



# **Agenda**

## **City Commission Business Meeting**

---

City of Kalamazoo

**Monday, November 17, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**City Commission Chambers – 241 West South Street**

**A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - 55th City Commission**

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on October 6, October 15, October 20, and October 30, 2025. **(Action: Motion to approve)**

**C. REMARKS AND RECOGNITIONS**

1. Remarks by City Commissioners
2. Recognition of City Manager Jim Ritsema

**D. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS**

1. Report from the Board of Canvassers for the Municipal Election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

**E. ADJOURNMENT - SINE DIE**

**Administration of the Oath of Office to the Newly Elected Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners**

**F. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - 56th City Commission**

**G. OPENING CEREMONY**

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introduction of Guests

4. Proclamations

a. Honoring Don Cooney

b. Honoring Qianna Decker

**H. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA**

**I. COMMUNICATIONS**

**J. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**K. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**L. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M. REGULAR AGENDA**

**N. REPORTS AND LEGISLATION**

**O. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**P. POLICY ITEMS**

**Q. NEW BUSINESS**

**R. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**S. CLOSED SESSION**

**T. ADJOURNMENT**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Get news, information, and alerts from the City of Kalamazoo. Sign up at [www.kalamazoocity.org/connect](http://www.kalamazoocity.org/connect), follow @KalamazooCity on Twitter, and search for The City of Kalamazoo on Facebook.

Questions regarding agenda items may be answered prior to the meeting by contacting the City Manager's Office at 269.337.8047. Persons who wish to contact members of the City Commission prior to the meeting to provide input about items on the meeting agenda may do so via email to [CityCommission@kalamazoocity.org](mailto:CityCommission@kalamazoocity.org).

Agendas for the regular meetings of the Kalamazoo City Commission are available on the Internet at: [www.kalamazoocity.org](http://www.kalamazoocity.org). You may also use the QR Code below to access agendas and agenda packets.

**QR Code to Access the Agenda & Agenda Packet**

Use the camera on your phone or mobile device to scan the QR Code and then follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

The link will take you to <https://kalamazoomi.portal.civicclerk.com/> where you can view the meeting agendas and agenda packets.

The Kalamazoo City Commission's business meetings are held on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and are shown live on the Public Media Network (channel 190 for Charter customers, channel 99 for U-Verse customers). Committee of the Whole meetings are held immediately prior to business meetings at 5:00 p.m. Both meetings are also streamed live on the City's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

Public Media Network rebroadcasts these meetings on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m., Wednesdays, at 1:00 a.m., and Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.

## Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, October 6, 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

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

Tobi Hanna-Davies, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding the infant mortality rate for black babies as an indicator of the stress of racism.

Cathy Phason, non-resident and member of ISAAC, regarding survey results from community-led listening sessions about the City Manager search.

Charlae Davis, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding survey results from community-led listening sessions about the City Manager search.

Rochelle Habeck, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding qualities needed in the next City Manager.

## Closed Session

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to review and consider the contents of employment applications for City Manager candidates who have requested that their applications remain confidential.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson announced the City Commission would not be returning to open session after the closed session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

## Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 6, 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  
Chris Praedel  
Alonzo Wilson

## COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

## Invocation

The invocation, given by Pastor Chevez D. Marshall from Second Baptist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation  
2025-43-01

Commissioner Wilson proclaimed October 2025 *Juvenile Justice Awareness Month*. Representatives from Bent Not Broken were present to receive the proclamation.

## Adoption of the Agenda

Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to adopt the meeting agenda with the following change:

Item L-1, Approval of the City Manager Candidate Interview List, would be moved from New Business and considered immediately after Public Comments.

With a voice vote the motion passed.

Recognition from the  
Arts Council of Greater  
Kalamazoo

Kristen Chesak, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, and Programs Director Kim Shaw presented the City of Kalamazoo with a plaque recognizing the City's support for the Brush the Block mural event. Deputy City Manager Rebekah Kik received the plaque.

2025-43-02  
Presentation re: a  
Transformational  
Brownfield Plan

Development Manager Jamie McCarthy and Logan Mulholland from Fishbeck delivered a presentation entitled *Transformational Brownfield Plan Overview, City Commission, October 6, 2025*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

## Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Development Manager McCarthy and Ms. Mulholland responded to Commissioner questions regarding the timeline for the incentive actions, the length of the abatements and the rationale for different abatement lengths, and the relationship between individual projects and the Transformational Brownfield Plan. Mark Chilcott from PlazaCorp responded to questions regarding utilization of the workforce development program at the Northside Association for Community Development.

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

K, non-resident, regarding the Transformational Brownfield Plan, the Certified Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), and the Consolidated Plan.

Wendy Fields, City resident, thanking Commissioner Decker for meeting with her, the City Commission for supporting the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, and the City and County Clerk's Office for the Voting 101 event.

Keshia Dickason, City resident, thanking City Commissioners for their service and announcing her candidacy for City Commissioner.

Brent Wolter, non-resident, regarding water service discounts for senior citizens.

Silvano Vanegas, City resident, regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and racial profiling. (documents filed)

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding and the loss of greenspace in her neighborhood.

Jane Ghosh, CEO of Discover Kalamazoo, regarding 2024 visitor spending in Kalamazoo and the redevelopment of the Michigan Avenue Courthouse.

Chris Glasser, City resident, regarding ICE agents and the need for the City to speak out against authoritarianism.

#### **Item L-1: Approval of the City Manager Candidate Interview List**

Mayor Anderson offered introductory remarks on the City Manager search process, and Vice Mayor Hess reported details of the candidate meet-and-greet event scheduled for Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion took place regarding the number of City Manager candidates the City Commission should interview. By consensus Commissioners agreed to interview four candidates and to rank all candidates on the ballot.

City Clerk Borling distributed ballots to Commissioners and collected the ballots after they were voted.

