

Roll Call

A regular business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, July 20, 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 Father Bryce Buffenbarger from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation
2026-28-01

Commissioner Hoffman read a proclamation entitled *Northside Day, August 8, 2026*. Jonathan Yarbrough, Executive Director of the Northside Association for Community Development (NACD), received the proclamation.

Formal Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

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

City Attorney Leal requested the following item be added to the Regular Agenda as Item H-5: consideration of settlement agreement in the federal and state cases, both titled, *Dirk Adam v City of Kalamazoo* in the amount of \$125,000.

Public Comments

Public Comments

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

Deb Droppers, City resident and a representative of Midtown Fresh, presented updates regarding the Farmers' Market.

2026-28-02

Sam Dixson, regarding the City's mishandling of a criminal case against him in 2008. (documents filed)

Iris Potter, non-resident, regarding call-in public comments, a moratorium on data centers in the City, and the need for a City representative on the Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ray Sweany, City resident, regarding the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care's five-year plan to end homelessness.

Stephanie Vallar, City resident, regarding Flock cameras, mobile nuisance parties, and general criminal activity in the Northside Neighborhood.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Sarah Pruitt, City resident, regarding Flock surveillance cameras and a moratorium on data centers in the City.

Quentin Sandberg, City resident, regarding the services and assistance he received from the City when he was homeless.

Bryan Boughton, non-resident, regarding accountability and equity vis-à-vis Flock surveillance cameras.

Charlae Davis, regarding the Democracy Defenders event on July 1st, Flock surveillance cameras, and a moratorium on data centers in the City.

Matt Griffith, City resident, regarding Flock surveillance cameras and a moratorium on data centers in the City.

Tina McClinton, City resident, regarding flooding, traffic issues, high rents, high crime, call-in public comments, and a moratorium on data centers.

Jody Dozeman, City resident, regarding various issues.

Mattie Jordan-Woods, City resident, regarding Flock surveillance cameras.

Jonathan Yarbrough, Executive Director of NACD, regarding homeless encampments in the Northside Neighborhood, canvassing for the Northside Home Ownership Fund, National Night Out, gun violence in the City, Flock surveillance cameras, and Northside Day.

An anonymous speaker and the organizer of Sunday Fundays, regarding the increase in police interactions at these events in 2026.

Joe Williams, City resident, regarding the need for citizens to work together to solve the community's problems and make Kalamazoo better.

Thelma, City resident, regarding the need for community conversations about Flock surveillance cameras.

Lisa Jordan, City resident, regarding a recent shooting at Interfaith Homes.

Kimberly Hooper, City resident, regarding Flock surveillance cameras.

Willie Mae Dunning, City resident, regarding nuisance parties and related property damage in the Northside Neighborhood.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, regarding the Educational Support Professionals (ESP) Bill of Rights. (document filed)

2026-28-03

Amanda, City resident, regarding homeless encampments in the area bounded by East Cork Street, South Burdick Street, Kilgore Road, and Lovers Lane.

2026-28-04

Jeff Messer, City resident, regarding the removal of the fence around the Arcadia Creek Festival Place and Flock surveillance cameras. (document filed)

Erin, City resident, regarding the removal of the fence around the Arcadia Creek Festival Site.

Salvano, City resident, regarding the Arcadia Creek Festival Place and data centers.

Diop Harris, non-resident, regarding data centers.

Consent Agenda

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:

2026-28-05

- approval of a one-year contract extension with Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company for the purchase of actuarial services in the amount of \$129,500.

2026-26-06

- approval of a professional service agreement with HDR Michigan Inc for the City of Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant raw sewage force main condition assessment in the amount of \$135,100.

2026-28-07

- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Monoform LLC for manhole rehabilitation in the amount of \$301,405.

2026-28-08

- approval of a 17-month contract extension with Blu Cleaning for custodial services at various city properties in the amount of \$379,650.88 and approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$17,800.

2026-28-09

- approval of a contract with L D Docsa Associates Inc for Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant Secondary Clarifier Catwalk rehabilitation in the amount of \$457,900.

2026-28-10

- approval of a professional service agreement supplemental and change order with Tetra Tech, Inc. for the Water Treatment Plant No. 25 Electrical Reliability Project Construction engineering in the amount of \$753,400.

2026-28-11

- approval of a utility easement with Kalamazoo Community Courtyard for water main installed as part of the Duke Street Apartments Project.

2026-28-12

- approval of the Mayor's reappointment of Daniel Kastner to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2028.

2026-28-13

- first reading of a Buy/Sell Agreement with Parktowne, LLC for the purchase of 1517 South Park Street, in the amount of \$605,000.

Commissioner Wilson, 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

City Manager Hankins introduced for consideration a professional service agreement with Tetra Tech Inc., for design engineering services for secondary clarifier rehabilitation at the City of Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant.

Commissioner Questions:

In response to a Commissioner request, Director Baker provided general information about the secondary clarifier rehabilitation project and project timeline.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Vice Mayor Duncan, moved to approve a professional service agreement with Tetra Tech Inc., for design engineering services for secondary clarifier rehabilitation at the City of Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant in the amount of \$1,500,000; and authorize the City Manager to sign all related documents.

