

## Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson  
Vice Mayor Jeanne Hess  
Don Cooney  
Qianna Decker  
Chris Praedel

## COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Hoffman  
Alonzo Wilson

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

## Commissioners Excused

Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Hoffman and Wilson. With a voice vote the motion passed.

## Invocation

The invocation, given by Rev. Caleb B. Williams, Milwood United Methodist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2025-04-01**Presentation of the  
Social Justice Youth  
Awards

Mayor Anderson introduced the presenters of the 2025 Social Justice Youth Awards.

Patsy Moore, President of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Sigma Omega Chapter, presented the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Social Justice Youth Award to Layla Hemphill.

Derek Nofz, Community Affairs Manager for Consumers Energy, presented the Consumers Energy MLK Social Justice Youth Award to Ava Tate.

Peter Medema, Community Relationship Manager for Fifth Third Bank, presented the Fifth Third Bank Social Justice Youth Award to Omar Elghawy.

Ineke Way presented the Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War (KNOW) Social Justice Youth Award to Winter Owens.

John Pinkster, Director of South Operation for Life EMS, presented the Life EMS Social Justice Youth Award to Michael Scott II.

Tony and Dr. Betty Dennis presented the Lodge-Dennis Social Justice Youth Award to Isabella Morris.

Judy Wolsey, Assistant to Marc Schupan, presented the Schupan & Sons MLK Social Justice Youth Award to Dontray Hemphill, Jr.

Dr. Lewis Walker presented the Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Awards, to Paul Evans.

Dr. Harvey Myers, Chair of the Membership Committee for the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP, congratulated the recipients and presented each youth recipient with a one-year paid membership.

Vice Mayor Hess read a quote from Albert Schweitzer.

A transcript of the remarks made by Mayor Anderson and the presenters was filed with the papers for this meeting.

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

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

Rita O'Brien, non-resident and a representative of the Kalamazoo Area Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, expressed concern about human trafficking in Kalamazoo County and offered educational resources.

Shona Espinosa, City resident, spoke about the high cost of living in Kalamazoo and the need for 24-hour shelters for the unhoused.

Jeremy Hernandez-Hermann, non-resident, spoke about the unhoused and the need for programs to help the unhoused.

Tobi Hannah-Davies, City resident, stated she was part of the point-in-time count of the unsheltered in Kalamazoo County, and she stated there were more people sleeping outside than what she expected, given the cold temperatures. Ms. Hannah-Davies stated it was good that officials from the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, and Kalamazoo County participated in the count so they could interact with the unhoused and see the situation firsthand.

Drew Duncan, City resident, suggested Kalamazoo look to South Bend, Indiana and their city-funded, no-barrier shelter as model for addressing the needs of the unhoused. Mr. Duncan suggested the City have a "Housing Czar" and coordinate services among local non-profit organizations.

Jennifer Hudson-Prinkert, announced an event on January 29<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the Sounds of the Zoo music festival. Ms. Hudson-Prinkert stated the fundraiser would feature a screening of *Kalamazoo Gals*, a documentary about women who worked in the Gibson Guitar factory. Ms. Hudson-Prinkert distributed a flyer to Commissioners, a copy of which was filed with the papers for this meeting.

At 8:06 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on the establishment of a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) between East Michigan Avenue, South Edwards Street, East South Street, and Portage Street.

Assistant City Planner Bobby Durkee provided an overview of the development project for the site.

An opportunity was given for public comments on the proposed NEZ, but no comments were offered.

At 8:09 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing. Mayor Anderson indicated the City Commission would not be taking action at this time.