Mayor Anderson called for a recess so the City Clerk could tabulate the results.

The meeting recessed at 8:12 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:32 p.m. Commissioner Cooney did not return to the meeting.

City Clerk Borling read the results of the vote, giving the four candidates with the top point totals:

Candidate F – 46 points  
 Candidate C – 34 points  
 Candidate D – 34 points  
 Candidate A – 27 points

Public Comments

**2025-43-03**

**2025-43-04**

Approval of the City Manager Candidate Interview List

Meeting Recessed  
 Meeting Resumed

**2025-43-04**  
Approval of the City  
Manager Candidate  
Interview List (cont'd)

Mayor Anderson explained that Pamela Wideman from Raftelis would be calling the four selected candidates to confirm their intention to continue in the process. The names of the confirmed candidates would be provided later in the meeting under New Business.

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to lay Item L-1 on the table for consideration later in the meeting. With a voice vote the motion passed.

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:

**2025-43-05**

- approval of a one-year contract with PVS Chemical Solutions to provide liquid sodium bisulfite for wastewater treatment in the amount of \$110,124.

**2025-43-06**

- approval of a professional service agreement with Prein & Newhof for the design of the 35th Street and M96 Transmission Loop Project in the amount of \$111,600.

**2025-43-07**

- approval of a contract with County Line Nurseries for 2025 Tree Planting in the amount of \$115,250.

**2025-43-08**

- approval of a contract with Jones Chemical Inc. for the purchase of liquid chlorine cylinders for water treatment in the amount of \$151,000.

**2025-43-09**

- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with The Foster Group to finalize development of the 2025 wastewater rates and to provide a platform for ongoing wastewater rate development in the amount of \$180,000.

**2025-43-10**

- approval of a contract with Division 7 Building Contractors for primary settling roof replacement, raw pump & instrument tech building roof repairs in the amount of \$185,978.00.

**2025-43-11**

- approval of a contract with Carus LLC for sodium hexametaphosphate in the amount of \$199,320.

**2025-43-12**

- approval of a one-year contract with Water Solutions Unlimited for the purchase of fluorosilicic acid for water treatment in the amount of \$200,000.

**2025-43-13**

- approval of a contract extension with Mission North for downtown parking and mobility consulting in the amount of \$239,440.

**2025-43-14**

- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with LD Docsa Associates, Inc. for water system corrosion control improvements in the amount of \$248,799.06.

**2025-43-15**

- approval of the purchase of one Elgin Pelican Sweeper from MacQueen Equipment, LLC, dba Bell Equipment Co, through the MiDEAL cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$317,589.

**2025-43-16**

- approval of a contract with RW LaPine to replace the galvanized domestic water pipe at Kalamazoo City Hall in the amount of \$435,000.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - approval of a contract with Elhorn Engineering Company for the purchase of liquid phosphate for water treatment in the amount of \$517,503.84.                                                                 | <b>2025-43-17</b>                     |
| - approval of a contract with Republic Services for the rental, placement, and removal of roll-off containers for street sweeping operations in the amount of \$556,800.                                         | <b>2025-43-18</b>                     |
| - approval of a one-year contract with Rowell Chemical to provide liquid sodium hypochlorite for wastewater treatment in the amount of \$693,875.                                                                | <b>2025-43-19</b>                     |
| - adoption of a <b>RESOLUTION</b> setting a Public Hearing for October 20, 2025 to consider an application from 19 Props LLC for a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate at 261 East Kalamazoo Avenue. | <b>2025-43-20</b><br>Resolution 25-52 |
| - adoption of a <b>RESOLUTION</b> setting a Public Hearing for October 20, 2025 to consider an application from ACW 3 LLC for a Commercial Redevelopment Exemption Certificate at 227 West Michigan Avenue.      | <b>2025-43-21</b><br>Resolution 25-53 |
| - approval and acceptance of public utility easements with Michiana Land Development, LLC for water main installed as part of Phase 4 of the Applegate Pointe Development.                                       | <b>2025-43-22</b>                     |
| - approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on September 15, 2025.                                                                                                                               | <b>2025-43-23</b>                     |
| - postpone until October 20, 2025 consideration of an agreement for the purchase of 1216 South Burdick Street, 1222 South Burdick Street, 1228 South Burdick Street, and 121 West Crosstown Parkway.             | <b>2025-43-24</b>                     |

Vice Mayor Hess, 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 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

### Regular Agenda

City Manager Ritsema introduced the purchase of 6086 East Michigan Avenue from Scott and Serih Smelker.

### Commissioner Questions:

Public Services Director James Baker responded to Commissioner questions regarding the reasons for purchasing this property and not another, and the reason why the City was paying \$30,000 more than the appraised value.

Public Comments: none

**2025-43-25**  
Approval of the  
Purchase of 6086 East  
Michigan Avenue

**2025-43-25**

Approval of the  
Purchase of 6086 East  
Michigan Avenue  
(cont'd)

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to approve the purchase of 6086 E. Michigan Avenue from Scott Smelker and Serih Smelker for \$249,300.

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

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

NAYS: None

**2025-43-26**

Resolution 25-54  
Establishing the Porter  
Street NEZ

Assistant City Planner Bobby Durkee delivered a presentation entitled, *Porter Street NEZ: New NEZ District – Porter Street NEZ, October 6, 2025*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers from the meeting.

Commissioner Questions: none

Public Comments:

Jess Thompson, City resident, expressed support for the proposed Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ).

Mattie Jordan-Woods, City resident and Chair of the Northside Cultural Business District Authority Board, expressed support for the proposed NEZ. Ms. Jordan-Woods urged the City Commission to change its NEZ policy to make it accessible for smaller, neighborhood-owned businesses.

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** establishing the Porter Street Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ).

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

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

NAYS: None

## City Manager's Report

City Manager Ritsema provided information on the fall leaf collection program.

## New Business

**New Business**

Announcement of the  
City Manager Candidate  
Interview List

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to take up from the table Item L-1. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Vice Mayor Hess announced the following City Manager candidates were selected to be interviewed and had indicated their willingness to continue in the process:

Elle Cole  
Malcolm Hankins  
Odis Jones, Sr.  
Laura Lam

Vice Mayor Hess provided information regarding opportunities for the public to meet the candidates next week and offer feedback to the City Commission.

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

Commissioner Wilson thanked the City Manager Search Subcommittee and offered remarks on the impact of the Event Center on the Northside Neighborhood.

Commissioner Praedel thanked everyone involved in the City Manager search process, and he highlighted upcoming opportunities for community engagement through the Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 process, the City Manager search process, and the Municipal Election on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Praedel offered remarks on the new owners of the State Theatre, the induction of Vice Mayor Hess into the Kalamazoo College Athletic Hall of Fame, the need for journalists to safeguard democracy, and the opportunity for Kalamazoo to model what “normal” public processes look like.

Vice Mayor Hess offered remarks about a proclamation presented to Judy Sarkozy, the importance of education, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Event Center, the grand opening of Zero Bar, and the reopening of Burdick's.

Mayor Anderson spoke about attending the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. Mayor Anderson stated he had met with his critics in the past, and he extended the offer to meet with them again.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner  
Comments

Adjournment

## Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met in special session as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 4:05 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates for the City Manager position.

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson  
 Vice Mayor Jeanne Hess  
 Don Cooney  
 Qianna Decker  
 Stephanie Hoffman  
 Esteven Juarez  
 Alonzo Wilson

## COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

Also present were City Attorney Aaron Leal and City Clerk Scott Borling.

## Opening Remarks

Mayor Anderson reviewed the City Manager candidate events from Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Pamela Wideman from Raftelis provided an overview of the City Manager search process and described the interview protocol that would be followed.

**2025-44-01**Interview of City  
Manager Candidates

The City Commission interviewed the following candidates for the City Manager position:

Malcolm Hankins  
 Laura Lam  
 Odis Jones, Sr.  
 Elle Cole

Commissioners asked each candidate the following questions in a round-robin format:

- We have reviewed your cover letter, resume, and other application materials. Tell us what specific skills and experiences you bring to this position and why you are interested and uniquely qualified to become our next City Manager.
- As you have prepared for this interview, you have had the opportunity to research the City of Kalamazoo. Please share with us what you feel are the top three opportunities or challenges currently facing the community or organization right now.
- Share with us how you describe the role of the City Manager in the Commission-Manager form of government and your approach to leading in the role of City Manager.
- Described your approach to interacting with elected officials, especially when there is significant disagreement on a key issue. What is your approach to building and maintaining trust, productive communication, and good relationships within the governing body?
- Describe a time when you were asked to advance a policy or program that you disagreed with. What was your approach?

- Share with us the most challenging ethical issues you have faced in your career.
- Some of the top priorities for the next City Manager include addressing the issues of affordable housing and homelessness, downtown redevelopment, and infrastructure improvements. As our next City Manager, how would you approach downtown development in a way that supports growth and revitalization while balancing the issue of displacement for vulnerable members of our community. Also, please share any relevant experience you have in each of these areas.
- The City of Kalamazoo is a very collaborative community. Describe your approach to establishing relationships, more specifically, advancing equitable practices for diverse groups or traditionally underrepresented populations within our community and in the workplace.
- Is there anything else you feel we should know about you? What questions do you have for us?

The interview with Malcolm Hankins began at 4:15 p.m.

Mr. Hankins answered the questions asked by City Commissioners and presented his qualifications for the City Manager position. When given an opportunity to ask questions of the City Commission, Mr. Hankins offered the following:

- Will there be a time for overlap with the current City Manager?
- There will be a transition with the City Commission in the next month. What might be the impact of that transition on the new City Manager?

The interview with Malcolm Hankins ended at 4:45 p.m.

The interview with Laura Lam began at 4:52 p.m.

Ms. Lam answered the questions asked by City Commissioners and presented her qualifications for the City Manager position. When given an opportunity to ask questions of the City Commission, Ms. Lam offered the following:

- With the coming of a new City Commission and City Manager, how do you think about building trust?

The interview with Laura Lam ended at 5:44 p.m.

Mayor Anderson announced there would be a dinner break for approximately one hour.

The meeting recessed at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 6:42 p.m.

The interview with Odis Jones, Sr. began at 6:44 p.m.

Mr. Jones answered the questions asked by City Commissioners and presented his qualifications for the City Manager position. In addition to the questions posed to all candidates, Mr. Jones responded to the following custom questions:

**2025-14-01**

Interview of City  
Manager Candidates  
(cont'd)

Malcolm Hankins  
Interview

Laura Lam Interview

Meeting Recessed  
Meeting Resumed

Odis Jones Interview

Odis Jones Interview  
(cont'd)

- What is your background in neighborhood development, poverty reduction, and improving the quality of life in neighborhoods?
- Can you tell us more about the development in Camden, New Jersey?
- Have you started to consider innovative solutions you might implement to address economic development, affordable housing, and homelessness? (Commissioner Wilson)
- How would you establish relationships with City staff and lead them? (Vice Mayor Hess)

The interview with Odis Jones ended at 7:20 p.m.

Meeting Recessed  
Meeting Resumed

The meeting recessed at 7:21 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 7:46 p.m.

Discussion re:  
Rescheduling the Elle  
Cole Interview

Following the recess Mayor Anderson announced Elle Cole would not be interviewing at this time due to unforeseen circumstances. Mayor Anderson suggested the City Commission consider rescheduling Ms. Cole's interview to Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m., with Ms. Cole participating remotely.

Discussion followed.

