

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:01 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

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 Interim City Manager Patsy Moore, 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:

Edward Nickerson, City resident, regarding a recent incident at the Kalamazoo Transportation Center.

K, non-resident, regarding funding for shelters and metrics for addressing systemic issues.

Albert, regarding the need for funding to address the needs of the unhoused.

2025-52-01

Presentation re: the
Proposed FY 2026
Budget

Interim City Manager Moore provided introductory remarks for the budget work session.

Chief Operating Officer Laura Lam, Deputy City Manager Rebekah Kik, Deputy City Manager David Marquardt, and Management Services Director and Chief Financial Officer Steve Vicenzi delivered a presentation entitled *2026 Proposed Budget, Monday, December 8, 2025*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, staff responded to Commissioner questions regarding technical issues with the online budget book, the application of the Goals-Outcomes-Strategies-Measures (GOSM) framework, information on Public Safety calls for service and response times, the age range for kids in the City's free summer camps, efforts to address the perception/reality divide in the areas of public safety and housing investment, the reduction in funding for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), sources of funding for the Home Share program, the local impact of the new 24% state tax on cannabis, funding for neighborhood planning and capacity building, the criteria guiding funding levels for demolition of blighted housing, the Building Department Special Revenue Fund, the need for more building and trades inspectors, whether contractual workers were included in the employee count and the dollar amount and percent of budget spent on each, employees funded through the Solid Waste Fund, economic trends for 2026, the impact of inflationary pressures, the Public Safety Trust Fund and its impact on City revenues, the use of fund balance, the meaning of the numbers for blight abatement in the

online budget book, the City Commission Initiatives Fund, changes in funding for preventative/routine street maintenance and winter street maintenance, the timeline for switching to solar energy and the use of funds from projected energy savings, budgeting for sustainability, raising awareness of the 311 Customer Service Center, the use of funds in the “pollution control” line item, the status of the composting pilot program, the purchase of electric vehicles and charging stations and associated federal tax credits, the impact of delays in Act 51 funding increases and lawsuits related to the new cannabis tax, and the health of the parking system and, specifically, its parking structures.

Mayor Anderson reviewed next steps in the budget process.

Vice Mayor Duncan thanked the Public Safety Department for officer presence during the tree lighting ceremony.

Mayor Anderson remarked on the challenge of snow coming during leaf pick up and the resulting difficulty with removing snow and ice from roadways.

Public Services Director James Baker reported leaf pick up was still happening, and he discussed issues staff experienced when retooling equipment to switch from leaf pick up to snow removal.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2025-52-01

Presentation re: the
Proposed FY 2026
Budget (cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment