

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 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 City Manager Malcolm Hankins, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Rev. Mary Austin, First Congregational Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oath of Office Ceremony

City Clerk Borling administered the constitutional oath of office to Malcolm Hankins as the new City Manager.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

City Manager Hankins requested the following item be added to the Consent Agenda: approval of a 3-year cooperative MIDEAL contract extension for Small Municipal and County Government Enterprise with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc in the amount of \$199,200.

Public Comments

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

Charles Hannah, City resident, regarding the unhoused and Ministry with Community.

Millard Southern, Pastor at Allen Chapel AME Church, regarding the importance of the arts in education and upcoming events in Kalamazoo featuring trumpet player Wynton Marsalis.

2026-02-01

Dok Tael Stevens, City resident, distributed copies of a poetry collection entitled *Asylum Lake Preserve: A Tribute*. (Document filed)

Charlae Davis, with ISAAC, regarding Commissioners' comments at the December 15th business meeting and the need for Commissioners to listen to the community.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding and the elimination of greenspace in her neighborhood and the decline of downtown.

Ben Brown, City resident, presented some thoughts about his tiny house and renewable energy.

Gwendolyn Hooker, with HOPE Through Navigation and Tiny Houses of HOPE, regarding recently installed parking signage for the tiny houses and the next phase of the tiny houses project.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Chris Glasser, City resident, regarding the unhoused and Mayor Anderson's comments at the end of the December 15th business meeting.

Jonathan Yarbrough, Executive Director of the Northside Association for Community Development, regarding Northside Day on August 8th and downtown parking.

An anonymous speaker, regarding the need for the City to protect residents from federal policies and for change in the City's leadership and culture.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding the Mayor's comments at the end of the December 15th business meeting and a speaker who was out of order during that meeting.

Dusty Morton, non-resident, regarding the City's support for emergency shelters, with a focus on The Landing Place family shelter.

Madelyn Thompson, regarding her efforts as a social worker with Integrated Services of Kalamazoo and the need for the City to do its job.

Clair, regarding protection from federal policies, barriers to emergency shelters and warming centers, and gentrification downtown.

Megan Giambrone, regarding the unhoused.

An anonymous speaker, regarding the unhoused.

Torrie, non-resident, regarding the unhoused and the need for more warming shelters and public bathrooms.

Iris Potter, non-resident, regarding fencing around the Arcadia Creek Festival Site and the need for more public bathrooms.

Justin Suarez, City resident, regarding his research into the funding needed to open an emergency shelter for the unhoused.

Cathy Phason, non-resident, regarding the systemic nature of the City's problems. Ms. Phason urged Commissioners to watch the Netflix series *61st Street*.

Tom Howes, City resident, regarding the need for a venue larger than City Hall for the public hearing on the proposed rezoning of 4301 Stadium Drive.

Albert, City resident, regarding the unhoused and the City's expenditure of funds to buy the downtown McDonald's property and build a new administration building.

Anna Gingerich, City resident, regarding Commissioners' comments during the December 15th business meeting.

Public Comments (cont'd)	Lexi, City resident, regarding the need for more public transit and public housing. Jeff Messer, City resident and Community Consultant with the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care, regarding the Point-in-Time (PIT) count of the unhoused that would take place on January 22nd.
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:
2026-02-02	- approval of a sole source three-year contract with VDA Labs for CrowdStrike Falcon MSSP for Cyber Security protection in the amount of \$274,483.50.
2026-02-03 Resolution 26-01	- adoption of a RESOLUTION recognizing the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts as a non-profit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license.
2026-02-04 Resolution 26-02	- adoption of a RESOLUTION approving changes in the street lighting contract with Consumers Energy for the removal of a streetlight at 459 N Rose.
2026-02-05 Resolution 26-03	- adoption of a RESOLUTION approving Fiscal Year 2025 year-end budget amendments and authorizing the City Chief Financial Officer to make intra-fund budget transfers.
2026-02-06	- acceptance of a donation in the amount of up to \$30,000 from Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation for Verburg Park renovations and approval of a budget amendment in the same amount.
2026-02-07	- acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation to support the Downtown Ambassadors Program.
2026-02-08	- approval and acceptance of a public utility easement with Green Development Ventures, LLC for water main installed as part of the West Ridge Site Condo Development.
2026-02-09	- approval and acceptance of a public utility easement with Standard Caddis 4, LDHALP, LCC for water main installed as part of the 508 Harrison Rivers Edge Project.
2026-02-10	- approval and acceptance of a public utility easement with SHOJ, LLC for water main installed as part of the Sunset Point Development.
2026-02-11	- approval of the minutes from the Oath of Office Ceremony on November 17, 2025 and the City Commission meetings on December 1, 2025.
2026-02-12	- approval of a 3-year cooperative MIDEAL contract extension for Small Municipal and County Government Enterprise with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc in the amount of \$199,200.
	Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Hess, 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 Hess, Hoffman, Praedel, Slaby, Wilson, Vice Mayor Duncan, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda

City Manager Hankins introduced for consideration approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, budget policies, and component unit budgets and fee schedules.