City Attorney Leal noted the current meeting could be recessed for up to 36 hours without a new meeting notice. City Attorney Leal indicated the City Clerk would provide notice of the recess.

By consensus the City Commission agreed to recess the meeting after receiving public comments and to interview Ms. Cole on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comments

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

Maggie Adams, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding the City Manager candidate meet-and-greet event on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Cathy Phason, non-resident and member of ISAAC, regarding the City Manager candidate meet-and-greet event on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Charlae Davis, City resident and member of ISAAC, regarding the City Manager candidate meet-and-greet event on October 14<sup>th</sup> and opportunities for public input on the City Manager candidates.

Kaleb, regarding opportunities for public input on the City Manager candidates.

K, non-resident, regarding the search process and community trust.

Chris Glasser, City resident, regarding the need to select a candidate who was innovative, nuanced, and modern.

Tobi Hanna-Davies, City resident, regarding the need for a City Manager who would focus on enforcing the Fair Housing Ordinance.

Rochelle Habeck, regarding the need for a City Manager who would address structural racism.

Public Comments  
(cont'd)

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments and concerns of City Commissioners.

Commissioner  
Comments

Commissioner Decker thanked the candidates who interviewed.

Commissioner Praedel stated he had no preconceptions about the candidates, and he offered remarks on the importance of this decision, his experience interviewing and hiring, and the effort he would put into reviewing candidate materials over the weekend.

Vice Mayor Hess reported the candidates were impressed with the meet-and-greet event and the number of people who participated. Vice Mayor Hess stated she encouraged people to offer public comments at the 5:00 Committee of the Whole meeting so that Commissioners would have that feedback prior to making their decision.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to recess the meeting until 7:00 a.m. on Friday, October 17, 2025 to allow Elle Cole to interview with the City Commission in the Community Room via remote technology.

Motion to Recess

Prior to a vote on the motion and in response to a question from Commissioner Wilson, City Attorney Leal indicated the motion language implied the meeting would not be reconvened on Friday should Ms. Cole not be able or willing to interview at that time.

Commissioner Wilson suggested the City Manager Search Subcommittee request confirmation of Ms. Cole's intentions within a timeframe that would allow for notice of a meeting cancellation, if necessary.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

The meeting was recessed at 8:23 p.m.

Meeting Recessed

The meeting resumed on Friday, October 17, 2025 at 7:00 a.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Meeting Resumed

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson  
Vice Mayor Jeanne Hess  
Don Cooney  
Qianna Decker  
Stephanie Hoffman  
Esteven Juarez  
Alonzo Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

## Elle Cole Interview

The interview with Elle Cole began at 7:02 a.m. Ms. Cole participated in the meeting using remote technology.

Commissioners asked Ms. Cole the following questions in a round-robin format (the same questions asked of the other candidates, but in a different order):

- As you have prepared for this interview, you have had the opportunity to research the City of Kalamazoo. Please share with us what you feel are the top three opportunities or challenges currently facing the community or organization right now.
- Share with us how you describe the role of the City Manager in the Commission-Manager form of government and your approach to leading in the role of City Manager.
- The City of Kalamazoo is a very collaborative community. Describe your approach to establishing relationships, more specifically, advancing equitable practices for diverse groups or traditionally underrepresented populations within our community and in the workplace.
- We have reviewed your cover letter, resume, and other application materials. Tell us what specific skills and experiences you bring to this position and why you are interested and uniquely qualified to become our next City Manager.
- Share with us the most challenging ethical issues you have faced in your career.
- Describe your approach to interacting with elected officials, especially when there is significant disagreement on a key issue. What is your approach to building and maintaining trust, productive communication, and good relationships within the governing body?
- Describe a time when you were asked to advance a policy or program that you disagreed with. What was your approach?
- Some of the top priorities for the next City Manager include addressing the issues of affordable housing and homelessness, downtown redevelopment, and infrastructure improvements. As our next City Manager, how would you approach downtown development in a way that supports growth and revitalization while balancing the issue of displacement for vulnerable members of our community. Also, please share any relevant experience you have in each of these areas.
- Is there anything else you feel we should know about you? What questions do you have for us?

When given an opportunity to ask questions of the City Commission, Ms. Cole offered the following:

- One year from now, if you have a new City Manager in place who is the perfect fit for your community, what would have happened over the past year that would make you feel that way and make you say that?

The interview with Elle Cole ended at 7:40 a.m.

Vice Mayor Hess reviewed the ways members of the community could provide feedback about the candidates to City Commissioners.

Next, an opportunity was given for public comments, but no comments were offered.

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

Mayor Anderson announced Odis Jones had withdrawn his name from consideration as a candidate for the City Manager position.

Commissioner Praedel thanked City staff for their work on the technology and logistics to make this meeting happen.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 a.m. on Friday, October 17, 2025.

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Comments

Commissioner  
Comments

Adjournment

## 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 community members who engaged with the City Manager search process, Pamela Wideman from Raftelis, and City staff who assisted the subcommittee.

Commissioner Praedel remarked that all three City Manager candidates were gifted and qualified, and he acknowledged 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

## Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 20, 2025 at 7:00 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.

## Invocation

The invocation, given by Pastor Bret Laird from Calvary Bible Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations  
2025-46-01

Commissioner Decker proclaimed October 16, 2025 *Imagine a Day Without Water*. Public Services Director James Baker received the proclamation.

## 2025-46-02

Commissioner Hoffman proclaimed October 28, 2025 *National First Responders Day*. Public Safety Chief David Boysen received the proclamation.

## 2025-46-03

Commissioner Cooney proclaimed October 23, 2025 *Keeping the Lights On Afterschool Day*. Genesis Griffin from the Kalamazoo Youth Development Network (KYDNet) received the proclamation.

