

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:01 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 City Manager Malcolm Hankins, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Reverend David Zomer, Bethany Reformed Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2026-03-01

Presentation of the 2026
Social Justice Youth
Awards

Mayor Anderson introduced the presenters of the 2026 Social Justice Youth Awards.

Nicole Wallace, President of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Sigma Omega Chapter, presented the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Social Justice Youth Award to Sharlee Atkinson.

Derek Nofz, Community Affairs Manager for Consumers Energy, presented the Consumers Energy MLK Social Justice Youth Award to Dontray Hemphill, Jr.

Victor Ledbetter, II and Dr. Deveta Gardner presented the Douglass Community Association Social Justice Youth Award to Kewan Greene-Hemphill.

Steve Pudwill, Community Relationship Manager for Fifth Third Bank, presented the Fifth Third Bank Social Justice Youth Award to Yadhira Sandoval.

Ineke Way presented the Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War (KNOW) Social Justice Youth Award to Miley Garcia.

John Pinkster, Director of South Operation for Life EMS, presented the Life EMS Social Justice Youth Award to Rinzel Arroyo.

Tony and Dr. Betty Dennis presented the Lodge-Dennis Social Justice Youth Award to Savannah Robert.

Judy Woolsey, Assistant to Marc Schupan of Schupan and Sons, presented the Schupan & Sons MLK Social Justice Youth Award to Daviya McCoy.

Dr. Lewis Walker presented the Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Award to Hosanna Ndikumana.

Dr. Harvey Myers, Third Vice President and Membership Chair for the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP, congratulated the recipients and announced each recipient would receive a one-year paid membership.

A transcript of the remarks made by Mayor Anderson and the presenters was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Hess read a proclamation recognizing the *Northside Ministerial Alliance 50 Year Anniversary*. Reverend Dr. Addis Moore, Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and President of the Northside Ministerial Alliance, received the proclamation.

The meeting recessed at 6:54 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

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

Mayor Anderson requested the Consent Agenda be considered immediately after “E” Public Comments and before “F” Public Hearings.

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

Ed Nickerson, City resident, expressed opposition to the Stadium Drive rezoning.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding and the destruction of greenspace in her neighborhood, and the emergency shelters and transportation the City had made available for the unhoused.

An anonymous speaker, regarding the Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities of the City’s Flock surveillance camera system.

J. Kyon, City resident, regarding the activities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Kalamazoo and actions the City should take to protect residents from ICE.

Silvano Vanegas, City resident, regarding the need for the City to be proactive in protecting residents from ICE.

Charlae Davis, City resident, regarding the importance of collaborative energy, people who had been killed by ICE agents, and the work necessary to create the “beloved community.”

Wendy Fields, City resident, expressed opposition to the Stadium Drive rezoning.

Lexi, City resident, regarding ways the City could protect residents from ICE.

Ray Sweany, City resident, regarding a letter he had sent to the City’s congressional delegation urging the removal of President Trump.

Jeff Mitchell, non-resident, regarding ways the City could protect residents from ICE.

K Babcock, non-resident, regarding ways the City could protect residents from ICE.

Proclamation
2026-03-02

Recess

Adoption of the Agenda

Public Comments

Public Comments
(cont'd)

David Birkam, City resident, regarding the need for the City to address housing and the unhoused.

Ally, expressed opposition to Flock surveillance cameras and the Stadium Drive rezoning.

Amanda Miller, regarding the need for the City to be proactive in protecting residents from ICE.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding assistance for the unhoused and the need for the Mayor to resign.

LaJune, City resident, expressed opposition to ICE, the proposed rezoning, and various issues in the City.

An anonymous speaker, regarding the need for the City to “decolonize” and address issues of the people.

An anonymous speaker, regarding the lack of safety in Kalamazoo and the need for leaders to care about the community.

Tate Wierda, City resident, expressed opposition to the Stadium Drive rezoning and urged the Commission to protect residents from ICE.

Abbey, City resident, regarding emails she had sent and the need for emergency housing for people with pets.

Taylor, City resident, regarding ways the City should protect residents from ICE.

Violet, City resident, regarding ICE and the threat to everyone, including City Commissioners.

Fletcher, City resident, regarding the clarity of the will of the people in this moment.

Albert, City resident, expressed opposition to ICE and to the Stadium Drive rezoning.

Will, City resident, regarding the impact of federal policy on him and his family, and the common humanity of all people.

An anonymous speaker, regarding his service in the Air National Guard and the central role of “the people” in the US Constitution.

Ann Sweany, City resident, regarding federal policies and their infringement on peoples’ rights.

Nolan Cabral, City resident, expressed opposition to ICE and the Stadium Drive rezoning.

Nathan Dokter, City resident, expressed opposition to the Stadium Drive rezoning and support for the demands others had made regarding ICE.

Kaleb Beiter, City resident, regarding the false narratives ICE was telling about people. An anonymous speaker, regarding the need for elected officials to represent the people and do the right thing. Payton Matturro, non-resident, expressed opposition to ICE and the Stadium Drive rezoning. Eric Stucky, City resident, regarding the need for the City to fight ICE. Zen, expressed opposition to the Stadium Drive rezoning and ICE, and spoke regarding the City's responsibility to the unhoused. Bird, expressed opposition to ICE and the Stadium Drive rezoning. Matt Joselin, City resident, expressed concern for his freedom based on his physical appearance, despite being a US citizen. Justin Suarez, City resident, expressed opposition to Flock surveillance cameras and the Stadium Drive rezoning, and he stated KDPS was not going to protect people from ICE. Take away Flock cameras. Expressed opposition to the proposed rezoning. Willis Sipling, City resident, regarding the need for virtue and justice rather than bureaucracy. Laura, City resident, expressed opposition to Capitalism and the Stadium Drive rezoning.	Public Comments (cont'd)
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: - approval of a 2026 Support Services Agreement with the Foundation for Excellence in the amount of \$55,000. - approval of a contract supplemental and change order with LD Docsa Associates, Inc. for Water System Corrosion Control Improvements in the amount of \$125,018.03. - approval of a contract with Salesforce for 311 Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$210,061.46. - approval of 3-Year term contract with Besco Water Treatment, Inc. for Water Filters in the amount of \$372,540. - approval of the 2026 and 2027 renewal with ASU Group for excess workers' compensation premium in the amount of \$475,338. - adoption of a RESOLUTION designating polling facilities to be used for the City's voting precincts during the election on May 5, 2026 and for each election thereafter.	Consent Agenda 2026-03-03 2026-03-04 2026-03-05 2026-03-06 2026-03-07 2026-03-08 Resolution 26-09

2026-03-09	- acceptance of a recommendation from the Regional Bridge Council to include Reed Street Bridge in the three-year bridge plan, providing \$126,350 (95%) of funding for preventative maintenance and committing \$6,650 as city match funding for this project.
2026-03-10	- approval of the appointment and assignment of City Commissioners to various committees, boards, and commissions.
2026-03-11	- approval of the following reappointments to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: - the appointment of Isabella Ballez for a term expiring on January 1, 2029. - the appointment of Kazmira Herberger for a term expiring on January 1, 2029. Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Slaby, 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
Recess	The meeting recessed at 9:11 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:26 p.m. City Manager Hankins reviewed emergency shelter options. City Manager Hankins clarified that Public Safety surveillance cameras were not accessible to anyone other than those the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety allowed, and under no circumstances was the City giving ICE access to those cameras.
2026-03-12 Public Hearing re: the Rezoning of 4301 Stadium Drive	<u>Public Hearing</u> At 9:29 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on an ordinance to rezone the property at 4301 Stadium Drive from RM-15 (Residential, Multi-Dwelling) & RS-5 (Residential, Single-Dwelling) to CC (Community Commercial). Mayor Anderson reviewed the process for rezoning applications and clarified that this was the first time the City Commission had considered the rezoning of this property. Assistant City Planner Bobby Durkee delivered a presentation entitled <i>Request to Change the Zoning from Residential Single Family (RS-5) & Residential Multiple Family (RM-15) to Community Commercial (CC)</i>. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting. Emily Palacios, legal counsel for the applicant, provided an overview of the rezoning request.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentations, Assistant City Planner Durkee and Ms. Palacios responded to Commissioners' questions regarding: the changes between 2020 to 2026 that led the applicant to determine the property could be developed, even with the Natural Features Protection (NFP) Overlay; why the development of this parcel is critical when there are several vacant commercial properties along the Stadium Drive corridor; the qualities of the property that make it unique and a transition zone; recent examples of properties with the NFP Overlay that have been successfully developed as high-density commercial uses; the City's options for redress in the event the developer violates or ignores NFP requirements; the reason staff supports this rezoning now, when they removed the property from the mass commercial rezoning process in 2023; the path forward to keep this property open space; the purchase price for the property and how the public could acquire it; the possibility of a public/private partnership that would allow public recreational access; the reason the applicant purchased the property when it was not zoned commercial.

2026-03-12

Public Hearing re:
the Rezoning of 4301
Stadium Drive
(cont'd)

Public Comments:

In Person

The following people expressed opposition to the proposed rezoning:

Edward Nickerson, City resident
An anonymous speaker
Tressa Greschak, City resident
An anonymous speaker
Stephanie Watkins, on behalf of the Oakland Drive/Winchell
Neighborhood Association
Christopher Bovid, City resident, on behalf of the Woods Lake
Association
Karin Larsen, City resident
Robert Piellusch, City resident
John Kreuzer, City resident
Micah Winter, City resident
Albert, City resident
Mark Hoffman, City resident
Tom Howes, City resident
Jimmy Lane, City resident
Wendy Denning, City resident
Judy Huxmann, City resident
Katie Bloom, City resident
Dok Tael Stevens, City resident
Chris Wills, City resident (document filed – Change.org petition)
Sue Dennison, City resident
Erin Fuller, City resident
Mary Todas, City resident, on behalf of the Parkview Hills Neighborhood
Association
Jeff Mitchell, non-resident
An anonymous speaker
Sam Grossman, City resident
Mary Jean Grossman, City resident

2026-03-12

Public Hearing re:
the Rezoning of 4301
Stadium Drive
(cont'd)

Marci Larsen, City resident
Iris Potter, non-resident, representing Protect the Preserve and Tom Duffield
Aaron Thiel, City resident
Tammy Hibner, City resident
Linda Digby, non-resident
An anonymous speaker, City resident
Josh Kieser, City resident
Laurie Laing, non-resident
Mitch Lettow, City resident
Ruth Borst, City resident
Eric Stucky, City resident
Jake, City resident
John Foster, City resident
Ashley Yonker, non-resident
Simon Dunham, City resident
Zachary Lassiter, City resident
McKenna, representing Students for a Sustainable Earth
Maureen Cartmill, City resident
Lauren Heinz, City resident
Bill Cartmill, City resident
Sophia Schmidt, City resident
Elissa Cahn, City resident
Benjamin Avner, City resident
Nolan Cabral, City resident
An anonymous speaker
Jeremy Cronk, City resident
Erin, City resident
Mike Reiter, City resident
JD, City resident
Sharon, City resident

The following people expressed support for the proposed rezoning:

Jack Urban, City resident

Call-In

The following people expressed opposition to the proposed rezoning:

Valerie Burnside, City resident
Dan Selvidge, City resident
Kathy Perkins, City resident
Lisa Ernst, City resident
Jen, City resident
Rachel McGuffin, City resident
Keegan Bennett, City resident
Kennedy Hunt, City resident
An anonymous speaker, City resident
Elizabeth, City resident

At 12:50 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27th Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Mayor Anderson asked for a motion to adopt an ordinance to rezone the property at 4301 Stadium Drive from RM-15 (Residential, Multi-Dwelling) & RS-5 (Residential, Single-Dwelling) to CC (Community Commercial), but no motion was offered.

Vice Mayor Duncan, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to deny the application to rezone the property at 4301 Stadium Drive from RM-15 (Residential, Multi-Dwelling) & RS-5 (Residential, Single-Dwelling) to CC (Community Commercial).

Discussion took place regarding the form of the motion.

City Attorney Leal recommended that the Commissioner who made the motion include factual findings to support the denial.

Vice Mayor Duncan stated the City Commission had heard enough testimony to speak to the motion to deny.

Commissioners Slaby and Praedel reviewed the five zoning criteria and described how the proposed rezoning did not satisfy the criteria.

Commissioner Hess expressed agreement with Commissioners Praedel and Slaby.

With a roll call vote the motion to deny passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

City Manager Hankins referred Commissioners to his written report in the agenda packet. City Manager Hankins acknowledged the hard work of staff and community partners to coordinate emergency shelters and resources during the bitter cold weather.

Commissioner Wilson affirmed community concerns about ICE and encouraged Commissioners, staff, and the community to combine their efforts to be intentional about protecting the City and its people. Commissioner Wilson suggested that protections be codified through ordinance changes that outlined exactly how the City would interact with ICE.

Commissioner Praedel remarked on the power and energy of the community coming together, as evidenced by the protest and vigil outside City Hall and the large number of people attending the public hearing inside City Hall. Commissioner Praedel spoke about the Social Justice Youth Awards and the recipients who inspired faith and hope for the future.

Commissioner Hess reported the Kalamazoo County Event Center Assessment District project – the youth indoor event center – was moving forward. Commissioner Hess remarked on the community solidarity displayed through the protest and vigil that evening, and she urged people to stand with their neighbors and show love where there was fear.

2026-03-12
Denial of Rezoning
Application for 4301
Stadium Drive

2026-03-13
City Manager's
Report

Commissioner
Comments

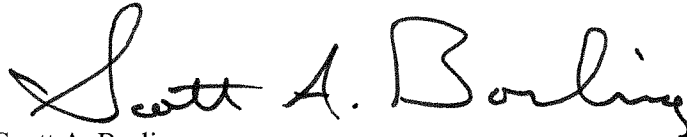
Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Duncan extended thanks to Mayor Anderson, other elected officials in the county, City staff, and members of the community for their hard work over the past week to keep residents safe, warm, and fed during the bitterly cold weather. Vice Mayor Duncan called for the abolition of ICE and offered remarks on protecting the community. Vice Mayor Duncan stated he would continue working to ensure Kalamazoo is the city it claimed to be on paper.

Mayor Anderson thanked staff for their good work that resulted in a smooth public hearing process where everyone's voice could be heard.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 a.m. on January 27, 2026.



Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on:

2/16/2026

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