

Minutes for the City of Lansing Charter Commission

Regular Meeting | Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 6:30 PM

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Bauer (excused)

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeffries at 6:31 PM.

Roll Call

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

Adopt the Agenda

Moved by Vice-Chair Adams Simon to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Dowd to adopt the May 6, 2025 minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Officer Reports

Chair

No report.

Vice-Chair

No report.

Clerk

Clerk Swope acknowledged written communications in the packet and introduced intern Jessica Herrera.

Presentation

A. Amanda Castillo and Sam Burton, Ethical Investment Clause Co-authors

Amanda Castillo and Sam Burton presented an overview of the proposed ethical investment clause. Then, they took questions from the Commissioners on current investments for the City, alternative plans for pensions, implementation of the clause, procurement, and additional avenues to codify the clause.

B. Crystal Thomas, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Lansing

Crystal Thomas, the City's Chief Financial Officer, introduced herself and made herself available to answer questions about Article 7. The Commissioners asked her questions as they went through Article 7.

New Business

A. Article 2: Line-by-line Review

Following the advice of CFO Crystal Thomas, the following provisions in Article 7 were **adopted as presented unanimously**:

Chapter 1- Budget: 7-101 Submission of Budget, 7-102 Council Budget Priorities, 7-103.2 Budget Message, 7-105.2 Adoption of Budget Resolution, 7-106 Item Veto; 7-107.1, .2, and .4 Effect of Appropriation; 7-108 Supplemental Appropriations; 7-109.1 and .4 Capital Improvements Plan; 7-110 Control of Expenditures, and 7-111 Uniform System of Accounts.

The following Chapter 1 provisions are pending further information:

7-103.1, .3, .4, .5, .6, and .7 Budget Message; 7-104 Budget Hearing; 7-105.1 Adoption of Budget Resolution, 7-107.3 Effect of Appropriation, and 7-109.2 and .3 Capital Improvements Plan.

Chapter 2- Taxation: 7-201 Power to Tax; Tax Limit, 7-202 Subjects of Taxation, 7-203 Exemptions, 7-204 Duties of the City Assessor, 7-205.1, .3, .4, .5, .6, and .7 Board of Review; 7-206 Taxes Become Lien, 7-207 State, City, County, School And Community College Taxes, 7-208 Collection of Taxes, 7-209 Delinquent Tax Collection Procedure.

The following Chapter 2 provision is pending further information: 7-205.2 Board of Review.

Chapter 3- Borrowing: 7-301 General Borrowing Power, 7-302 Limitations on Borrowing, 7-303 Use of Borrowed Funds, 7-305 Special Assessment Bonds.

The following Chapter 3 provision is pending further information: 7-304 Excuse of Obligations.

Chapter 4- Special Assessments: 7-401 Power to Assess, 7-402 Procedure Ordinance, 7-403.1 Additional Assessments, 7-404 Contest of Assessments, 7-405 Lien and Collection of Special Assessments, 7-406 Postponement of Payments, 7-407 Special Assessment Accounts, 7-408 All Property Liable for Special Assessment

Moved by Commissioner Washington to amend 7-403.2 to require a 2/3 vote by Council to confirm.
Motion carried.

Public Comment

Kayla Makela spoke about the proposed ethical investment clause.

Nik Finch spoke about the proposed ethical investment clause and technological accessibility of the City.

Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Boyd asked about the business at the next meeting

Chair Jeffries talked about the plan to review the remaining pending items in the Charter to be done by June 3.

Commissioner Lopez spoke about Ordinance 206.23 that is topical for the Ethical Investment Clause.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jeffries at 8:16 PM.