

	A business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 21, 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 Qianna Decker Chris Praedel Alonzo Wilson COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Stephanie Hoffman Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.
Commissioner Excused	Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Hoffman. With a voice vote the motion passed.
Invocation/Pledge	The invocation, given by Rabbi Simone Schicker from Temple B'nai Israel, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
Proclamations 2025-18-01	Commissioner Cooney read a proclamation <i>Honoring the Western Michigan University (WMU) Men's Ice Hockey Team - 2025 NCAA National Champions</i> . Director of Athletics Dan Bartholomae, Head Coach Pat Forschweiler, and members of the WMU Hockey Team received the proclamation.
2025-18-02	Commissioner Willson proclaimed <i>April 13-19, 2025 Architecture Week</i> . Members from the American Institute of Architects of Southwest Michigan and the National Organization of Minority Architects received the proclamation.
2025-18-03	Vice Mayor Hess proclaimed <i>April 2025 as Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) Month</i> . KVCC Vice President for Campus Planning and Operations Dannie Alexander received the proclamation.
2025-18-04	Commissioner Decker proclaimed <i>April 21-25, 2025 National Work Zone Awareness Week</i> . City of Kalamazoo Public Services Director James Baker received the proclamation.
2025-18-05	Commissioner Praedel proclaimed <i>April 28, 2025 Workers Memorial Day</i> .
Adoption of the Agenda	By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following change:
2025-18-06 2025-18-07 2025-18-08	City Manager Ritsema requested that Items G-12, G-13, and G-14, approval of easements for the 2025 Richland Township Water Main Extension Project, be removed from the agenda as the city was awaiting final signatures.
Public Comments	Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission: K, City resident, regarding the Civil Rights Board, the enforcement of the Fair Housing Ordinance, and the City's housing crisis.

Attorney Coach Matt Zwart and Team Member Samuel Noakes of the Kalamazoo Central Mock Trial Team thanked the City Commission and City Administration for use of the City Commission Chambers as a practice site.

Wendy Flora, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding appointments to, and the treatment of, the Civil Rights Board.

Ray Sweany, City resident, regarding the filling of vacancies on the Civil Rights Board and expansion of the Fair Housing Ordinance.

Maggie Adams, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding the City's Ethics Code and the application of Lewis Smith for the Civil Rights Board.

Cathy Phason, Chair of the Civil Rights Board and member of ISAAC, regarding the Civil Rights Board, the application of Lewis Smith, and the importance of community input.

Charlae Davis, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding the treatment of the Civil Rights Board and systemic issues in housing.

Kaleb Beiter, non-resident and member of ISAAC, regarding the enforcement of the Fair Housing Ordinance and the Civil Rights Board.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding in her neighborhood, the City's purchase of property in Southtown, sewer backups, and blighted property.

Amanda Charbonneau, City resident, regarding the connections she had made attending the City Commission meetings.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding government spending, housing, and the treatment of people by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS).

Kayla, an unhoused person, regarding the living conditions at the mission and the treatment of the unhoused community.

Charles Hanna, regarding the WMU Hockey Team, a young man who lost his life to gun violence, and the safety of those who use public transportation.

Beau Jammes, regarding the treatment of the unhoused and the wasteful spending of money.

Angela, an unhoused person, regarding a recent assault, the treatment of unhoused youth, and the need for self-defense classes.

Drew Duncan, City resident, regarding the treatment of the Civil Rights Board and unhoused residents.

Judy Lowery, regarding call in comments, the accessibility of the Commission Chambers, the new family shelter, and her outreach in the community.

Irving Quintero, City resident, regarding his experience living in the City of Kalamazoo and the Civil Rights Board.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

2025-18-09

Public Hearing re: the
2025-2029
Consolidated Plan and
2025 Action Plan

At 8:33 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, including the 2025 Action Plan, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Compliance Specialist Julie Johnston delivered a presentation entitled *Public Hearing: 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Compliance Specialist Johnston responded to Commissioner questions regarding the neighborhood solution projects; housing/code administration; ideas for future projects; and the RFP process.

Public Comments:

Beth McCann, Executive Director at Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., expressed support for the plan asked about the down payment assistance program.

Matt Milcarek, City resident, expressed support for the plan.

Amanda Charbonneau, City resident, regarding community outreach in the plan.

Zack Bauer, Executive Director for the Kalamazoo County Landbank, expressed support for the plan.

At 9:06 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

2025-18-09

Approval of the 2025-
2029 Consolidated
Plan and 2025 Action
Plan

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to approve the Consolidated Plan and 2025 Action Plan.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Praedel*

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel indicated he was abstaining due to his employment.