## 2025-46-04

Vice Mayor Hess read a proclamation honoring the *Kalamazoo Ladies' Library Association Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Induction, October 22, 2025*. Sharon Carlson, President of the Ladies' Library Association, received the proclamation.

## Adoption of the Agenda

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

Mayor Anderson requested that Item L-1, Selection of a City Manager Candidate, be considered after Public Comments rather than under New Business.

## Public Comments

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

K, non-resident, regarding the Crosstown Facility project.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding the impact of development on flooding in her neighborhood and the need for new City leadership.

Timothy Rice, regarding bike lanes and the condition of City streets.

Jacqueline Slaby, City resident, regarding her candidacy for City Commission and traffic safety measures requested by the Stuart Neighborhood.

Jill Bland from Southwest Michigan First, regarding the Transformational Brownfield Plan for Plazacorp.

Public Comments  
(cont'd)

Justin Suarez, City resident, regarding a public meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> about a proposed car wash on Stadium Drive.

Aaron Thiel, City resident, regarding Drew Duncan's campaign for City Commissioner.

Tom Shuster, City resident, regarding the City Manager search process and the role of the City Commission.

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

K, non-resident  
Maggie Adams, City resident and member of ISAAC  
Kaleb, with ISAAC  
Clair, City resident  
Torrie, non-resident  
An anonymous speaker  
Charlae Davis, with ISAAC  
An anonymous speaker  
Edward Griffin, Jr., with ISAAC, finishing remarks made by an anonymous speaker  
Shona

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

Mattie Jordan-Woods, City resident  
Darren Timmeney, City resident  
Greg Jennings, Sr., Pastor of Progressive Deliverance Ministries Church  
Aimee Klein, City resident

Mayor Anderson opened a discussion of the City Manager candidates with remarks on past hiring processes for City Commission appointees and the current City Manager search process.

Selection of a City  
Manager Candidate

City Commissioners offered remarks on the City Manager candidates, the needs of the community, and the rationale behind their decisions. During their remarks, Commissioners offered their choices for City Manager as follows:

Commissioner Wilson – Malcolm Hankins  
Commissioner Cooney – Malcolm Hankins  
Commissioner Hoffman – Malcolm Hankins  
Vice Mayor Hess – Laura Lam  
Commissioner Decker – Laura Lam  
Commissioner Praedel – Malcolm Hankins  
Mayor Anderson – Laura Lam

Mayor Anderson discussed the importance of showing unity and support for the new City Manager and indicated he would cast his vote for Malcolm Hankins.

Selection of a City  
Manager Candidate  
(cont'd)

Vice Mayor Hess indicated she would vote for Mr. Hankins as well.  
Commissioner Decker indicated she would not change her selection.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved that the City Commission recommend Malcolm Hankins as the next City Manager of the City of Kalamazoo and enter into negotiations.

Prior to a vote on the motion, and in response to a question from Vice Mayor Hess, City Attorney Leal suggested the City Commission wait to schedule a special meeting to approve an employment agreement with Mr. Hankins, as the time required for negotiating an agreement was uncertain.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 6-1.

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

NAYS: Commissioner Decker

Recess

The meeting recessed at 9:16 p.m.  
The meeting resumed at 9:29 p.m.

Selection of a City  
Manager – Next Steps

Mayor Anderson announced that Malcolm Hankins had been contacted, and he was excited to move forward in the process with contract negotiations. Mayor Anderson suggested the City Commission consider whether to authorize negotiations with Laura Lam for the City Manager position, should Mr. Hankins change his mind or if there was no agreement on a contract.

Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to authorize negotiations with Laura Lam in the event the City was not able to successfully negotiate an agreement with Malcolm Hankins.

Discussion followed, with Commissioners Cooney and Wilson expressing concern about how the motion could negatively affect negotiations with Mr. Hankins.

City Attorney Leal reminded Commissioners of the process timeline and the goal of approving an employment agreement with the new City Manager next week.

Commissioner Praedel noted a special meeting could be called quickly if circumstances made it necessary.

Vice Mayor Hess withdrew her motion.

#### 2025-46-05

Public Hearing re: a  
Substantial Amendment  
to the 2025 Action Plan  
for HUD Funding

At 9:37 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on a Substantial Amendment to the 2025 Action Plan to allocate CDBG and HOME Funding.

Compliance Specialist Julie Johnston delivered a presentation entitled *HUD Substantial Amendment: Program Year 2025 Action Plan*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

Commissioner Questions: None

Public Comments:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director of Housing Resources Incorporated (HRI), expressed support for the Substantial Amendment.

At 9:43 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve a Substantial Amendment to the 2025 Action Plan to allocate CDBG and HOME Funding.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0 with 1 abstention.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Praedel\*

\*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel indicated he was abstaining due to his employer.

At 9:45 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving an application for a Commercial Redevelopment Exemption Certificate at 227 West Michigan Avenue.

Development Manager Jamie McCarthy delivered a presentation entitled *Request for Tax Abatement Certificates: Speareflex & the MAC*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

Commissioner Questions: None

Public Comments: None

At 9:50 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving an application for a Commercial Redevelopment Exemption Certificate at 227 W Michigan Avenue.

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 9:51 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving an application for a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate at 261 East Kalamazoo Avenue.

Commissioner Questions: None

Public Comments: None

#### 2025-46-05

Approval of a Substantial Amendment to the 2025 Action Plan for HUD Funding

#### 2025-46-06

Public Hearing re: a Commercial Redevelopment Certificate for ACW3, LLC at 227 W. Michigan Avenue

#### 2025-46-06

Resolution 25-55 Approving a Commercial Redevelopment Certificate for ACW3, LLC at 227 W. Michigan

#### 2025-46-07

Public Hearing re: a Commercial Rehabilitation Certificate for 19 Props, LLC at 261 E. Kalamazoo Avenue

**2025-46-07**

Resolution 25-56  
Approving a Commercial  
Rehabilitation Certificate  
for 19 Props, LLC at 261  
E. Kalamazoo Avenue

At 9:52 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving an application for a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate at 261 East Kalamazoo Avenue.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

## 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:

**2025-46-08**

- approval of a contract supplemental and change Order #1 with Wightman for Design Engineering of the Cork St (Westnedge-Portage) Safety Project in the amount of \$66,400 bringing the contract total to \$147,310.

