

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 7:03 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
Alonzo Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Jacqueline Slaby*

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

Commissioner Excused

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

Invocation

The invocation, given by Reverend Ed Liebenthal, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations
2026-05-01

Commissioner Hoffman proclaimed February 6, 2026 *Wear Red Day*. Caleb Porter, Development Director for the American Heart Association, Kalamazoo area, received the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

Public Comments

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

Talanja Steele, City resident, regarding Edison Initiatives.

Dr. Ed Liebenthal, requesting \$35,000 for Edison Initiatives.

Euan Simpson, City resident, requesting the removal of Flock surveillance cameras.

2026-05-02

Tristan, with We the People Action Fund, requesting that the City Commission adopt ordinances to protect tenants and tenants' rights. (document filed)

Alex, non-resident, regarding protections for tenants and tenants' rights.

Edward Nickerson, City resident, regarding negative interactions with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) and issues he was having as a tenant.

Andrew Argo, City resident, regarding protections for tenants and tenants' rights.

*Commissioner Slaby arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Kendall Campbell and Shawntel Lindsey, regarding the services offered at Helping Hands Wellness Center.

Linnea, City resident, read remarks from April Aills regarding protections for tenants and tenants' rights.

K, regarding the unhoused and need for systemic change.

Shona Espinoza, regarding the need for the City to help the unhoused.

Chris Glasser, City resident, requesting that KDPS reject cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and that the City remove Flock surveillance cameras.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding high rents, flooding, the elimination of greenspace, and the unhoused.

Abbey, City resident, regarding the needs of the unhoused and their pets.

Jeff Messer, City resident, requesting the following: an amendment to the City Charter to add a process for charter amendments; removal of funding for Flock surveillance cameras and the dismantling of the City's surveillance system; and an ordinance that would exempt devices that drew 60 watts of power or less from the prohibition against using outlets in City parks.

At 7:59 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on the establishment of a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) at the southwest corner of Vine Street & S Burdick Street.

Assistant City Planner Bobby Durkee delivered a presentation entitled *The B on Burdick – NEZ: New NEZ District, February 2, 2026*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Assistant City Planner Durkee responded to Commissioner questions regarding: the connection between the development of this NEZ and the housing corridor study presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting; how this development would further the City's housing goals, including demographic goals and the desire to address "the missing middle"; whether there was a benefit to an NEZ being on a single parcel rather than multiple parcels; the potential duration of the tax exemption vis-à-vis conflicting information in the agenda report; and whether the developer had contracts in place with a specific daycare provider and grocer.

Public Comments:

Jeff Messer, City resident, regarding the land value tax system, which did not punish development like the current property tax system.

Chris Glasser, City resident, regarding the performative process for approving NEZ's.

Edward Nickerson, City resident, regarding the dangers of using contractors from outside the city.

At 8:26 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

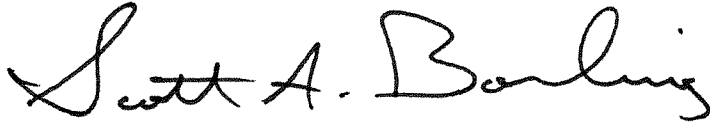
2026-05-03

Public Hearing re: the
Establishment of The
B Neighborhood
Enterprise Zone (NEZ)
at Vine and Burdick
Streets

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:
2026-05-04	- approval of a contract with Balkema Excavating, Inc. for the Kalamazoo Airport Water Main Looping Project in the amount of \$120,772.
2026-05-05	- approval of a cooperative purchase with Sportsfield Specialties for the Homer Stryker Field safety netting system in the amount of \$170,154.75.
2026-05-06	- approval of a sole source purchase with Interkal for new seating at Homer Stryker Field in the amount of \$182,902.
2026-05-07	- approval of a contract with Playcore Wisconsin Inc, DBA Gametime for the purchase of materials and labor to complete the Verburg Park Improvement Project in the amount of \$195,880.20.
2026-05-08	- approval of an amendment to the lease agreement with the Northwoods League/Kalamazoo Growlers for two additional 5-year terms beginning January 1, 2029 through December 31, 2038. Commissioner Praedel, 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
City Manager's Report	Public Safety Chief David Boysen reported on the use of Flock cameras to read license plates and the policies and practices around how the images were stored, accessed, and shared. Chief Boysen spoke about the benefits of the license plate readers and how they had helped KDPS solve various crimes.
Commissioner Comments	Commissioner Praedel offered congratulations to Commissioner Hoffman and Neighborhood Activator Cee Maul for their recognition by Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Commissioner Praedel thanked staff and community members for serving the unhoused during the bitterly cold weather, and he expressed appreciation to staff from the Community Planning and Economic Development Department for their Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 public engagement sessions. Commissioner Hess thanked City staff who were working outside, and she expressed gratitude to Pastor Millard Southern for organizing the recent concert and community conversation with noted trumpet player Winton Marsalis. Mayor Anderson offered remarks on the passing of community activist Jean Baraka-Love and the funeral for a young person who lost their life to gun violence. Mayor Anderson expressed gratitude to people and organizations who helped the unhoused during the past two weeks of bitterly cold weather.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Adjournment

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott A. Borling".

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

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