Consent Agenda

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

2025-18-10

- approval of one-year sole source contract renewal with Open Gov, Inc. for the OpenGov suite of software in the amount of \$117,905.70.

2025-18-11

- approval of the purchase of seasonal road salt from Detroit Salt Company LC through the MiDeal Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$181,450.00.

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| - approval of a contract extension with Santiago Services for nuisance trash and debris handling in the amount of \$453,000. | 2025-18-12 |
| - approval of a contract with Michigan Paving and Materials for the Westnedge Avenue paving project (Vine-Michigan) in the amount of \$860,623.60. | 2025-18-13 |
| - adoption of a RESOLUTION to designate Kalamazoo as a Bee City as defined by the Xerces Society. | 2025-18-14
Resolution 25-21 |
| - adoption of a RESOLUTION delegating authority to the Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development Department as the official representative and certifying officer for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant documentation. | 2025-18-15
Resolution 25-22 |
| - adoption of a RESOLUTION approving Contract No. 25-5154 with the Michigan Department of Transportation for early preliminary engineering activities for signal optimization along various routes at 41 intersections throughout the City in the amount of \$205,000. | 2025-18-16
Resolution 25-23 |
| - adoption of RESOLUTIONS approving amendments to the budgets for fiscal years 2024 (FY 2024) and 2025 (FY 2025); and acceptance of informational reporting on capital project carryforwards and grant acceptances. | 2025-18-17
Resolutions 25-24 and 25-25 |
| - approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency / Career Connect for the summer youth employment and training program in the amount of \$619,000. | 2025-18-18 |
| - approval of the Mayor's appointments to the Natural Features Protection Review Board: | 2025-18-19 |
| - the appointment of Logan Rowe for a term expiring on March 31, 2028. | |
| - the appointment of Matt Stemple for a term expiring on March 31, 2028. | |
| - approval of a public utility easement with Continental 671 Fund, LLC for water main installed as part of the Authentix Development in Texas Township. | 2025-18-19 |
| - approval of a request from the Kalamazoo Country Club for a permit to publicly display fireworks at 1609 Whites Road on Thursday, July 3, 2025. | 2025-18-20 |
| - approval of a request from the Kalamazoo Growlers to publicly display fireworks at Homer Stryker Field on June 27, July 3, July 4, July 18, July 25, August 8, and August 22, 2025. | 2025-18-21 |
| - approval of a recommendation to postpone until May 12, 2025 consideration of 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. | 2025-18-22 |

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

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

Regular Agenda

2025-18-23

First Reading of an
Ordinance re:
Impoundment of
Vehicles

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

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Public Safety Chief David Boysen and Assistant City Attorney Sarah Van Hyfte gave a presentation entitled *Kalamazoo City Commission April 21, 2025*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Chief Boysen and Assistant Attorney Van Hyfte responded to Commissioners' questions regarding the timeline of the proposed changes; the impact on vehicles housed outside the City; and the execution of search warrants.

Public comments:

Amanda Charbonneau, City resident, regarding the need for the ordinance and possible solutions.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to offer for first reading of 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 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

2025-18-24

Resolution 25-26
Approving a Clean
Water State Revolving
Fund Project Plan for the
Sustainable Biosolids
Alternative Project

Public Services Director James Baker gave a presentation entitled *Kalamazoo Residual Biosolids Sustainable Alternatives*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Director Baker responded to Commissioners' questions regarding differences between the "Dryer" and "Dryer & ERS" solutions; odor elimination efforts; cost savings; funding sources; and future projects.

Public comments: none

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** adopting a \$196,829,913 FY 2026 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements; and designating James J. Baker, PE, as the Authorized Project Representative.

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

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

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema announced events in May supporting Bike Month.

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

Commissioner Cooney offered comments on the Civil Rights Board and the life of Pope Francis.

Commissioner Decker offered comments on housing, the appointment process for the Civil Rights Board, and Westnedge Hill Neighborhood Association events.

Commissioner Praedel offered condolences to Commissioner Cooney and his family for the recent passing of a family member. Commissioner Praedel encouraged the community to participate in the Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 process.

Vice Mayor Hess offered comments on the life of Pope Francis and WMU Hockey Team. Vice Mayor Hess offered ideas on how an individual could impact change in their community.

Mayor Anderson spoke about gun violence, and he offered his condolences to Commissioner Cooney. Mayor Anderson thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for hosting the City's annual egg hunt.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

City Manager's Report

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment