A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 16, 2026 at 7:03 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call

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.

Commissioners Excused

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Slaby from this meeting and also from the 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole Meeting. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to excuse the absence of Vice Mayor Duncan from the 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Invocation/Pledge

The invocation, given by Pastor David Kaneversky from Calvary Bible Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations
2026-12-01

Commissioner Hess read a proclamation recognizing the *Pastors on Patrol 10 Year Anniversary*. Pastor Greg Jennings and representatives from the Pastors on Patrol received the proclamation.

2026-12-02

Commissioner Praedel read a proclamation entitled *Guys Who Give (Kalamazoo Chapter) Celebrating $500k Milestone*. Cody Livingston, founder and President of Guys Who Give, received the proclamation.

2026-12-03

Commissioner Wilson read a proclamation for *Sunshine Week and Advancement of Open Government*. Ben Lando from NowKalamazoo received the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Communications

City Manager Hankins offered brief remarks on the public engagement meetings that had taken place regarding the Howard Street pedestrian crossing.

Public Comments

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

Kyle Patenaude, City resident, regarding the elimination of Flock surveillance cameras.

An anonymous speaker, regarding the use of ARPA funds to renovate the Arcadia Festival Site and the resulting gentrification.

An anonymous speaker, regarding the City's lack of investment to address the needs of the unhoused.

Ben Brown, City resident, regarding air quality concerns after a recent fire and an interview he gave for a report on shared housing.	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:	Consent Agenda
- approval of a two-year professional service agreement with Traffic Tech Services, LLC for technical traffic-related work in the amount of $50,000.	**2026-12-04**
- approval of a contract extension with Dale W. Hubbard Inc, for disposal of vactor spoils in the amount of $135,725.	**2026-12-05**
- approval a cooperative contract with Spohn Ranch, Inc. for the purchase of drawings, materials, and labor to construct a bicycle pump track at Verburg Park in the amount of $140,000.	**2026-12-06**
- approval of a professional service agreement with O'Boyle, Cowell, Blaylock & Associates, Inc. for design services and construction administration for Milham Park improvements in the amount of $140,445.	**2026-12-07**
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Wightman and Associates, Inc. for the design of the Kalamazoo Avenue 2-way street conversion in the amount of $165,900.	**2026-12-08**
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Rathco for the 2026 rental of traffic control devices in the amount of $250,000.	**2026-12-09**
- approval of a contract supplemental/change order with Ferguson Waterworks for Neptune Water Meters, in the amount of $269,889.60.	**2026-12-10**
- approval of a sole-source purchase with Centrisys for equipment lease and testing equipment in the amount of $171,00.00.	**2026-12-11**
- approval of a contract with Anlaan Corporation for the Kilgore-Portage shared use path project in the amount of $516,528.	**2026-12-12**
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving the submission of a State High Water Infrastructure Grant Application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.	**2026-12-13** Resolution 26-14
- adoption of **RESOLUTIONS** approving amendments to the budget and acceptance of informational reporting on capital project carryforwards.	**2026-12-14** Resolutions 26-15 and 26-16
- approval of the following nominations for appointment and reappointment to the Foundation of Excellence Board of Directors: - the re-appointment of Adrian Vazquez-Alatorre as the Affinity/Nonprofit Stakeholder Director for a three-year term ending on May 31, 2029. - the re-appointment of Ida Salas as Business/Banking Stakeholder Director for a three-year term ending on May 31, 2029.	**2026-12-15**

Consent Agenda (cont'd)

- the appointment of Jose Alexis Mejia as Arts Sector Stakeholder Director for a three-year term ending on May 31, 2029.

- the appointment of Isabela Robinson as Neighborhood Stakeholder Director (Eastside) for a three-year term ending on May 31, 2029.

2026-12-16

- approval of the appointment of Luke Zimmer to the Environmental Concerns Committee for a term expiring on January 1, 2027.

2026-12-17

- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on March 2, 2026.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Vice Mayor Duncan, 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 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda

2026-12-18
Resolution 26-17 re: a Contract with MDOT for Safe Routes to School Improvements on Howard Street and Winchell Avenue

Public Services Director James Baker delivered a presentation entitled *Safe Routes to School (SRTS): Grant Award MDOT Contract Recommendation, March 16, 2026*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Director Baker responded to Commissioner questions regarding the City's ability to change the design of the Howard Street pedestrian crossing after contract approval, clarification on the new timeline for the pedestrian crossing and lane reduction projects, whether adjustments could be made to the Howard Street designs post-implementation if results did not meet expectations, the reason why this action needed to taken now, whether there would be pilot implementations of the design options, and whether there could be targeted enforcement on Howard Street to slow traffic as an intermediary measure until the SRTS solutions could be implemented.

Public Comments:

Dr. Todd Ellis, City resident and Vice President of the Maple Street Parent/Teacher/Student Organization, expressed support
Ellen Foley, City resident and President of the Maple Street Parent/Teacher/Student Organization, expressed support
Stephanie Watkins, City resident and President of the Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association, expressed support
Shirley Freeman, City resident, expressed support
Margaret Wilson, City resident, expressed support
Christopher Bovid, City resident, expressed support

Vice Mayor Duncan, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving MDOT Contract No. 25-5691 for Winchell Avenue and Howard Street infrastructure improvements through the Safe Routes to School Grant in the amount of $47,367.

2026-12-18
Resolution 26-17 re: a Contract with MDOT for Safe Routes to School Improvements on Howard Street and Winchell Avenue (cont'd)

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

2026-12-19
City Manager's Report

City Manager Hankins thanked Commissioners for the insights they offered at the planning retreat on Saturday, and he asked them to complete a post-retreat survey. City Manager Hankins reported on community events he had attended.

Commissioner Comments

Vice Mayor Duncan thanked staff for their work on Saturday's planning retreat.

Commissioner Hess highlighted the *City View* and *View from the Curb* newsletters that were recently mailed to residents and the regular meetings that took place between staff and organizations working to address homelessness. Commissioner Hess thanked staff for the planning retreat on Saturday.

Commissioner Praedel recognized City staff for their hard work and achievements in the community. Commissioner Praedel offered remarks on the planning retreat and thanked City Manager Hankins for quickly following up with a post-retreat survey to keep the work moving forward.

Mayor Anderson offered remarks on the venture capital firm KZ Forward Ventures and their work to prepare aspiring entrepreneurs for opportunities to step in and buy small businesses when the owners did not have a succession plan.

Closed Session

Vice Mayor Duncan, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss labor negotiations.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson announced the City Commission would not return to open session following the closed session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Scott A. Borling

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: 4/6/2026

CC-2026-12