**2025-04-01**

Presentation of the Social Justice Youth Awards (cont'd)

Adoption of the Agenda

Public Comments

**2025-04-02****2025-04-03**

Public Hearing re: a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone at Michigan Avenue and Portage Street

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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:                                                     |
| 2025-04-04                     | - approval of a purchase from Trace3 through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program for the purchase of a Cisco WxCC Contact Center Solution to support the City's 311 call center in the amount of \$113,756.                 |
| 2025-04-05                     | - approval of the renewal of a cooperative contract with Salesforce for 311 Customer Relationship Management software licenses in the amount of \$187,294.88.                                                                     |
| 2025-04-06                     | - approval of a cooperative purchase through Oakland County from Arrowhead Upfitters for the purchase and installation of emergency warning equipment in the amount of \$187,605.60 and approval of a budget amendment.           |
| 2025-04-07                     | - approval of a sole source three-year agreement with VDA Labs for ZScaler Cloud Security Services for enterprise network protection in the amount of \$211,884.95.                                                               |
| 2025-04-08                     | - approval of the purchase of four (4) Chevrolet Tahoe's from Berger Chevrolet through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$213,912 and approval of a budget amendment.                                   |
| 2025-04-09                     | - approval of the purchase of five (5) Ford Utility Interceptors from Gorno Ford through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$243,555 and approval of a budget amendment.                                 |
| 2025-04-10                     | - approval of a professional services agreement with AVB Construction, LLC for Construction Management Services for the 150 East Crosstown Renovation Project in the amount of \$337,020.                                         |
| 2025-04-11                     | - approval of the purchase of eight (8) Dodge Durango's from LaFontaine CDJR-Lansing through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$363,608 and approval of a budget amendment.                             |
| 2025-04-12<br>Resolution 25-07 | - adoption of a <b>RESOLUTION</b> approving contract #24-5429 with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the West Main Street construction project from 10th Street to Drake Road in the amount of \$725,400.      |
| 2025-04-13<br>Resolution 25-08 | - adoption of a Michigan Liquor Control Commission <b>RESOLUTION</b> to recommend approval of an application from Desiderata, LLC for a Banquet Facility Liquor License to be located at 773 W Michigan Ave.                      |
| 2025-04-14                     | - acceptance of a Source Water Protection Program grant in the amount of \$70,000 from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for the Wellhead Protection Program.                                       |
| 2025-04-15                     | - acceptance of three Local Bridge Program grants from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for structural improvements to bridges spanning Portage Creek at Stockbridge and Lover's Lane in the amount of \$714,400. |

- authorization for the City Clerk to sign Election Coordinating Committee Agreements between the City of Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo County Clerk, Comstock Public Schools, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Portage Public Schools, Parchment Public Schools, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency for the conduct of elections for these school districts.
- approval of the following appointments to the Environmental Concerns Committee:
  - the appointment of Reeta Chandler for a term expiring on January 1, 2028.
  - the appointment of John Eric Kreuzer for a partial term expiring on January 1, 2027.
  - the appointment of Mike Thomson for a term expiring on January 1, 2028.
- approval of the Mayor's reappointment of Cathy Phason to the Civil Rights Board for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.

2025-04-16

2025-04-17

2025-04-18

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

With a roll call vote this motion passed 5-0.

AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Decker, Praedel, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema provided the following reports and updates:

- the cold weather last week activated the City's emergency weather policy. Approximately 120 people were housed in emergency shelters with financial support from the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care.

City Manager Ritsema expressed appreciation to staff from the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) and the Public Services Department who had been working in the severe cold weather.

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

Vice Mayor Hess congratulated Social Justice Youth Award winners. Vice Mayor Hess reported she had attended the teach-in at Western Michigan University for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and she expressed appreciation to Commissioner Cooney for his work on social justice. Vice Mayor Hess remarked on the success of the City's recycling event on Saturday. Vice Mayor Hess encouraged people to serve on the City's boards and commissions and directed interested persons to the City's website. Vice Mayor Hess expressed appreciation to staff from KDPS and Public Services for working outside in the severe cold, and she thanked Judy Lowery for her work with the unhoused.

City Manager's  
Report

Commissioner  
Comments

Commissioner  
Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Cooney spoke about the social justice youth awards and the sense of community in the room. Commissioner Cooney urged people to stand up for those who were threatened and not let others divide the community.

Mayor Anderson spoke about community resiliency and infrastructure replacement, and he reported receiving a lot of positive feedback about the City's program to clear sidewalks after winter storms. Mayor Anderson observed that the lights in Bronson Park were encouraging during the cold, dark winter months, and he noted the City had added to and improved the lights for the 2024 holiday season.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_

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