

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:04 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.

2025-48-01
Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Vice Mayor Hess, moved to approve the minutes from the City Commission meetings on October 6, October 15, October 20, and October 30, 2025. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Remarks and
Recognitions

Mayor Anderson introduced former City Manager Ken Collard, who offered remarks on Commissioner Cooney and Bob Beam, former Vice President at Western Michigan University, who had recently passed away.

2025-48-02

Commissioner Praedel read a proclamation *Honoring Don Cooney for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*. Commissioner Cooney received the proclamation.

Mayor Anderson, Vice Mayor Hess, and City Commissioners offered remarks honoring Commissioner Cooney and Commissioner Decker.

Commissioner Decker thanked people and offered remarks on her time as a City Commissioner.

2025-48-03

Commissioner Cooney thanked people and offered remarks on his time as a City Commissioner. Commissioner Cooney distributed a document containing "...[his] ideas about how the City can deeply impact the lives of so many of our people who struggle mightily to give their families the life they deserve."

2025-48-04

Mayor Anderson read a proclamation *Honoring Qianna Decker for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*. Commissioner Decker received the proclamation.

Vice Mayor Hess read a proclamation *Honoring City Manager James K. Ritsema for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*. City Manager Ritsema received the proclamation and spoke about his years of service as the City Manager.

Mayor Anderson, Vice Mayor Hess, and Commissioner Praedel thanked City Manager Ritsema for his service, commented on his character, and highlighted his accomplishments.

City Clerk Borling presented the following report from the Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers:

The Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers has certified the following results from the Municipal Election held on November 4, 2025: having received 6,473 votes, David Anderson was elected Mayor; having received 5,820 votes, Drew Duncan was elected City Commissioner and is, by charter, the Vice-Mayor; having received 4,914 votes, Stephanie D. Hoffman was elected City Commissioner; and having received 4,588 votes, Jacqueline Slaby was elected City Commissioner.

The report of the Board of Canvassers was received into the record.

At 5:50 p.m. Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting *sine die*.

City Clerk Borling administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to newly elected City Commissioners Jacqueline Slaby and Stephanie Hoffman; newly elected Vice Mayor Drew Duncan; and newly elected Mayor David Anderson.

Prior to taking the oath of office, each newly elected official was given the opportunity to have a person of their choosing present to them and affix a pin bearing the City Seal.

At 6:02 p.m. Mayor Anderson called to order the first meeting of the 56th City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Drew Duncan
Jeanne Hess
Stephanie Hoffman
Chris Praedel
Jacqueline Slaby
Alonzo Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

Also present were Chief Operating Officer Laura Lam, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

The invocation, given by Reverend Michael Brown from Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

K, non-resident, regarding the new City Commission and City Manager.

Edward Nickerson, City resident, regarding law enforcement officers and Integrated Services of Kalamazoo.

Shardae Chambers, City resident, regarding the new City Commission and the need to protect natural features behind properties on Stadium Drive.

2025-48-05

Report of the Board of
Canvassers

Adjournment *Sine Die*

Oath of Office Ceremony

Call to Order and
Roll Call – 56th City
Commission

Invocation/Pledge of
Allegiance

Public Comments

City Commissioner
Comments

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

Vice Mayor Duncan thanked the people of Kalamazoo for electing him and his staff, family, and friends for supporting him.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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