

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, July 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

Public Comments

When an opportunity was given for general public comments the following people addressed the City Commission:

2026-27-01

Sam Dixison, City resident, regarding the mishandling of a criminal case against him in 2008. (documents filed)

Jody Dozeman, regarding various issues.

Sean Duty, regarding the many resources available to City residents.

Michael, regarding the need for housing, employment, and mental health resources.

Thurman Duncan, regarding the fencing around Arcadia Park.

An anonymous speaker, regarding her experience as an unhoused person and recovering addict.

Montrey Merritt, regarding the need for mental health resources and kindness for the unhoused.

Special Agenda Items**2026-27-02**

Presentation re: Proposed Amendments to City Commission Policy 30.9, *Marihuana Social Equity Policy*

Economic Development Supervisor Bobby Boyd delivered a presentation entitled *Marihuana Social Equity Policy Amendments: July 20, 2026*. A copy of the slides from the presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, Economic Development Supervisor Boyd responded to Commissioner questions regarding the industries that would be covered by the new policy, the specific policy language that reflects the expanded focus to other industries, the Cannabis Chamber and whether promoting membership in the Chamber would be a priority and part of the next Request for Proposal (RFP), where the disparate impact of marihuana enforcement was addressed in the four pillars, the amount of cannabis tax and

fee revenue the City had received from 2020-2025, whether social equity benefits would be limited to City residents or if owners of businesses in the City would qualify, the reason(s) for a lack of successful social equity businesses in the City to date, the City's efforts to hold cannabis businesses accountable for social equity compliance, whether the social equity program could be managed in-house in the future rather than through contracts, clarification on whether the future vision was for social equity programs to be managed by a separate Cannabis Chamber organization or internally by City staff, and whether staff had evaluated the demographic composition of City neighborhoods to see if the focus of the social equity policy should be expanded to other parts of the City.

Commissioner Slaby, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson indicated the City Commission would not be returning to open session following the closed session.

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

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

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2026-27-02

Presentation re: Proposed
Amendments to City
Commission Policy 30.9,
*Marihuana Social Equity
Policy* (cont'd)

Closed Session