apart from their roles as elected officials. Commissioner Praedel used specific examples to illustrate how Commissioners gave of themselves even when people did not see it.

Mayor Anderson asked Public Safety Chief Dave Boysen to give an update on recruiting and hiring. Mayor Anderson thanked Public Safety Officers for responding to reports of shots fired.

Chief Boysen reported a recruiting process had just closed: 18 applicants passed the 1st round of evaluations and were in the background investigation process. Chief Boysen reported there were four recruits going through the police academy.

Closed Session

Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss an attorney-client privileged communication.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson indicated the City Commission would not be returning to open session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Hoffman, Praedel, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: ____________________________

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