Commissioner Questions:

Management Services Director and Chief Financial Officer Steve Vicenzi responded to a Commissioner question regarding the availability of dollars left in the 2025 City Commission Initiatives Fund.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Slaby, moved to 1) adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving and adopting the annual appropriation for the year 2026, setting forth the number of mills to be levied, approving an interim appropriation for the year 2027, and establishing policies for the administration of the budget; and 2) approve the following component unit budgets and fee schedules:

- the FY 2026 Brownfield Redevelopment Authority budget.
- the FY 2026 Downtown Development Authority Operating Budget and the existing two-mill DDA Tax Levy.
- the FY 2026 Downtown Economic Growth Authority Operating Budget.
- the FY 2026 Economic Development Corporation budget as submitted by the EDC Board.
- the FY 2026 Northside Cultural Business District Authority Operating Budget.
- the 2026 fee schedule for the Kalamazoo Municipal Golf Association.
- adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving the 2026 fees for various permits, hearings, etc. within the Community Planning & Economic Development department.
- adopt a **RESOLUTION** to establish the Department of Parks and Recreation fees and charges for 2026.
- adopt a **RESOLUTION** to establish the City of Kalamazoo Cemetery fees and charges for 2026.

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

Regular Agenda

2026-02-13
Approval of the FY
2026 Budget

Resolution 26-04

Resolution 26-05

Resolution 26-06

Resolution 26-07

2026-02-13
Approval of the FY
2026 Budget (cont'd)

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

AYES: Commissioners Hess, Hoffman, Praedel, Slaby, Wilson, Vice Mayor Duncan, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

2026-02-14
Resolution 26-08
Approving the Safe
Streets for All Safety
Action Plan

City Manager Hankins introduced for consideration a resolution adopting the City of Kalamazoo Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan.

Community Planner Nolan Bergstrom delivered a presentation entitled *Kalamazoo Safety Action Plan: City Commission Meeting, January 5, 2026*. A copy of the slides from the presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Community Planner Bergstrom, Public Works Division Manager Dennis Randolph, and Community Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Christina Anderson responded to Commissioners' questions regarding street lighting in historic neighborhoods, traffic signals, the impact of snow removal for both pedestrian and vehicle safety, whether multi-family housing was considered when developing the plan, funding sources for the work described in the plan, the need to change the culture of driving in the City, whether the plan would be implemented through individual projects or within larger projects, and the deadline for Commissioners to approve the plan.

Commissioner Slaby requested that improvements to the bus stop at Alamo and Alamo Hills Drive be added to the plan.

Discussion took place regarding the process for amending the draft plan, the frequency with which the plan would be reviewed and updated on an on-going basis once adopted, and the City's ability to impact the placement and condition of bus stops.

Motion to Postpone

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Vice Mayor Duncan, moved to postpone action on the *Kalamazoo Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan* until January 26, 2026, to allow for feedback on implementation from Metro and further review of Alamo and Alamo Hills Drive.

Discussion took place about the motion, the agenda for the January 26th meeting, the need to support the residents of Fox Ridge Apartments, and the possibility of amending the plan at this meeting prior to adoption.

Motion Withdrawn

Commissioner Slaby, supported by Vice Mayor Duncan, withdrew the motion.

Public Comments:

K, non-resident, regarding disparities between neighborhoods in the plan.

Creed Stegall, City resident, regarding opportunities to amend the plan, in light of the many multi-unit residential structures currently under construction.

Gwendolyn Hooker, City resident, regarding problems with the plan and the City Commission's lack of concern about the bus stop at Alamo Hills.

Shona, regarding the use of the Alamo Hills bus stop by students at Hillside Middle School and lack of trust in the City's surveys.

Cathy Phason, non-resident, regarding her support for adding the Alamo Hills bus stop to the plan.

Tom Howes, City resident, regarding his support for adding the Alamo Hills bus stop to the plan and the need for Commissioners to speak up on issues.

