

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

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 Bishop Daniel S. Cunningham from The Empowerment Center, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations
2025-20-01

Commissioner Decker proclaimed May 18-25, 2025 *Department of Public Services Week 2025*. Public Services Director James Baker received the proclamation.

2025-20-02

Commissioner Cooney proclaimed May 17, 2025 *Norwegian Constitution Day*. Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director for Sons of Norway, Askeladden Lodge 5, received the proclamation.

2025-20-03

Vice Mayor Hess proclaimed May 12-18, 2025 *Period Poverty Awareness Week*. Sarah Koestler, Executive Director of the Care Collective of Southwest Michigan, 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:

K, City resident, regarding a recent interaction with Public Safety Officers, homelessness, and the Civil Rights Board (CRB).

Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding the unhoused and the CRB.

Tobi Hanna-Davies, City resident, regarding the book *The New Jim Crow*.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding in her neighborhood.

Cathy Phason, non-resident and Chair of the CRB, regarding the CRB's involvement in the civil rights complaint process.

Charlae Davis, City resident and a member of ISAAC, regarding discrimination, the CRB, and the importance of peoples' lived experience.

2025-20-04

Jeff Messer, City resident, regarding the Ranked Choice Voting ballot campaign. (document 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:

Public Comments
(cont'd)

- approval of a contract extension with Treeworks Inc. for neighborhood tree maintenance in the budgeted amount of \$147,674.89. **2025-20-05**
- approval of a sole source purchase with Michigan Security & Lock for upgrades to the City's existing physical access control systems in the amount of \$266,822. **2025-20-06**
- approval of a construction agreement with the City of Parchment and approval of a contract with Reith-Riley Construction for the Riverview Drive water main loop in the amount of \$506,732.71. **2025-20-07**
- approval of a professional service agreement with Jones & Henry Engineers for the N Avenue to 35th Street loop water main design, in the amount of \$669,000. **2025-20-08**
- acceptance of a Consumers Energy sponsorship to support the Brush the Block Mural Festival in the amount of \$40,000. **2025-20-09**
- acceptance of a Michigan Shared Streets and Spaces Grant for sidewalk and amenity installation on Kilgore Road from Lover's Lane to Portage Street in the amount of \$200,000. **2025-20-10**
- approval of the Mayor's appointments and reappointment to the following boards: **2025-20-11**
 - the reappointment of Eleanor Harris to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.
 - the reappointment of Patrick Vail to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.
 - the reappointment of Dusti Morton to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.
 - the reappointment of Rachel Bair to the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Boards of Directors for terms expiring March 31, 2031.
 - the reappointment of Kyle Gulau to the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Boards of Directors for terms expiring March 31, 2031.
 - the reappointment of Jason Novotny to the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Boards of Directors for terms expiring March 31, 2031.
 - the appointment of Scott Petersen to the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Boards of Directors for terms expiring March 31, 2031.

2025-20-11
(cont'd)

- the appointment of TJ Ward to the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Boards of Directors for terms expiring March 31, 2028.
- the appointment of Eddie Warr to the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Boards of Directors for terms expiring March 31, 2031.

2025-20-12

- approval of an easement with John and Carolyn Massey for water main installed as part of the 2025 Richland Township Water Main Extension Project.

2025-20-13

- approval of an easement with Gerald and Trudy Luedecking for water main installed as part of the 2025 Richland Township Water Main Extension Project.

2025-20-14

- approval of an easement with Lauren Dart for water main installed as part of the 2025 Richland Township Water Main Extension Project.

Commissioner Wilson, 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 the 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 Praedel abstained from voting on the reappointment of Kyle Gulau and the appointment of Eddie Warr to the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Boards of Directors because they served on the Board of Directors for his employer.

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

2025-20-15
Purchase of 1156 and
1204 S. Burdick Street

Director Baker discussed the purchase of 1156 and 1204 South Burdick Street and explained why this property acquisition was important to the water treatment station consolidation plan.

Commissioner Questions:

Director Baker responded to Commissioners' questions regarding the exact location of the properties; the reason the current structure on the properties would be razed; and whether the work being done on and near the properties would address flooding in the Southtown area.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve a purchase agreement with Burdick Crosstown, LLC for the purchase of 1156 South Burdick Street and 1204 South Burdick Street in the amount of \$335,000.

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

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

NAYS: None

Commissioner Questions:

Public Safety Chief Dave Boysen responded to Commissioners' questions regarding the definition of a "Mobile Nuisance Party" and the response of rental car companies to the impoundment of their vehicles.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend Chapter 21, Article III of the Kalamazoo Code of Ordinances to add Section 21-28 "Impoundment of Vehicles".

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

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

NAYS: None

Director Baker delivered a presentation entitled *Arcadia Creek Phase 0: Westnedge – Kalamazoo to Michigan*. A copy of the slides from the presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Director Baker responded to Commissioners' questions regarding allowances for harsh weather in the project timeline; coordination between Public Services and Public Safety to keep residents and workers safe in the construction area; strategies to reduce traffic through residential streets; improved directional signage in neighborhoods for detours; the potential for gridlock on Westnedge Avenue during peak times; and the feasibility of direct communications with Northside Neighborhood residents regarding the project.

Commissioner Cooney offered comments on federal spending reductions, and he commended organizations that were organizing protests.

Commissioner Decker highlighted recent events in which she participated. Commissioner Decker offered remarks on the gun amnesty program and Bike Week.

Vice Mayor Hess spoke about the recent award ceremony for Public Safety Officers, a visit by fifth graders from Woodward Elementary School to City Hall,

2025-20-15

Purchase of 1156 and 1204 S. Burdick Street (cont'd)

2025-20-16

Ordinance 2099 re: the Impoundment of Vehicles

2025-20-17

City Manager's Report – Presentation on the Arcadia Creek Phase 0 Project

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

and her son's service on the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority boards.

Commissioner Praedel reviewed upcoming community events and offered remarks on the recent Public Safety awards ceremony.

Mayor Anderson spoke about the breadth of issues the City Commission faced and the respectful way Commissioners handled differences with each other. Mayor Anderson acknowledged a random shooting at a nuisance party on Mother's Day, and he urged each adult in the community to be part of the solution to gun violence.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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