

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, May 11, 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.

Opening Ceremony

Invocation/Pledge

The invocation, given by Pastor Jesse Herron, New Life Fellowship Church of God in Christ, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations
2026-18-01

Commissioner Praedel proclaimed May 16, 2026 *World Migratory Bird Day*. Gail Walter from the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo received the proclamation.

2026-18-02

Commissioner Slaby proclaimed May 11-17, 2026 *Period Poverty Awareness Week*. Sarah Koestler, Executive Director of Care Collective of Southwest Michigan, received the proclamation.

2026-18-03

Vice Mayor Duncan proclaimed April 26 – May 2, 2026 *National Apprenticeship Week*. Jamar Herron received the proclamation.

2026-18-04

Commissioner Hess proclaimed May 8, 2026 *Childcare Provider Appreciation Day*. Beth Berglin, Director of Policy & Strategy for Michigan Transformation Collective, and a group of caregivers received the proclamation.

Formal Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Communications

Communications

City Manager Hankins invited the public to open houses at City facilities for Public Services Week and to City-sponsored events celebrating National Bike Month.

Public Comments

Public Comments

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

K, non-resident, regarding the City's lack of action and funding to support immigrants and the City's black and brown communities.

Caleb Leonard, City resident, regarding communication between the City and the community during emergency situations. (document filed)	2026-18-05
An anonymous speaker, regarding the need for the City to act on, and not just be aware of, the topics addressed in the proclamations.	
Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding high rents, the Portage Street road diet, and flooding in her neighborhood. (pictures filed)	2026-18-06
Charlae Davis, with ISAAC, regarding City Manager Hankins' efforts to engage the community, the need for independent oversight of the surveillance systems used by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, and the need for equitable, shared decision-making between the City Commission and its boards.	
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	
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 contract extension with K & B Asphalt for crack seal of City streets in the amount of \$116,910.	2026-18-07
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Corby Energy Services, Inc for sanitary sewer lining in support of Wastewater's Asset Management Plan in the amount of \$216,796.30.	2026-18-08
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Westwind Construction & Development for the Abbey 42 private water filtration and plumbing upgrades in the amount of \$414,447.28; and approval of a budget amendment in the same amount.	2026-18-09
- approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Cooper Township and the Georgia Pacific Parties for water connections.	2026-18-10
- approval of the Mayor's appointment of Keshia Dickason to the Civil Rights Board for a term expiring on March 31, 2027.	2026-18-11
- approval of the following appointments to boards and commissions:	2026-18-12
- the appointment of Katie Bloom to the Environmental Concerns Committee for a term expiring on January 1, 2027.	
- the appointment of Elizabeth Kraatz to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2027.	
- approval of a request from the Kalamazoo Country Club for a permit to publicly display fireworks at 1609 Whites Road on Friday, July 3, 2026.	2026-18-13
- approval of a request from the Kalamazoo Growlers to publicly display fireworks at Homer Stryker Field on May 29, June 12, June 26, July 4, July 10, and July 31, 2026.	2026-18-14

2026-18-15

- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on April 20, 2026.

2026-18-16

- approval of a purchase agreement with Stephen and Linda French for the purchase of Parcel No. 07-27-280-012 in Comstock Township in the amount of \$57,000. (Postpone until May 18, 2026)

Vice Mayor Duncan, 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

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda**2026-18-17**

Resolution 26-21 re:
the 2027 DWSRF
Project Plan

Public Services Director James Baker delivered a presentation entitled *2027 DWSRF Project Plan Public Meeting – Lead Service Line Replacements: City Hall, Monday, May 11, 2026, 7:00 p.m.* A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Director Baker responded to Commissioner questions regarding outreach to residents (including language accessibility), the implementation of a feedback loop, the impact of having received other DWSRF loans on the likelihood the City will be successful with this application, whether all the lead service lines to be replaced in this phase had been identified, the neighborhoods where this work had been completed, and whether smart meters would be installed in conjunction with service line replacements.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Vice Mayor Duncan, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** adopting a Project Plan for Water System Improvements and designating James J. Baker, P.E. as the authorized project representative.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7-0.

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

NAYS: None

Director Baker delivered a presentation entitled *Portage Street – Cork to Stockbridge MDOT Contract No. 26-5078: City Commission, Monday, May 11, 2026*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Director Baker responded to Commissioner questions regarding disruption mitigation for affected businesses, the installation of dual sidewalks rather than bike lanes, how the bike lanes with this project would fit with the larger bike network, whether the project area included Heritage Community, the types of pedestrian refuge islands that would be installed, the merge section just north of Reed Street, the urban chip-seal process, the number of miles of roadway the City maintained, the right turn lane at Miller Road, and the speed limit(s) on Portage after the project.

Public Comments:

Tobi Hanah-Davies, City resident, expressed support

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving Contract No. 26-5078 with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the 4-to-3 lane conversion of Portage Street with bike lanes from Cork Street to Stockbridge Avenue in the amount of \$1,039,402, which includes \$750,000 in federal grant funds and a City share of \$289,402.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-1.

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

NAYS: Vice Mayor Duncan

Director Baker delivered a presentation entitled *Railroad Crossing Elimination Planning Grant: City Commission, Monday, May 11, 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 a “do-nothing” option, the transition of ownership for property currently owned by the railroads, the future use of vacated railroad rights-of-way, job losses associated with moving the rail yard, neighborhood support for the project, the timeline for the planning process, next steps once a plan is in place, funding sources for the work to implement the plan, to-date actions the City has taken related to this project, and the impacts of the recent train derailment downtown.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** accepting a \$3,225,000 funding package, including a Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant and State Incentive Payments, and approving a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,225,000.

2026-18-18

Resolution 26-22 re:
MDOT Contract No.
26-5078, Portage
Street 4-to-3 Lane
Conversion

2026-18-19

Resolution 26-23 re:
Railroad Crossing
Elimination Planning
Grant and MDOT
Funding

2026-18-19

Resolution 26-23 re:
Railroad Crossing
Elimination Planning
Grant and MDOT
Funding (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

Reports and Legislation**2026-18-20**

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hankins highlighted items in the written City Manager's Report, including the Employee Appreciation Event, the City's response to recent windstorms, and his attendance at meet-and-greet events in the community.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Hess offered remarks on the City Clerk's Office and the May 5th election; Public Safety Station 2 hosting fifth grade students from Woodward Elementary School; the Neighborhood Connect event on May 6th; the downtown IK 2035 Design It! events; and the opening of The Landing Place family shelter.

Vice Mayor Duncan announced he was partnering with ISAAC for a gun violence summit on July 1st. Vice Mayor Duncan spoke about Mother's Day and the National Day of Prayer event at City Hall.

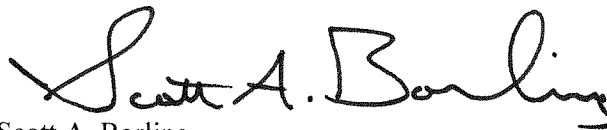
Commissioner Praedel offered comments on the importance of the lead service line replacement project and the Portage Street 4-to-3 lane conversion project; Public Services Week events; and meeting with a couple of students to discuss ways to motivate youth for public service.

Mayor Anderson thanked Vice Mayor Duncan for throwing out the first pitch at the Milwood Little League opening day, and he offered remarks on the opening of the Farmer's Market.

Adjournment

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on:

5/18/2026

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