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 contract with SWT Excavating, Inc for the Burdick Street (Emerson to Stockbridge) Water Main Replacement Project.

Commissioner Questions: none

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to approve a contract with SWT Excavating, Inc for the Burdick Street (Emerson to Stockbridge) Water Main Replacement Project in the amount of \$2,577,774; 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

2026-28-14

Professional Service Agreement for Construction Engineering re: Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation

2026-28-15

Contract for the Burdick Street Water Main Replacement Project

2026-28-16

Contract re: the 2026
Water Meter
Replacement Project

City Manager Hankins introduced for consideration a contract with Utility Metering Solutions, LLC for the 2026 Water Meter Replacement Project.

Commissioner Questions:

In response to a Commissioner request, Director Baker provided an overview of the water meter replacement program.

Public Comments:

Ray Sweany, City resident, expressed support.

Joe Williams, City resident, expressed support.

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve a contract with Utility Metering Solutions, LLC for the 2026 Water Meter Replacement Project in the amount of \$3,038,791; 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

2026-28-17

Contract re: the
Treatment Plant No. 25
Electrical Reliability
Project

City Manager Hankins introduced for consideration a contract with LD Docsa Associates, Inc. for the Treatment Plant No. 25 Electrical Reliability Project.

Commissioner Questions:

Director Baker responded to Commissioner questions regarding smart meters, the treatment plant, the electrical reliability project, the need for automated controls, the risks associated with not completing this project, and the physical structures that will house the water treatment components.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to approve a contract with LD Docsa Associates, Inc. for the Treatment Plant No. 25 Electrical Reliability Project in the amount of \$11,227,000; 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 Attorney Leal provided an overview of the proposed settlement in the case *Dirk Adam v City of Kalamazoo*.

Commissioner questions: none

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to approve a settlement in the federal and state cases entitled *Dirk Adam v City of Kalamazoo* in the amount of \$125,000; 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

Reports and Legislation

City Manager Hankins reviewed items in the written *July 20, 2026 City Manager's Report*.

Policy Items

Vice Mayor Duncan, seconded by Commissioner Slaby, moved that the City Commission direct the City Attorney, in concert with the City Manager, to prepare alternative amendments to the rules and procedures concerning public comment. The alternatives should include options regarding the duration of individual public comments, opportunities for remote participation through call-in technology, and the placement of general comments on the meeting agenda, together with any related procedural changes necessary to implement these options. The City Clerk, City Manager, and City Attorney should also identify legal and operational considerations on public engagement associated with each alternative and return them to the City Commission for a vote.

Discussion followed. Commissioners requested the staff response and recommendation take into consideration and address the following:

- the current practices of the City's other boards, commissions, and committees regarding call-in public comments, and the need for consistency between the City Commission and these boards
- a proactive plan to deal with hate speech during public comments while upholding First Amendment rights
- the sections of the agenda where call-in comments would be allowed
- staffing considerations
- the length of individual public comments
- the position of general public comments on the agenda

City Manager Hankins indicated he had enough information and clarity to proceed with the City Commission's request, and he suggested Commissioners send him any additional questions and ideas they might have on the issue.

Settlement re: *Dirk Adam v City of Kalamazoo*

2026-28-18
City Manager's Report

Policy Items

Call-In Public
Comments

Call-In Public
Comments (cont'd)

Public Comments:

The following people expressed support for the motion and for the reinstatement of a call-in option for public comments:

Tina McClinton, City resident
Iris Potter, non-resident
Shone Espinoza, City resident
Jeff Messer, City resident
Erin, City resident
Charlae Davis, City resident
Matt Griffith, City resident

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

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

NAYS: None

New Business

New Business

Discussion re: a
Moratorium on Data
Centers

Discussion took place regarding a moratorium on data centers.

Vice Mayor Duncan suggested the City explore the legality of a two-year moratorium on data centers. There were no objections.

City Attorney Leal indicated he could give a 15-20-minute presentation at a Committee of the Whole meeting that would focus on the definition of, and legal parameters for, moratoria.

Vice Mayor Duncan requested that City Attorney Leal give this presentation at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Commissioners suggested the following topics for exploration:

- the full range of tools available to help the community deal with data centers
- potential moratoria on other types of facilities, such as those involving cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence, and battery storage
- the intersection of this issue with the Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 Master Plan process
- the zoning tools currently available and the ones potentially available if the current zoning rules were changed

City Attorney Leal requested clarification on the scope of his presentation.

City Manager Hankins offered that a moratorium would give space for staff to study the topics Commissioners had mentioned.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Hess offered remarks on the groundbreaking for the two-way streets project, the recent screening of the movie Natchez at the Arcus Center for

Social Justice Leadership, and upcoming community events, including National Night Out.

Commissioner Slaby commented on the NACD Community Garden, the National Day of Summer Learning, and the Workplace Power event at Shakespeare's Pub.

Vice Mayor Duncan spoke about park rangers and the enforcement of park rules, the license plate information collected during the enforcement action at Spring Valley Park, the idea of a parking ticket amnesty day, the Democracy Defenders event on July 1st, and his reaction to the Natchez movie.

Mayor Anderson offered reflections on his opportunities to perform marriages.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Adjournment