A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7:03 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

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

Invocation

The invocation, given by Reverend Dr. Sanchita Kisku, First Baptist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Commissioner Cooney requested that Item G-9, adoption of a resolution approving a millage request from the Downtown Development Authority, be moved to the Regular Agenda.

2025-27-01

Mayor Anderson requested that Item J-1, proposals for executive search services for the City Manager position, be removed from the agenda.

Public Comments

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

Shona Espinoza, City resident, a request for the City to address housing issues and mental health issues among the unhoused.

K, City resident, regarding the City Manager search process and the City's failure to address racism.

Daniel Oropeza, City resident, a request for City officials to speak out against federal immigration enforcement raids.

David Elias, City resident, regarding division in the country, immigration policy, and electric scooters.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding and the destruction of green space in her neighborhood.

Shawn Hampton, City resident, regarding the Mayor's June 2nd comments about affordable housing.

2025-27-02

Jeff Messer, City resident, regarding the efforts of Rank MI Vote to place a statewide question on the November 2026 ballot. (written remarks filed)

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:	Consent Agenda
- approval of the purchase of DarkTrace software licensing from SHI International though the MiDEAL cooperative purchasing program in the amount of $158,517.77.	**2025-27-03**
- approval of a professional services agreement with Peerless-Midwest, Inc. for well rehabilitation work and flow testing in the amount of $198,550.	**2025-27-04**
- approval of a professional services agreement with Prein & Newhof for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contract No. 3 for the Richland water main extension in the amount of $336,000.	**2025-27-05**
- approval of the purchase of the AT&T Virtual Private Network and NetBond for Cloud network security services through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program in the amount of $372,492.	**2025-27-06**
- approval of a sole source purchase with Pure Air for carbon filtration unit carbon replacement in the amount of $535,888.	**2025-27-07**
- approval of a professional services agreement with Prein & Newhof for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contract No. 4 for non-copper water service line replacement in the amount of $582,000.	**2025-27-08**
- approval of a settlement agreement and mutual release regarding the Metropolitan Center Project (2009-2011) and Arcadia Festival Place Improvements (2003).	**2025-27-09** Resolution 25-32
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** confirming the 2025 Assessment Roll.	**2025-27-10** Resolution 25-33
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** requesting that the Michigan Department of Transportation include the structure on Crosstown Parkway over Portage Creek in the Local Bridge Program for 2028 funding.	**2025-27-11** Resolution 25-34
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** requesting that the Michigan Department of Transportation include the bridge on Reed Street in the Local Bridge Program for 2028 funding.	**2025-27-12**
- approval of the release of the City of Kalamazoo's interest in three easement agreements for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway (KRVT) bicycle route through the event center site between North Park Street and North Westnedge Avenue.	**2025-27-13**
- approval of the Mayor's appointments to the Civil Rights Board: - the appointment of Joshua DeBoer for a term expiring on March 31, 2028. - the appointment of Willow Sipling for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.	**2025-27-14**

Consent Agenda (cont'd)

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, 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 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Wilson abstained from voting on Item G-12, the release of the City of Kalamazoo's interest in three easement agreements for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway, due to a conflict of interest because of his employer.

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

2025-27-15
DWSRF Contract No. 3 for Richland Township Water Main Extension

Public Services Director James Baker delivered a presentation covering items H-1 to H-5 entitled *2025 Water Infrastructure Improvements: Presentation to the City Commission, 6-16-2025*. A copy of the slides from the presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Director Baker responded to questions from Commissioner Praedel and Vice Mayor Hess regarding the location of Stations 5 and 14 and the potential consequences of not upgrading these stations.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve a contract with USA Earthworks, LLC for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contract No. 3, Richland Township water main extension project, in the amount of $5,672,667.50.

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

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

NAYS: None

2025-27-16
DWSRF Contract No. 1 for Pump Stations 5 and 14 Transmission Mains

Commissioner Questions: none

Public comments: none

Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to approve a contract with Peters Construction Co. for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contract No. 1, Pump Station No.5 and No.14 Water & Transmission Mains project, in the amount of $9,887,702.45.

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

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

NAYS: None

2025-27-17
Contract with CD Arena for Arcadia Creek Phase Zero Project

Commissioner Questions: none

Public comments: none

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to approve an agreement with CD Arena LLC for the Arcadia Creek Phase Zero project, Westnedge Avenue from Kalamazoo Avenue to Michigan Avenue, in the amount of $13,124,997.05; and approval of a Major Streets budget amendment in the amount of $3,195,522.50.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 6-0, with one abstention.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Wilson

2025-27-18
DWSRF Contract No. 4 for Non-Copper Service Line Replacements

Commissioner Questions: none

Public comments: none

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to approve a contract with SWT Excavating, Inc. for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contract No. 4, non-copper service line replacements, in the amount of $15,229,588.75.

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

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

NAYS: None

2025-27-19
DWSRF Contract No. 2 for the Station 5 and 14 Consolidation Project

Commissioner Questions: none

Public comments: none

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to approve a contract with E&L Construction Group, Inc. for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contract No. 2, Pump Station No.5 & No.14 consolidation project, in the amount of $49,120,398.

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

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

NAYS: None

2025-27-20
Purchase of 510 Lawrence Street

Commissioner Questions:

Community Development Manager Sharilyn Parsons responded to a question from Vice Mayor Hess and explained the City's purpose in acquiring 510 Lawrence Street.

Public comments:

David Elias, City resident, regarding a question of procedure. Mayor Anderson responded.

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to approve a purchase agreement with Jaya Krishnan for the purchase of 510Lawrence Street in the amount of $64,240.

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

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

NAYS: None

2025-27-21
Resolution 25-35 Approving the 2025 DDA Tax Levy

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Management Services Director Steve Vicenzi responded to questions from Mayor Anderson regarding the process for setting the millage rate.

Public comments:

Jeff Messer, City resident, a question regarding the annual millage revenue and its uses. Mayor Anderson and Commission Praedel responded.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving a request from the Downtown Development Authority to levy a tax rate of 1.9638 mills.

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

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

NAYS: None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ritsema provided an update on the 311 Call Center, including the implementation of Salesforce Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Cooney thanked volunteers who planted flowers in Bronson park and offered remarks on the No Kings protest over the weekend.

Commissioner Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Decker thanked Public Services crews for their work cleaning up debris after the last major storm.

Commissioner Praedel offered observations from his interactions with five mayors from Ukraine during their recent visit to Kalamazoo. Commissioner Praedel remarked on the June Jubilee events provided an update on the City Manager search process.

Vice Mayor Hess remarked about her interactions with the mayors from Ukraine. Vice Mayor Hess spoke about the need for faith and for people to trust the City Manager search process. Vice Mayor Hess thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their summer programs.

Mayor Anderson reflected on the role and responsibilities of City Commissioners as representatives of the Kalamazoo family.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: ____________________________