

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 7:01 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
Alonzo Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Chris Praedel

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

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Praedel. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Pastor David Kaneversky, Calvary Bible 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 change:

Vice Mayor Hess requested that a report on the City Manager search process be added to the agenda under New Business.

Public Comments

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

K, City resident, regarding raids by federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, “sweeps” by Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) officers, and how elected officials could help the immigrant community in Kalamazoo.

Wendy Fields, City resident and President of the Kalamazoo Metropolitan Branch of the NAACP, regarding her June request for individual meetings with City Commissioners and the status of those meetings.

Jonathan Yarbrough, Executive Director of the Northside Association for Community Development, regarding upcoming events and the need for different strategies to address gun violence.

Tobi Hanah Davies, City resident, regarding the City’s efforts to address the housing crisis.

Justin Suarez, City resident, regarding the use of masks by KDPS officers.

Chris Glasser, City resident, regarding the need for the City to actively oppose the actions of ICE agents.

Jane Ghosh, Executive Director of Discover! Kalamazoo, regarding the United States Tennis Association (USTA) boys’ tennis tournament.

Gwendolyn Hooker, City resident, regarding National Night Out events and overnight, on-street parking. (document filed)	2025-34-01
Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding the unhoused and flooding in her neighborhood.	
Pearl Brown, City resident, regarding City policies to protect residents from ICE agents.	
Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding ICE raids, KDPS sweeps, and community needs the City was not addressing.	
Claire Dine, City resident, regarding the intent of activists to monitor and hold the City accountable, and to create new social and economic systems and structures.	
Silvano Vanegas, City resident, regarding the housing crisis and KDPS officers wearing masks.	
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 Niswander Environmental LLC for FEMA compliance, map revisions, construction oversight, and 3 years of monitoring in the amount of \$137,000.	2025-34-02
- approval of a contract supplemental with Miller Canfield for legal services and a budget amendment in the amount of \$150,000.	2025-34-03
- approval of a contract extension with Treeworks, Inc. for the 2025 Hazardous Tree Removal Project in the amount of \$195,104.66.	2025-34-04
- approval of a two-year term contract with Continental Linen Services (CLS) for industrial uniform rental and cleaning services for the Department of Public Services in the amount of \$300,000.	2025-34-05
- approval of a contract with RAM Construction Services for parking ramp concrete repairs in the amount of \$433,734.	2025-34-06
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Feyen-Zylstra LLC for the removal of an underground fuel tank and installation of new power distribution equipment, including stand-by power equipment at the Augusta Webster lift station in the amount of \$461,407.	2025-34-07
- approval of a contract with Corby Energy Services through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program for sanitary sewer lining in support of the Water Main construction project between Water Stations 14 and 5 in the amount of \$541,455.50.	2025-34-08
- approval of a contract with Arrive through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program for fifty-two Flowbird parking touch pay stations in the amount of \$545,480.	2025-34-09

2025-34-10	- approval of a purchase with MacQueen Equipment LLC through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program for a combination sewer cleaner in the amount of \$607,800.03.
2025-34-11	- approval of a contract with Northern Pump & Well, Inc. for the Born Court Well 1-7 project in the amount of \$982,088.
2025-34-12 Resolution 25-38	- adoption of a RESOLUTION approving budget amendments for the FY 2025 budget, increasing revenues by \$34,800 and expenditures by \$186,867.
2025-34-13	- approval of a request from St. Mary Catholic Church to publicly display fireworks on their property at 939 Charlotte Ave on August 15, 2025.
2025-34-14	- approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Kalamazoo County to support the Finding Your Way Home program.
2025-34-15	- approval of a memorandum of agreement with Kalamazoo Public Schools for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety to provide School Resource Officer services for the 2025-2026 school year.
2025-34-16	- approval of the Mayor's reappointments to the following boards, commissions, and committees: - the reappointment of Nick Griffith to the Retirement and Perpetual Care Investment Committees for a term expiring on March 31, 2028. - the reappointment of Joshua Sledge to the Retirement and Perpetual Care Investment Committees for a term expiring on March 31, 2028. - the reappointment of Dean Bergy to the Retirement and Perpetual Care Investment Committees for a term expiring on March 31, 2028. - the reappointment of Sandi Doctor to the Retirement and Perpetual Care Investment Committees for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.
2025-34-17	- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meeting on July 21, 2025.
	Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, 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 6-0.
	AYES: Commissioners Cooney, Decker, Hoffman, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hess, Mayor Anderson
	NAYS: None
Regular Agenda	Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Commissioner Questions:

Jane Ghosh, Executive Director for Discover! Kalamazoo, responded to Commissioners' questions regarding the management and operation of the youth sports facility and the availability, accessibility, and affordability of the facility for local youth.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to approve an agreement with Kalamazoo County to create the Kalamazoo County Event Center Assessment District (KCECAD) Authority.

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

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

NAYS: None

Management Services Director and Chief Financial Officer Steve Vicenzi provided an overview of the proposed issuance of capital improvement bonds.

Commissioner Questions: none

Public comments: none

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$20,415,000, for the purpose of financing fiscal year 2025 (FY 2025) capital projects.

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

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

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema reviewed upcoming events, including National Night Out and the Youth and Teen Talent Party. City Manager Ritsema advised that the City was engaged in an aerial mapping project to detect underground aquifers; residents might see low-flying aircraft.

Items of New Business were considered next.

On behalf of the City Manager Search Process Subcommittee, Vice Mayor Hess announced the City Manager Search landing page and community survey were available at www.kalamazoocity.org/citymanagersearch. Vice Mayor Hess announced paper surveys would be available at City Hall outside the City Clerk's Office; at the National Night Out events; and at the remaining Lunchtime Live events. Vice Mayor Hess reported the survey would be open from August 4th through August 24th, and the City Manager position would be posted and open to applicants the week of August 18th.

2025-34-18

Agreement with Kalamazoo County re: the Kalamazoo County Event Center Assessment District Authority

2025-34-19

Resolution 25-39
Approving the Issuance of CIP Bonds

City Manager's Report

New Business

2025-34-20

Community Survey Released and Special Meeting Scheduled re: the City Manager Search Process

2025-34-20

Community Survey
Released and Special
Meeting Scheduled re:
the City Manager Search
Process (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved that a special Committee of the Whole meeting be set for Monday, August 11, 2025 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. to review the draft brochure, process timeline, and first year goals for the City Manager position.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Decker requested that the survey be available in Spanish.

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

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

NAYS: None

Commissioner
Comments

Finally, an opportunity was given for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Wilson congratulated Gwendolyn Hooker on her retirement and spoke about his recent trip to Numazu, Japan.

Commissioner Decker offered remarks about her trip to Numazu, Japan.

Commissioner Cooney congratulated Gwendolyn Hooker on her retirement. Commissioner Cooney spoke about the impact of ICE raids and commended KDPS for reaching out to the Hispanic and Muslim communities.

Commissioner Hoffman urged the City to take a bold stand against ICE raids and to ensure sure all residents were protected and safe.

Vice Mayor Hess invited people to the National Night Out events and youth talent show.

Mayor Anderson offered remarks on gun violence and the Detroit Lions youth event that took place over the weekend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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