

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 5:00 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.

Public Comments

An opportunity was given for general public comments, but no comments were offered.

Proclamation  
 2026-15-01

Commissioner Hess read a proclamation entitled *Honoring the Western Michigan University Dance Team 2026 – The College Classic Division 1 Jazz National Champions*. Deputy Athletic Director Elaine Russell, Coach Susan Blount, and members of the dance team received the proclamation.

2026-15-02  
 Presentation from the  
 Western Student  
 Association (WSA)

Luke Kritzman, Western Student Association (WSA) Student Body President, Ian Evans, WSA Executive Officer for Governmental Affairs, and Tate Wierda, WSA Membership Chair, delivered a presentation entitled *Western Student Association, Est. 1921: Kalamazoo City Commission, 4/20/2026*. A copy of the slides from the presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions: none

Commissioners offered encouragement and support to the WSA representatives and highlighted the importance of the relationship between the university and the City.

Commissioner Slaby requested that the City address the condition of the trail along Stadium Drive between campus and downtown.

Commissioner Hess requested that the working group for aspirational projects include representatives from Kalamazoo College and Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

2026-15-03  
 Report Out from the City  
 Commission Retreat

City Manager Hankins delivered a presentation entitled *City Commission Retreat Report Out: April 20, 2026*. A copy of the slides from the presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, City Manager Hankins responded to Commissioner questions regarding opportunities for public engagement with the Smart Streets process for downtown, opportunities for Commissioners to give input on the operational goals developed by staff, whether Commissioners would have access to the data and rationale used by staff when creating

operational goals, the impact of existing plans (Consolidated Plan, County Housing Plan, etc.) on operational goal setting, and the process for benchmarking and setting goals in areas where the City was not currently collecting data.

Discussion followed regarding the nature of the strategic goals, whether they should be broad, overarching statements or "SMART" goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound), and the relationship between the strategic goals and operational goals/strategies.

Commissioner Slaby advocated for baseline data and spoke about the difficulty of setting SMART goals without this data.

Mayor Anderson suggested that Commissioners consider the baseline data that should inform the City's goals and send their suggestions to the City Manager.

An opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: 5/11/2026

**2026-15-03**  
Report Out from the City  
Commission Retreat  
(cont'd)

Commissioner  
Comments

Adjournment