

# Minutes for the City of Lansing Charter Commission

Regular Meeting | Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 6:30 PM

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

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

Absent: Commissioners Anderson (excused), Lopez (excused)

Staff Present: City Clerk Swope, Chief Deputy Clerk Jackson, 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 Boyd to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

## Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Dowd to adopt the April 29, 2025, minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

## Public Comment

Fred McLaughlin spoke about the importance of Boards and Commissions.

Amanda Castillo spoke about the proposed ethical investment clause.

## Officer Reports

### Chair

Chair Jeffries reminded everyone that next week the Commission will work on Article 7: Taxation and Finance. This work will feature a presentation from Crystal Thomas, the City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer.

### Vice-Chair

No report.

### Clerk

No Report.

## New Business

### A. Article 8: Regulatory Powers and Contracts

8-101.1 and .2 were adopted as presented unanimously.

8-102 was adopted as presented unanimously.

## Old Business

### A. Article 3: Legislative Branch

Attorney Rewa overviewed the May 2 legal opinion that addresses 3-206 and 3-207 on Investigations and Rights and Responsibilities of Council Members.

Commissioners discussed the repealing some of the language they previously adopted in these provisions. No action taken.

### B. Article 4: Executive Branch

Attorney Rewa overviewed the March 28 legal opinion that addresses sustainability.

Commissioner Washington expressed she is not in favor of creating a new board.

Commissioner Qawwee suggested that creating a sustainability board was to protect funding for sustainability efforts.

Moved by Commissioner Dowd to amend 4-308.2 to read “The Department of Public Service shall be in charge of those agencies and programs responsible for the provision of construction, engineering, maintenance, sewage and waste disposal services and facilities, and traffic, **and sustainability, including environmental affairs activities and environmental justice within the City.**”

Motion carried 6-1, with Commissioner Qawwee voting against.

### C. Article 5: Boards and Commissions

Moved by Commissioner Bauer to adopt the proposed Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Board language as Article 5 Chapter 7.

Commissioners discussed the impacts of adding this board to the Charter.

Motion failed, by the following roll call vote:

YEAS (2): Commissioners Qawwee, Bauer

NAYS (4): Commissioners Washington, Boyd, Dowd, Jeffries

ABSTAIN (1): Commissioner Adams Simon

Vice-Chair Adams Simon abstained because she is reviewing information and has not formed her position.

### D. Article 6: City Employees

Attorney Rewa overviewed the May 2 legal opinion that addresses Article 6: City Employees. The goal was to update the non-discrimination language to bring it up to date.

Moved by Vice-Chair Adams Simon to adopt the proposed language for 6-301: Non-discrimination.

Motion carried. 6-301 now reads “No City employee or applicant for employment shall be discriminated against because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, physical or mental disability, family status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, breastfeeding a child or expressing human milk, veteran status, medical condition including genetic characteristics, HIV status, source of income, ancestry, student status, housing status, political affiliation or belief, service in armed forces in sovereign nations, linguistic characteristics such as accent or limited English, English proficiency, or other characteristic as defined by law, or any other basis

prohibited by law, including any additional protections identified by law. Notwithstanding the above, nothing in this section prohibits consideration of a bona occupational qualification as defined by law. It is permissible to give preferential treatment in hiring to veterans and their relatives as required by federal or state law.”

## New Business

### A. Article 8: Regulatory Powers and Contracts

8-201.1 was adopted as presented unanimously.

8-302 was adopted as presented unanimously.

8-303.2 was adopted as presented unanimously.

8-401.2 was adopted as presented unanimously.

8-402.1 and .2 were adopted as presented unanimously.

8-403.1, .4, .5, and .6 were adopted as presented unanimously.

Moved by Vice-Chair Adams Simon to strike 8-501: Marijuana.

Commissioners discussed the impacts of amending or striking this provision.

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to table the decision on 8-501: Marijuana.

Motion failed by the following roll call vote:

YEAS (3): Commissioners Qawwee, Boyd, Jeffries

NAYS (4): Commissioners Washington, Adams Simon, Bauer, Dowd.

Motion carried 5-2.

## Public Comment

No comments were made.

## Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Washington reminded commissioners to turn off their microphones during recess.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jeffries at 7:42 PM.