

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met in special session on Monday, June 23, 2025 at 5:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to authorize a closed session meeting and consider proposals for executive search services for the City Manager search process.

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

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

*Commissioner Decker arrived at 5:03 p.m.

Public Comments

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

Closed Session

Mayor Anderson announced a closed session and stated the City Commission would return to open session at 7:00 p.m., at which time the Commission would consider executive search firm proposals for the City Manager search.

Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss an attorney-client privileged communication.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

The City Commission went into closed session at 5:05 p.m.

The City Commission returned to open session at 7:05 p.m.

2025-28-01

Selection of a Search
Firm for the City
Manager Search
Process

Vice Mayor Hess spoke on behalf of the City Manager Search Process Subcommittee and provided an overview of the process to select a search firm.

Commissioners Wilson and Praedel read post-interview responses provided by CPS HR Consulting and Strategic Government Resources (SGR). Copies of these responses were filed with the paper for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions: none.

Public Comments:

The following members of the public spoke and expressed support for Raftelis:

Dick Shilts, non-resident
Wendy Fields, City resident
Maggie Adams, City resident
Cathy Phason, non-resident
Sharlae Davis, City resident
Andrew Lehman, non-resident
Tobi Hanna-Davies, City resident

Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to accept Raftelis as the search firm for the City Manager search.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioners expressed their personal support for, and confidence in, Raftelis.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Anderson announced the City Commission would be going into closed session to continue the discussion from the previous closed session. Mayor Anderson indicated the Commission would not be returning to open session.

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

With a roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2025-28-01

Selection of a Search
Firm for the City
Manager Search
Process (cont'd)

Closed Session

Adjournment