**2025-46-09**

- approval of a contract with Anlaan Corporation for Academy Street sidewalk improvement in the amount of \$122,582.50.

**2025-46-10**

- approval of a one-year contract extension with Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company for the purchase of actuarial services in the amount of \$144,000.

**2025-46-11**

- approval of a professional service agreement with Jones & Henry Engineers, LTD. for F Avenue & 28th St Transmission Watermain Project Construction Engineering Services in the amount of \$189,500.

**2025-46-12**

- approval of a Sole Source purchase with Michigan Security and Lock for Access Controls on the 150 E. Crosstown Parkway Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$193,849.06.

**2025-46-13**

- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with AVB Construction, LLC for Construction Management Services for the Crosstown Renovation Project in the amount of \$204,361.

**2025-46-14**

- approval of a contact supplemental and change order with Intersect Studio for the 150 E. Crosstown Parkway Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$376,592.

**2025-46-15**

- approval of sole source purchase with BS&A to upgrade to the Cloud in the amount of \$358,565.

**2025-46-16**

- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Corby Energy Services Inc. for sanitary sewer rehabilitation of the Comstock Interceptor between King Highway and the Kalamazoo River in the amount of \$443,274.

**2025-46-17**

Resolution 25-57

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the City Clerk to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement for Early Voting Election Services Between Kalamazoo County and Associated Municipalities.

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving a Transformational Brownfield Plan for 261 E Kalamazoo Ave, 227 W Michigan Ave, 619 Porter, and 314 and 316 E North Street and terminating the prior plan.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving an Affordable Housing Agreement between the City of Kalamazoo, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, 619, LLC and 19 Props, LLC.
- approval of the use of \$12,000 from the City Commission Initiatives budget to support the annual Shop with a Senior program within the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety.
- approval of an updated Endowment Investment Allocation.
- approval of the 2025-2028 Intergovernmental Fire Protection Hazardous Materials Incident Response Agreement.
- approval of an Economic Development Corporation Economic Initiative Fund Loan to Main Street East, LLC in the amount of \$96,000.
- approval of Economic Development Corporation Economic Initiative Fund Loan to Kzoo Cream, LLC in the amount of \$20,000.
- acceptance of the Safe Routes to School Grant of \$407,549 to improve safety and connectivity for students at Winchell Elementary and Maple Street Magnet School.

**2025-46-18**  
Resolution 25-58

**2025-46-19**  
Resolution 25-59

**2025-46-20**

**2025-46-21**

**2025-46-22**

**2025-46-23**

**2025-46-24**

**2025-46-25**

Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, 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

### **Regular Agenda**

Deputy City Manager Rebekah Kik delivered a presentation entitled *Livable Streets to Downtown: Kalamazoo West Gateway, October 20, 2025*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

### **Commissioner Questions:**

Following the presentation, Deputy City Manager Kik responded to Commissioner questions regarding the timeline for implementing the plan, the level of interest in locating college dormitories downtown, the availability of property for redevelopment along West Michigan Avenue, the flexibility of the plan as the West Michigan corridor transitions from lower density at the west end to higher density closer to Rose Street, and how the design standards in the plan will be balanced with market forces.

### **Regular Agenda**

**2025-46-26**  
Resolution 25-60  
Adopting the  
Kalamazoo West  
Gateway Plan

**2025-46-26**

Resolution 25-60  
Adopting the  
Kalamazoo West  
Gateway Plan (cont'd)

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** adopting the Kalamazoo West Gateway Plan.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

**2025-46-27**

Purchase of 1216, 1222,  
and 1228 S. Burdick  
Street and 121 W.  
Crosstown Parkway

City Manager Ritsema introduced an item involving the acquisition of property near the intersection of South Burdick Street and West Crosstown Parkway. City Manager Ritsema indicated the purpose of the acquisition was the protection of nearby wellfields.

Commissioner Questions: None

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve an agreement for the purchase of 1216 South Burdick Street, 1222 South Burdick Street, 1228 South Burdick Street, and 121 West Crosstown Parkway.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

**2025-46-28**

Acceptance and  
Approval of a PROTECT  
Grant Subrecipient  
Agreement with MDOT

Director Baker provided an overview of the work being funded by the federal PROTECT grant and pointed out the agreement was with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Questions: None

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to accept a subrecipient agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation and authorize the City to complete preliminary engineering activities as part of the PROTECT grant.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

Lindsay Reed from Intersect Studio, Community Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Christina Anderson, and Chief Boysen delivered a presentation entitled *Arthur Washington Jr. Crosstown Center Workplace Remodel*. A copy of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for the meeting.

**2025-46-29**

Approval of Contracts for the Crosstown Facility Renovation Project

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Chief Boysen and Ms. Reed responded to Commissioner questions regarding flooding, building enhancements to prevent water incursion, and the target completion date for the project.

