

Minutes for the City of Lansing Charter Commission

Regular Meeting | Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 6:30 PM

Tony Benavides City Council Chambers,
Lansing City Hall, 10th floor, 124 W. Michigan Ave.

Present: Commissioners Adams Simon, Anderson, Bauer, Boyd, Dowd, Jeffries, Lopez, Qawwee, Washington

Absent: none

Staff Present: City Clerk Swope, Deputy Clerk Drever, Attorney Rewa

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeffries at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

Clerk Swope called the roll of the Commission. A quorum was present.

Adopt the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Dowd to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Jon Scott spoke against term limits for members of Boards and Commissions.

Officer Reports

Chair

No report.

Vice-Chair

No report.

Clerk

No report.

Presentation

- A. Steve Purchase, Chair, and Jon Scott, At Large Member, Board of Fire Commissioners
- B. DeYeya Jones, Chair, and Sam Brewster, Vice-Chair, Board of Police Commissioners

The presenters overviewed the work of their respective Commissions, including hiring chiefs, reviewing policies, and providing transparency. Then, they took questions from [Charter] Commissioners on annual reports, complaints and investigations, disciplinary procedures, hiring and promotion of chiefs, term limits, advisory functions, meeting procedures, and training for Commission members.

The Commission took a brief recess and resumed business at 7:40 PM.

Old Business

- A. Article 5: Line-by-Line Review

Attorney Rewa overviewed the April 17 legal opinion that addresses Article 5.

Commissioner Washington asked whether eligibility to serve is affected for people on felony probation or parole.

Commissioners discussed term limits for appointees to boards and commissions.

Commissioner Washington expressed opposition to adding term limits to the Charter.

Commissioner Boyd expressed opposition to adding term limits to the Charter.

Commissioner Lopez suggested increased public education about boards and commissions and a limit of three four-year terms.

Commissioner Dowd expressed concern about not being able to review returning members to boards and commissions.

Commissioner Washington suggested evaluating all applicants when a term expires, instead of an automatic reappointment.

Vice-Chair Adams Simon shared she did not experience a formal reappointment during her time on the Board of Ethics.

Commissioner Bauer expressed support for detailing the reappointments process.

Commissioner Washington expressed support for both the Council and the Mayor making appointments, mirroring the current appointments process for the Board of Ethics.

5-105

Moved by Commissioner Washington to amend 5-105.1 to read “Each board shall organize itself for the conduct of its business and select its own officers.”

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Boyd to amend 5-105.4 to read “.4 The rules shall require that public notice of all meetings shall be given in the manner provided by statute for meetings of public bodies. **Notice shall also be posted to the City’s website and by any means determined by the City to achieve widespread dissemination to the general public in the City to inform on matters of municipal concerns.**”

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to amend 105.8 to read “All rules of procedure shall be submitted to the City Attorney for approval as to form. The rules shall then be submitted to the City Clerk for transmission to the City Council. **The rules shall be effective at the conclusion of the next regularly scheduled Council meeting following the meeting in which they were received unless the Council directs otherwise.**”

Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed appropriate timelines for placing minutes on file for 5-105.10. No action was taken.

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to amend 5-105.11 to read “Members of advisory boards shall serve without compensation, **but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses as authorized in the annual budget or as otherwise approved by City Council.**”

Motion carried.

5-202

By unanimous consent, the Commission restored the previous language about a secretary in 5-202.3 and moved the new language about quarterly meetings to 5-202.4. This was following an interpretation error of the motion at the April 1 meeting.

4-308

Moved by Commissioner Anderson to keep the language in 4-308.3 as it is written.

Motion carried.

Chair Jeffries extended an invitation to labor leaders in the City for the discussions on Article 6: City Employees.

Public Comment

Amanda Castillo spoke about the proposed ethical investment clause.

Commissioner Remarks

No remarks were made.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jeffries at 8:37 PM.