

	A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, July 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 Stephanie Hoffman Chris Praedel COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Qianna Decker Alonzo Wilson Also present were Chief Operating Officer (COO) Laura Lam, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.
Commissioners Excused	Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Decker and Wilson. With a voice vote the motion passed.
Invocation	The invocation, given by Father Bryce Buffenbarger, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
Proclamation/Recognition 2025-32-01	Commissioner Cooney read a special recognition entitled <i>Recognizing Rynita McGuire, July 21, 2025</i> . Ms. McGuire received the recognition and offered remarks.
Adoption of the Agenda	By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.
Communications	COO Lam highlighted upcoming events, including Downtown Restaurant Week, Downtown Sidewalk Sales, the next movie in the Summer Cinema Movie Series, and a Styrofoam recycling opportunity.
Public Comments	Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission: David Elias, City resident, regarding electric scooters downtown and problems with the public schools. Ava Balint, City resident, regarding algae blooms in the Kalamazoo River, environmental sustainability, and her efforts to make low-cost rain barrels accessible. Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding and the development of 322 East Stockbridge Avenue. Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding the unhoused and the housing crisis. K, City resident, regarding immigration enforcement and the need for a safety net for Kalamazoo's immigrant community. Jody Dozeman, City resident, regarding water quality in the City. Janette Evans, City resident, regarding the unhoused.

Pearl Brown, City resident, regarding the unhoused and the housing crisis.	
Jeff Messer, City resident, regarding the Ranked Choice Voting constitutional amendment ballot campaign. (document filed)	2025-32-02
Nadine, regarding the Ranked Choice Voting constitutional amendment ballot campaign.	
Silvano Vanegas, City resident, regarding the unhoused and Kalamazoo's immigrant community.	
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 a contract supplemental and change order with Wightman & Associates, Inc. for construction engineering for the Westnedge Avenue Improvements Project in the amount of \$134,585.	2025-32-03
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Carrier and Gable for traffic signals, controllers, components, and equipment in the amount of \$300,000.	2025-32-04
- approval of a change order to Contract 23-5104 with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the construction of the Whites Road Improvements, Oakland Drive to Westnedge Avenue Project in the amount of \$946,580.78.	2025-32-05
- approval of an Administrative Order on Consent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for compliance enforcement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. MI0023299 at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant improvements and the associated compliance schedule.	2025-32-06
- approval of the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meetings on January 27, February 3, February 17, March 3, March 8, March 17, April 7, April 21, and July 7, 2025; and the Business Meetings on February 17, April 7, April 21, and July 7, 2025.	2025-32-07
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 5-0.	
AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Hoffman, Praedel, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson	
NAYS: None	
At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel noted that Commissioner Wilson's comments in the July 7 th Business Meeting minutes referred to victims of gun violence in all of 2025, not just the victims of shootings over the July 4 th weekend.	

City Manager's
Report

Public Safety Chief Dave Boysen provided an update on recent enforcement actions related to shootings that took place over the July 4th weekend. Chief Boysen also reported on shootings that had occurred over the past weekend, and he highlighted the City's gun amnesty program.

Commissioners offered comments on gun violence and the need for additional support for young people and the organizations that serve them.

COO Lam announced the Parks and Recreation Department had recently hired Morgan Gillies and Zach Farley as Special Event Coordinators, and she gave a construction update on the new Farmers Market building.

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Praedel spoke to City Commission candidates about the challenges and opportunities of serving on the Commission, and he reviewed the City Commission's accomplishments since the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Praedel thanked Ava for her work on sustainability and offered to share some ideas for low-cost rain barrels.

Vice Mayor Hess reported on the status of the City Manager search process and thanked ISAAC for sending Commissioners inspirational emails. Vice Mayor Hess highlighted upcoming events.

Mayor Anderson offered remarks on the need for the community to work together to solve issues rather than fight with each other.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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