

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, October 20, 2025 at 5:05 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

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

Ed Nickerson, regarding various issues.

Jess Thompon, City resident, regarding the City Manager search process.

2025-45-01

Gary Wark, Jessica Van Stratton, and Elijah Isch from the Stuart Neighborhood, requesting traffic safety measures (document on file).

Drew Duncan, City resident, expressing appreciation to the City Commission for the City Manager search process.

Tom Schuster, City resident, regarding the type of leadership Kalamazoo needed.

The following people expressed support for Malcolm Hankins as the next City Manager:

Wendy Fields, President of the Kalamazoo NAACP
Wendy Flora, City resident and board member of ISAAC
Maggie Adams, City resident and member of ISAAC
Andrew Lehman, non-resident
Kaleb Beiter, City resident and ISAAC staff member
Charlae Davis, City resident
Dick Shilts (read by Charlae Davis and Cathy Phason)
Rochelle Habeck, City resident and member of ISAAC

The following people expressed support for Laura Lam as the next City Manager:

Aimee Klein, City resident
Greg Jennings, Pastor of Progressive Deliverance Ministries Church
An anonymous speaker, non-resident

2025-45-02

Review of Community
Input and the Candidate
Selection Process

Mayor Anderson reviewed the community input Commissioners had received and described the process and actions that would be taken at the business meeting to select a City Manager candidate.

Vice Mayor Hess thanked the following people: community members who engaged in the City Manager search process, Pamela Wideman from Raftelis, and City staff who assisted.

Commissioner Praedel remarked that all three City Manager candidates were gifted and qualified, and he noted the decision would have a significant impact on City staff. Commissioner Praedel acknowledged that change was difficult, but he expressed optimism that City staff and the Kalamazoo community would thrive, regardless of which candidate was chosen.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2025-45-02

Review of Community
Input and the Candidate
Selection Process (cont'd)

Adjournment