A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7:01 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 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.

Adjustment to the Order of Business

Mayor Anderson announced the agenda would be adjusted to move Proclamations ahead of Introduction of Guests.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Reverend Dr. Christopher Moore Sr. from Mt. Zion Baptist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations
2025-41-01

Vice Mayor Hess proclaimed the month of September *Big Brothers Big Sisters Month*. Amy Kuchta, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Michigan, received the proclamation.

2025-41-02

Commissioner Decker proclaimed September 15-21, 2025 *Diaper Need Awareness Week*. Sarah Koestler from the Care Collective of Southwest Michigan received the proclamation.

2025-41-03

Commissioner Cooney read a proclamation *Honoring Pastor Michael L. Brown*. Pastor Brown received the proclamation.

2025-41-04
Introduction of Guests/ Metro Update

Curt Aardema, Chair of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) and Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) Boards, provided an update on Metro, the countywide transportation system. A copy of the slides from Mr. Aardema's presentation and other informational documents were filed with the papers for this meeting.

Following his presentation, Mr. Aardema responded to Commissioner questions regarding the millage increase being proposed in November, the portion of the millage increase attributable to the new Metro Link service, the ways Metro will engage the community about the millage, whether Metro would reconsider the fee to replace a lost fare card, whether information/publications from Metro were available in Spanish, job opportunities at Metro, and services available for veterans.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following changes:

2025-41-05

- City Manager Ritsema requested that Item F-2, a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution establishing the Porter Street Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ), be removed from the agenda, to be brought forward at a future date.

City Manager Ritsema announced a multi-partner Request for Proposal (RFP) had been issued for shelter services during the winter months, and he provided an overview of the RFP and the City's role in the partnership. Communications

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

Kristi Potts, owner of KZoo Cream, regarding the City's support for her new business.

Evan, regarding the City's use of Flock Safety surveillance cameras.

An anonymous speaker, regarding Canadiana Fest 2025. (document filed) **2025-41-06**

Aden DeWees, President of Feeding Broncos, regarding a petition for grant funding to help food-insecure college students. (document filed) **2025-41-07**

Bruce Merchant, City resident, regarding the poor condition of City streets and potential solutions.

Nick Biel, Business Development Coordinator for Discover! Kalamazoo, regarding upcoming events.

Leah Pulley, City resident, regarding mobile nuisance parties.

Maggie Adams, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding community input sessions for the City Manager search process.

Cathy Phason, non-resident and leader in several community organizations, regarding community input sessions for the City Manager search process.

Charlae Davis, with ISAAC, regarding the Walk, Run, Roll event and the City Manager search process.

K, City resident, regarding police interactions with the unhoused.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding and the elimination of green space in her neighborhood and voting in City elections.

An anonymous speaker, regarding 287g agreements, Public Safety Policy #414, and the Flock Safety surveillance cameras.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding high rents, the housing crisis, and the needs of the unhoused.

An anonymous speaker, regarding 287g agreements and Flock Safety surveillance cameras.

Jess Thompson, City resident and member of the Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Economic Growth Authority Boards, regarding new recycling units downtown and the upcoming Downtown Garbage Blitz.

Silvano, a City resident, regarding 287g agreements, the need for warming centers as the weather turned cold, and the City Manager search process.

Public Comments (cont'd)

An anonymous speaker, regarding the need for the City to declare itself a "sanctuary city" and to take a firm stance against cooperation with ICE.

2025-41-08
Public Hearing re: the Program Year 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

At 8:54 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on the Program Year 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Compliance Specialist Julie Johnston delivered a presentation entitled *Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, Program Year 2024*. 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 unspent funds from prior years and the City's ability to still utilize those funds.

Public Comments:

None

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

Consent Agenda

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:

2025-41-09

- approval of a sole source purchase agreement with Westwind Construction for the Abbey 42 Private Water Filtration and Plumbing Upgrades Project Phase 1 in the amount of $125,417.29.

2025-41-10

- approval of a contract with Buist Electric for the Water Station 26 Electrical and Controls Upgrade Project in the amount of $139,800.

2025-41-11

- approval of a 12-month purchase with Oracle for Oracle Cloud Migration services through the MiDEAL cooperative purchasing program for an amount not to exceed $220,000.

2025-41-12

- approval of a contract with Ace Excavating for the removal and disposal of trash, nuisances, and garbage collected pursuant to the enforcement of various city ordinances in the amount of $250,000.

2025-41-13
Resolution 25-50

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving a change in the standard street lighting contract with Consumers Energy due to changes to the lighting on Dutton Street 250' east of the Burdick/Dutton Street intersection.

2025-41-14
Resolution 25-51

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** recommending approval of a Social District and Commons Area Permit for Winston's, LLC located at 224 E Michigan Ave.

2025-41-15

- approval of an amendment to the contract between the City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo County Land Bank to demolish the structure at 322 Stockbridge Ave.

- approval of a post-award amendment to the bidding and contract documents between Falcon Demolition LLC and the City of Kalamazoo. **2025-41-16**

- approval of the Mayor's appointments to boards, commissions, and committees: **2025-41-17**

  - the appointment of **Cheng Kidd Sun** to the Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Economic Growth Authority Boards for a partial term expiring March 31, 2029.

  - the appointment of **Roland Bissonnette** to the Planning Commission for a partial term expiring March 31, 2027.

- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meeting on September 2, 2025. **2025-41-18**

- postpone until October 6, 2025 consideration of the purchase of 6086 E. Michigan Avenue from Scott Smelker and Serih Smelker for $249,300. **2025-41-19**

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Decker, 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 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel offered the following correction to the September 2nd meeting minutes: the name "Katie Bloom" was misspelled on page 66 of the agenda packet.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ritsema announced an anniversary celebration for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, highlighted new staff in the Human Resources Department, and reported increased usage of the employee health clinic.

<u>Unfinished Business</u>

Unfinished Business

City Manager Search Process Update

The City Manager Search Subcommittee reported the receipt of 45 applications, reviewed the overall process timeline, and described the proposed procedure for Commissioners to review resumes and select the list of candidates to interview.

Discussion took place regarding the number of applicants to interview and the selection of alternates.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Wilson announced upcoming events.

Commissioner Cooney spoke about a recent conference dealing with housing and homelessness and highlighted an upcoming event for Mayoral and City Commissioner candidates.

Commissioner Comments (cont'd)	Commissioner Decker encouraged City Commission candidates to speak during public comments, offered positive comments about the Brush the Block event, and acknowledged public comments about ICE.
	Commissioner Praedel offered highlights from the Committee of the Whole presentation on the IK2035 Strategic Vision.
	Commissioner Hoffman thanked Commissioners and the community for supporting her during the month of August.
	Vice Mayor Hess commented on the opportunity and responsibility for Kalamazoo to support education for all and to be the village that raises children to be adults and adults to be elders. Vice Mayor Hess tied these topics to items on the agenda and recent reports on educational achievement.
	Mayor Anderson spoke about attending the El Concilio gala event.
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: ____________________________

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