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to approve the following contracts for the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the total amount of \$6,523,843:

- a contract with Versatile Roofing Systems, Inc. for Metal Siding on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$105,000. **2025-46-30**
- a contract with Cusack's Masonry Restoration, Inc. for the Masonry Work at 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$115,500. **2025-46-31**
- a contract with Mall City Mechanical for Plumbing on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$122,400. **2025-46-32**
- a contract with Vork Brothers Painting for Painting and Wall Coverings on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$141,935. **2025-46-33**
- a contract with Woodsmith's Custom Millwork for Finish Carpentry on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$161,692. **2025-46-34**
- a contract with Woodsmith's Custom Millwork for Cabinetry on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$170,500. **2025-46-35**
- a contract with S.A. Morman and Company for Doors and Hardware on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$207,100. **2025-46-36**
- a contract with James E. Fulton & Sons for Site Work on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$227,000. **2025-46-37**
- a contract with Specialized Demolition for the Demolition Work on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$265,000. **2025-46-38**
- a contract with Earley and Associates, Inc. for the Concrete Work at 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$269,975. **2025-46-39**
- a contract with Division 5 Metalworks and Building Restoration, Inc. for the Structural Steel Work at 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$336,145. **2025-46-40**
- a contract with Hazelhoff Builders, Inc. for General Trades at 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$352,000. **2025-46-41**

**2025-46-42**

- a contract with Midwest Glass and Mirror LLC, for Aluminum and Glass Glazing on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$429,300.

**2025-46-43**

- a contract with Ritsema Associates for Flooring on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$597,300.

**2025-46-44**

- a contract with Kalamazoo Mechanical, Inc. for Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$680,396.

**2025-46-45**

- a contract with The Bouma Corporation for Drywall, Insulation and Ceilings on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$822,600.

**2025-46-46**

- a contract with Moore Electrical Service, Inc. for Electrical and Data Cabling on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$1,520,000.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

Commissioner  
Comments

Vice Mayor Hess highlighted the Shop with a Senior program and early voting agreement that were on the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Hess thanked the City Clerk's Office for their good work to administer elections.

Mayor Anderson announced the Northside Ministerial Alliance breakfast was tomorrow at 7:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_

*This page was left blank intentionally.*

## Roll Call

A special meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 30, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson  
Vice Mayor Jeanne Hess  
Don Cooney  
Qianna Decker  
Chris Praedel  
Alonzo Wilson

## COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Hoffman

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

## Commissioner Excused

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

## Public Comments

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

The following people thanked the City Commission for listening to the community and selecting Malcolm Hankins as the next City Manager:

Tobi Hanna-Davies, City resident  
Wendy Flora, City resident  
Shona

## Addition of an Item to the Agenda

Mayor Anderson announced that Western Michigan University had submitted a request to display fireworks on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> during the football game with Central Michigan University, and he asked that approval of this request be added to the agenda as item G-2. There were no objections.

**2025-47-01**

Employment Agreement  
with Malcolm Hankins  
for the City Manager  
Position

Mayor Anderson and Commissioner Wilson offered remarks about the negotiation of an employment agreement with Malcolm Hankins for the position of City Manager.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to approve an employment agreement with Malcolm Hankins for the position of City Manager.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioners Praedel and Cooney offered remarks on Mr. Hankins, the employment agreement, and ways to honor Chief Operating Officer Laura Lam.

In response to questions from Commissioner Decker, Mayor Anderson indicated an action was contemplated for November 17<sup>th</sup> to appoint an Interim City Manager to fill the gap between City Manager Ritsema and Mr. Hankins. Mayor Anderson indicated the Interim City Manager would be compensated for their services.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 5-1.

## AYES:

Commissioners Cooney, Praedel, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hess,  
Mayor Anderson

## NAYS:

Commissioner Decker

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to approve a request from Western Michigan University to amend its July 25<sup>th</sup> application to publicly display fireworks at Hyames Field and Waldo Stadium to add Saturday, November 1, 2025 to the already approved dates of September 27<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

NAYS: None

Finally, an opportunity was given for comments by City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_

**2025-47-02**

Approval of an Amended  
Fireworks Application  
from Western Michigan  
University

Commissioner  
Comments

Adjournment

**Kalamazoo County, Michigan**  
**November 4, 2025**  
**Statement of Votes & Certificate of Determination**

**Jurisdiction: Kalamazoo County** **Number of Votes**

**Mayor Kalamazoo City**

|                  |          |                                              |       |
|------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| N David Anderson | received | six thousand, four hundred and seventy three | 6,473 |
| N Chris Glasser  | received | two thousand, seven hundred and six          | 2,706 |
| N Robert E Gray  | received | eight hundred and twenty nine                | 829   |
| N Write-in       | received | forty nine                                   | 49    |

**Kalamazoo City Commissioner**

|                       |          |                                               |       |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| N Kizzy N Bradford    | received | eight hundred and twenty six                  | 826   |
| N Solomon J Carpenter | received | six hundred and twenty three                  | 623   |
| N Bernard Dervan III  | received | seven hundred and ten                         | 710   |
| N Keshia Dickason     | received | three thousand, eight hundred and twenty nine | 3,829 |
| N Drew Duncan         | received | five thousand, eight hundred and twenty       | 5,820 |
| N Thomas Durlach      | received | one thousand, six hundred and ninety one      | 1,691 |
| N Stephanie D Hoffman | received | four thousand, nine hundred and fourteen      | 4,914 |
| N Sara L Schlack      | received | one thousand, six hundred and thirty five     | 1,635 |
| N Jacqueline Slaby    | received | four thousand, five hundred and eighty eight  | 4,588 |
| N Jessica Thompson    | received | two thousand, eight hundred and sixteen       | 2,816 |
| N Write-in            | received | fifty five                                    | 55    |

**Mayor Portage City**

|                      |          |                                             |       |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| N Nasim Ansari       | received | four thousand, nine hundred and ninety four | 4,994 |
| N Patricia M Randall | received | eight thousand and seventy one              | 8,071 |
| N Write-in           | received | twenty three                                | 23    |

# Kalamazoo County, Michigan

November 4, 2025

## Statement of Votes & Certificate of Determination

| Jurisdiction: Kalamazoo County                                 |                                                    |                                               | Number of Votes |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Portage City Council</b>                                    |                                                    |                                               |                 |
| N Victor Ledbetter                                             | received                                           | six thousand, seven hundred and seventy       | 6,770           |
| N Mark McKeon                                                  | received                                           | four thousand, nine hundred and eighty nine   | 4,989           |
| N Jason Mikkelsen                                              | received                                           | three thousand, two hundred and fifty eight   | 3,258           |
| N Kathleen Olmsted                                             | received                                           | five thousand, three hundred and twenty seven | 5,327           |
| N Terry R Urban                                                | received                                           | four thousand, four hundred and fifteen       | 4,415           |
| N Jay Woodhams                                                 | received                                           | three thousand, nine hundred and sixty three  | 3,963           |
| N Jihan Ain Young                                              | received                                           | six thousand, two hundred and seventy six     | 6,276           |
| N Write-in                                                     | received                                           | forty five                                    | 45              |
| <b>Parchment City Commissioner</b>                             |                                                    |                                               |                 |
| N Robert D Britigan III                                        | received                                           | two hundred and ninety eight                  | 298             |
| N Kristen Capelli                                              | received                                           | one hundred and eighty                        | 180             |
| N Michael E Conner                                             | received                                           | one hundred and ninety one                    | 191             |
| N Tammy Cooper                                                 | received                                           | one hundred and seventy                       | 170             |
| N Genevieve Gibson                                             | received                                           | one hundred and fifty one                     | 151             |
| N Nina R Mihalek                                               | received                                           | eighty eight                                  | 88              |
| N Elizabeth June Seeger                                        | received                                           | one hundred and thirty                        | 130             |
| N Write-in                                                     | received                                           | seven                                         | 7               |
| <b>Central County Transportation Authority Millage Renewal</b> |                                                    |                                               |                 |
| received                                                       | twenty one thousand, eight hundred and thirty five | 21,835                                        | Votes for Yes   |
| received                                                       | ten thousand, four hundred and sixty one           | 10,461                                        | Votes for No    |

# Kalamazoo County, Michigan

November 4, 2025

## Statement of Votes & Certificate of Determination

**Jurisdiction: Kalamazoo County** Number of Votes

### Comstock Public Schools Bond Proposal

|          |                                            |       |               |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| received | one thousand, two hundred and thirty seven | 1,237 | Votes for Yes |
| received | one thousand, three hundred and fifty six  | 1,356 | Votes for No  |

### Galesburg-Augusta Community School Bond Proposal

|          |                              |     |               |
|----------|------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| received | seven hundred and thirty one | 731 | Votes for Yes |
| received | eight hundred and thirty six | 836 | Votes for No  |

### Parchment School District Bond Proposal

|          |                            |       |               |
|----------|----------------------------|-------|---------------|
| received | nine hundred and sixty two | 962   | Votes for Yes |
| received | one thousand and forty     | 1,040 | Votes for No  |

### Portage Public Schools Bond Proposal

|          |                                              |       |               |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| received | nine thousand, one hundred and forty         | 9,140 | Votes for Yes |
| received | five thousand, three hundred and ninety five | 5,395 | Votes for No  |

### Richland Community Library Millage Proposal

|          |                               |       |               |
|----------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| received | one thousand and eighty eight | 1,088 | Votes for Yes |
| received | six hundred and eighty two    | 682   | Votes for No  |

The Board of Canvassers of the County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan, having ascertained and canvassed the votes of the election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, does hereby certify and determine that the

Mayor Kalamazoo City

N David Anderson

Kalamazoo City Commissioner

N Drew Duncan

Kalamazoo City Commissioner

**Kalamazoo County, Michigan**  
November 4, 2025  
Statement of Votes & Certificate of Determination

N Stephanie D Hoffman

**Kalamazoo City Commissioner**

N Jacqueline Slaby

**Mayor Portage City**

N Patricia M Randall

**Portage City Council**

N Victor Ledbetter

**Portage City Council**

N Kathleen Olmsted

**Portage City Council**

N Jihan Ain Young

**Parchment City Commissioner**

N Robert D Britigan III

**Parchment City Commissioner**

N Kristen Capelli

**Parchment City Commissioner**

N Michael E Conner

**Parchment City Commissioner**

N Tammy Cooper

Central County Transportation Authority Millage Renewal having received the majority of votes for Yes, is declared to have passed.

Comstock Public Schools Bond Proposal having received the majority of votes for No, is declared to have not passed.

Galesburg-Augusta Community School Bond Proposal having received the majority of votes for No, is declared to have not passed.

Parchment School District Bond Proposal having received the majority of votes for No, is declared to have not passed.

# Kalamazoo County, Michigan

November 4, 2025

## Statement of Votes & Certificate of Determination

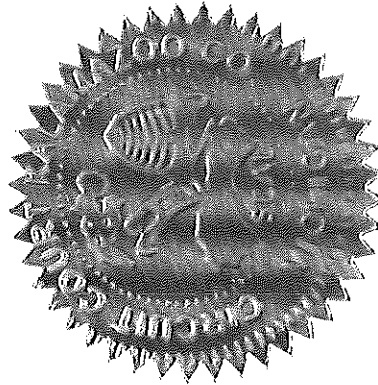
Portage Public Schools Bond Proposal having received the majority of votes for Yes, is declared to have passed.

Richland Community Library Millage Proposal having received the majority of votes for Yes, is declared to have passed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the County of Kalamazoo, this 12 day of November 2025.

CERTIFY:

R. Vincent Lavisri  
Robert J. Fromm  
James A. Lundgren  
Wendy Flora



ATTEST:

Meredith Place  
Clerk/Register of Deeds

11/12/2025  
Date

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
)SS  
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO )

I, Meredith Place, the duly qualified Clerk of Kalamazoo County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy.  
IN WITNESS WHEREFORE, I have hereunto affixed by signature this 12th day of November 2025.

Meredith Place  
Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds