

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5:01 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
Chris Praedel
Alonzo Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

Public Comments

An opportunity was given for general public comments, but no comments were offered.

2025-40-01

Presentation re: the Draft
Imagine Kalamazoo
2035 Strategic Vision

Deputy City Manager Rebekah Kik and Chief Operating Officer Laura Lam delivered a presentation entitled *IK2035 Strategic Vision Draft!: Committee of the Whole, September 15, 2025*. A copy of the presentation slides was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Deputy City Manager Kik and Chief Operating Officer Lam responded to Commissioner questions regarding the number of neighborhoods that still needed neighborhood plans and whether additional staff resources were needed to facilitate the neighborhood planning process.

Introduction of Dr.
Russell Kavalhuna

At 5:28 p.m. Commissioners paused their questions on the Strategic Vision to receive Dr. Russell Kavalhuna.

Western Michigan University President Russell Kavalhuna introduced himself and offered remarks on the partnership between the City and the University.

Commissioners offered comments and suggestions on the connection between the City and University.

2025-40-01

Questions and
Comments re: the Draft
Imagine Kalamazoo
2035 Strategic Vision

At 5:45 p.m. Chief Operating Officer Lam continued receiving and responding to Commissioner questions and comments. Topics included the need for additional organizational supports for Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo, opportunities for community feedback about the draft strategic goals, and clarification of the term “Kalamazooifying” as it related to IK2035 implementation actions and solutions.

Commissioner
Comments

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

Vice Mayor Hess suggested the City Commission invite student representatives from all area colleges and universities to speak during the public comment times at regular Commission meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Adjournment



Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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