

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:01 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/Pledge

The invocation, given by Sister Patricia Warbritton from the Congregation of St. Joseph, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

2026-09-01

City Manager Hankins requested that Item H-3, acceptance of a COPS Hiring Program Award, be removed from the agenda.

Public Comments

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

Jim Hess, City resident, regarding Mayor Anderson and Assistant Public Safety Chief Victor Green speaking to his boys mentoring group.

Edward Nickerson, City resident, regarding a recent call to 211 and people trying to steal his car.

Joel Snyder, non-resident and a member of Celebris Ensemble, played "My Heart's in Kalamazoo," a song he wrote with Jane Kozhevnikova.

Rachel Thompson, City resident, regarding a watermain break on Grand Prairie Road and poor detour signage that resulted in people driving through her yard to avoid the road closure.

Elizabeth O'Dell, President of the Kalamazoo Alumni Chapter of Delta Theta Sigma Sorority, regarding a recent workshop on economic development for black run businesses, and the inequities of the national mental health crisis.

2026-09-02

Gloria Foster-Wimbley, Social Action Chair of the Kalamazoo Alumni Chapter of Delta Theta Sigma Sorority, regarding a letter sent to the Mayor asking for information on the City's policies and outreach in the area of health equity. (document filed)

Rachel Viñales, non-resident, regarding her candidacy for Judge of 8th District Court.

The following people expressed opposition to moving the Howard Street pedestrian crossing up the hill and requested a pedestrian activated stoplight for this crossing:	Public Comments (cont'd)
Margaret Wilson (document filed) Austin Shannon, City resident Stephanie Nabors, City resident Susan Bennett, City resident David Wilson, City resident Zanaya Wilson, City resident	2026-09-03
Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding traffic on Howard Street and failed storm drains in her neighborhood.	
Tracey Lawie, Liz Healy, and Holly Smith, regarding their non-profit organization, The Chubby Mermaids.	
Mike Stout, President and Founder of Michigan Waterways Stewards, regarding a riverfront and trailway cleanup event on March 28th at Mayors' Riverfront Park. (document filed)	2026-09-04
Angela Castellanos, City resident, regarding the opening of her new business, Unwind Massage and Stretch.	
Kim James, City resident, regarding the need for the City to express opposition to federal immigration policies and the activities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).	
Chad Dodd, City resident, regarding littering and drug activity in the park surrounded by Rose, Frank, and Church Streets, and the need for parking restrictions and speed humps near the park.	
Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding unsafe sidewalks on Alamo Avenue and other routes to Hillside Middle School.	
Jonathan Yarbrough, City resident and Executive Director of the Northside Association for Community Development (NACD), regarding upcoming NACD events and initiatives and the need for more pedestrian refuge islands.	
Claire, City resident, regarding a moratorium on certain parts of Section 33-24 of the Kalamazoo City Code.	
Justin Suarez, City resident, regarding drug use in the park at Frank and Park Streets and the City's use of Flock surveillance cameras.	
Jeff Messer, City resident, regarding the annual City Commission planning retreat on Saturday, March 14th.	
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:	
	Consent Agenda