Megan Giambrone, regarding the mix of topics being discussed, from child safety to the aesthetics of street lighting.

Vice Mayor Duncan requested that the plan be updated quarterly.

Commissioner Slaby moved to adopt a resolution adopting the City of Kalamazoo Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan with the addition that the Alamo/Alamo Hills Drive bus stop be added as a priority bus stop to be updated to a premium bus stop. The motion died for lack of support.

Discussion continued regarding the frequency with which the plan should be reviewed and updated, Metro's involvement in the creation and implementation of the plan, the criteria and metrics used to score and prioritize projects for inclusion in the plan, and the role of the plan as a tool to secure grant funding.

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** adopting the City of Kalamazoo Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan, with the following additions: 1) to add the Alamo and Alamo Hills Drive bus stop to the priority list to receive a premium bus stop upgrade; and 2) to evaluate this plan every six months.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Hess suggested the six-month plan reviews take place during Committee of the Whole meetings.

Commissioner Wilson requested that staff use the next six months to review the process for prioritizing and including projects in the plan, to remove the current ambiguity.

In response to a question from City Manager Hankins, City Attorney Leal advised it was not necessary to include Commissioner Hess's suggestion in the motion.

With a roll call vote the motion to adopt, with additions, passed 6-1.

AYES: Commissioners Hess, Hoffman, Praedel, Slaby, Wilson, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: Vice Mayor Duncan

City Manager Hankins reminded property owners to keep the sidewalks in front of their property clear of snow and ice.

2026-02-14

Resolution 26-08
Approving the Safe
Streets for All Safety
Action Plan (cont'd)

Motion to Adopt, with
Additions (failed for
lack of support)

Motion to Adopt, with
Additions

City Manager's Report

2026-02-15Report of Determination
from the LOCC

City Clerk Borling introduced Creed Stegall, who presented the Report of Determination from the Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC). City Clerk Borling noted the salary increases were approximately \$300 per year, and the new salaries would take effect on January 15th, unless the City Commission rejected the LOCC's determination.

2026-02-16Public Hearing
Scheduled for an
Ordinance Rezoning
4301 Stadium Drive

City Manager Hankins introduced for consideration the scheduling of a public hearing to receive comments on an ordinance to rezone the property at 4301 Stadium Drive from Residential, Multi-Dwelling (RM-15) and Residential, Single-Dwelling (RS-5) to Community Commercial (CC).

Commissioner Comments:

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Assistant City Planner Bobby Durkee stated the recommended venue was City Hall, as City Hall was the only venue that could accommodate call-in public comments.

Commissioners Praedel and Slaby offered recommendations for strategies to manage the anticipated large number of speakers at the public hearing, with an emphasis on making the hearing accessible.

Public Comments:

Tom Howes, City resident, expressed opposition to holding the public hearing at City Hall and stated a larger venue was needed.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Vice Mayor Duncan, moved: 1) to schedule a public hearing on January 26, 2026 to receive comments on an ordinance to rezone the property at 4301 Stadium Drive from Residential, Multi-Dwelling (RM-15) and Residential, Single-Dwelling (RS-5) to Community Commercial (CC); 2) that the venue be at City Hall; and 3) that City staff be tasked with implementing call-in comments, a ticketing system, extra seating, and any other means to facilitate the hearing.

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

AYES: Commissioners Hess, Hoffman, Praedel, Slaby, Wilson, Vice Mayor Duncan, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Wilson welcomed City Manager Hankins and spoke about the need to rebuild trust with the community.

Commissioner Slaby thanked staff for their work on the budget and offered recommendations for the 2027 budget process. Commissioner Slaby spoke about the need for metrics around community participation and for Commissioners to have a better understanding of demographic representation in community surveys.

Commissioner Praedel welcomed City Manager Hankins.

Commissioner Hess welcomed City Manager Hankins and highlighted upcoming events and openings on City boards, commissions, and committees. Commissioner

Hess acknowledged the people who spoke during public comments and noted the City collaborated with other entities to address the needs of the unhoused.

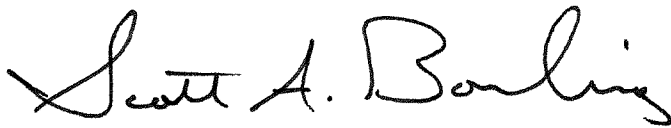
Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Duncan thanked the public for participating and welcomed City Manager Hankins.

Mayor Anderson welcomed City Manager Hankins and expressed appreciation for the teamwork among City Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Adjournment



Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: 2/16/2026