2026-09-05	- approval of a sole source professional service agreement with Main & Meridian, LLC, former City of Kalamazoo employee Jeff Chamberlain, for Consulting Services not to exceed \$49,000.
2026-09-06	- approval of a professional service agreement with Prein & Newhof for E. coli sampling and site assessment to support MS4 Total Daily Maximum Load monitoring in the amount of \$102,500.
2026-09-07	- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Safebuilt for Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, and Building Inspections in the amount of \$110,000.
2026-09-08	- approval of a contract supplemental and change order for analytical testing services with Trace Analytical Laboratories, Incorporated in the amount of \$115,480.32.
2026-09-09	- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Mall City Mechanical for plumbing and fire suppression on the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$122,516.
2026-09-10	- approval of a cooperative contract with Design2Wellness for fitness equipment and installation for the 150 East Crosstown Facility Renovation Project in the amount of \$140,503.61.
2026-09-11	- approval of a Professional Service Agreement with Wightman for Building 20-Old Tertiary Renovation in the amount of \$157,670.
2026-09-12	- approval of a cooperative contract with Rathco Supply, Inc for sign installation in the amount of \$268,282.50.
2026-09-13	- approval of contract with Milliman for a Pension Administration Software System in an amount not to exceed \$312,000.
2026-09-14	- approval of a contract with Nexgen Construction for erosion repairs at Water Station 24 in the amount of \$335,943.90.
2026-09-15	- approval of a contract with James E. Fulton and Sons for the construction of Downtown Placemaking Projects in the amount of \$426,000.
2026-09-16 Resolution 26-11	- adoption of a RESOLUTION designating the polling facility to be used for Precinct 10 during the election on May 5, 2026 and for each election thereafter.
2026-09-17 Resolution 26-12	- adoption of a RESOLUTION setting forth the salaries of the City Commission appointees (City Attorney, City Clerk, and the Internal Auditor), effective March 2, 2026.
2026-09-18	- approval of a Temporary Property Right of Entry Agreement with Milbocker & Sons, Inc. to install a new sound wall on US-131 adjacent to City-owned properties.
2026-09-19	- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on February 16, 2026.

Commissioner Hoffman, 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.

Consent Agenda
(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

Regular Agenda

Public Works Division Manager Dennis Randolph delivered a presentation entitled *West Michigan, South & Lovell Engineering Design Project RAISE 2022 Grant Infrastructure Investment: City Commission Briefing, City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services, March 2026*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

2026-09-20

Contract with Wightman Associates for the Design of West Michigan Avenue, South, and Lovell Streets

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Public Works Manager Randolph responded to Commissioner questions regarding the significance of the color-coding on the "Grant Projects" map, how extra funds would be used if the cost of the design work was less than the grant amount, and the value of having the same engineers working on multiple downtown projects.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to approve a contract with Wightman for the design of West Michigan Avenue, South, and Lovell Streets in the amount of \$3,000,000, funded through a RAISE 2022 Planning Grant.

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 Hankins introduced for consideration a resolution establishing the B-NEZ Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) District at the southwest corner of South Burdick and Vine Streets.

2026-09-21

Resolution 26-13
Establishing The B-NEZ at Burdick and Vine Streets

Commissioner Questions: none

Public Comments:

Jeff Messer, City resident, regarding the impact to the project if the City Commission denied the tax abatement.

2026-09-21
Resolution 26-13
Establishing The B-
NEZ at Burdick and
Vine Streets (cont'd)

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** establishing the B-NEZ NEZ District at the southwest corner of South Burdick Street & Vine Street.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 5-0 with two abstentions.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Praedel and Vice Mayor Duncan

2026-09-22
City Manager's Report

City Manager Hankins highlighted items in the written City Manager's Report and spoke about the City's community engagement efforts on the Howard Street project. City Manager Hankins announced the annual City Commission retreat would take place on Saturday, March 14th at the KRESA Career Connect Campus, 3500 Vanrick Drive, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Slaby announced their absence from the March 16th meetings because of the National League of Cities conference.

Commissioner Hess offered comments on Trenches Church, the Portage firefighter and son who were in a serious accident at Douglas and North, and the river cleanup event on March 28th.

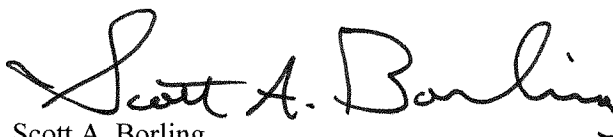
Commissioner Praedel offered remarks on the Blueprint for Peace presentation from that morning and the impact of educators and mentors on the community.

Vice Mayor Duncan raised concerns from downtown businesses about parking enforcement, offered remarks on the Blueprint for Peace presentation, and thanked Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for their work in the community.

Mayor Anderson spoke about the many people and organizations doing community-building work, and he highlighted the Police Athletic League as an example of the non-traditional work being done by the Public Safety Department.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on:

3/16/2026

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