MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, May 19, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER
Council President Kost called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT
Councilmember Jeffrey Brown
Councilmember Peter Spadafore
Councilmember Tamera Carter
Councilmember Trini Pehlivanoglu
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Ryan Kost
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Greg Venker, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, City Attorney
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's office
Mayor Schor
Jack Brower, Chief Strategy Officer
Jackson Mills, Budget
Loretta Stanaway
Brad Jorae, IAFF 421

Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2025, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment
Ms. Stanaway spoke on the training for boards and commissions, asking for ethics rules to be revised so any responsibilities change ethics affidavits are refiled. Ms. Stanaway spoke in support of opposing liquor license for 924 Kalamazoo.

Mr. Jorae spoke in support of any proposed amendments for fire fighter staffing. Mr. Jorae asked for discussions on easing the burden of retiree health cost sharing.

Discussion/Action:

ORDINANCE – Readopting the Codified Ordinances
Council President Kost noted this is a yearly exercise so there are no lapses in ordinances.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION ON ANNUAL RECODOFICATION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Annual Training Requirement; all City Boards and Commission training on Ethics Ordinance, conflicts of interest, and the Open Meetings Act.
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR ANNUAL ETHICS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND OMA TRAINING FOR ALL CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

DISCUSSION – Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Policies
Council President Kost noted these were reviewed at earlier meetings and asked for any comments. No comments from Council Members.

RESOLUTION – Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget & Policies
Council Member Garza proposed the following amendment:

> This is to add 2 firefighters for a total of 3 new positions for FY 2026 (1 per 24-hour shift) and to create a legislative analyst for stronger attention to the impact of City legislative proposals.
> The proposal recognizes $100,000 in additional statutory revenue sharing from updated estimates from the State's May 2025 Consensus Revenue Estimates and reallocates $250,000 in contingency expense for a net increase of $100,000 across both revenues and expenditures for the General Fund for no impact to fund balance.

Account	**Line Item**	**To**	**From**
101-000000-679100	General Fund, State Grants, Statutory Revenue Sharing		($100,000)
101-173901-998000	General Fund, Non-Departmental, Contingency		($250,000)
101-112101-702000	General Fund, City Council Personnel, Salary	$62,000	
101-112101-715300	General Fund, City Council Personnel, Retirement	$35,000	
101-112101-715400	General Fund, City Council Personnel, Fringes	$33,000	
	Subtotal– Council Personnel	**$130,000**	
101-343520-702000	General Fund, Fire Personnel, Salary	$116,800	
101-343520-715300	General Fund, Fire Personnel, Retirement	$67,200	
101-343520-715400	General Fund, Fire Personnel, Fringes	$31,400	
	Subtotal – Fire Personnel	**$220,000**	
Total		**$350,000**	**($350,000)**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT AS STATED FOR 2 FIREFIGHTERS AND 1 LEGISLATIVE ANALYST.

Council Member Jackson noted there are different departments in this amendment and asked how many vacancies in the police department in comparison to fire department. He asked how many currently funding vacant positions there are with the fire department. Mayor Schor stated they are actively recruiting, and expect to be full, and adding these positions will continue to hire. It is the administration's intention to fill and front load. Council Member Jackson, noted that there is always an intent to fill, but still looking for the list of vacancies in LFD and LPD. With retirement there is still a vacancy and asked again how many vacant positions. Mr. Brower was not able to provide the number and Mayor Schor stated Ms. O'Leary the HR Director is coming up to the meeting.

Council Member Spadafore highlighted that in October the Council sent priorities to the mayor, and asked Council look into how the priorities were shaped, and this is important and were not part of the priorities. In the future Ways and Means can look into vacancies for the budget priorities this fall.

Ms. O'Leary stated that there were 3 fire vacancies, and they can be moving based on academy, paramedic license requirements, EMT, Fire 1 & 2, and with the additional filling, and there are 3-4 projected retirements for this year. Regarding LPD, there are 25 vacancies, with 5 sworn in last Monday, and 16 in vetting and 3 retirements projected. The HR is currently recruiting laterals from neighboring jurisdictions. Council Member Jackson acknowledged this is closer, but only touching less than 1%.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Council Member Jackson proposed the following amendment:

This Sustainability Specialist position is a full-time position to help assist with the work being done in the Sustainability Department. The Sustainability Specialist would serve under the Sustainability Manager and assist with the daily workload including (but not limited to): grant writing, implementation of existing and new programs including the Climate Action Plan, recycling & landfill management, and energy efficiency programs within the city.
The Sustainability Specialist would help enable the Sustainability Department to continue to increase savings for Lansing. These savings were discussed by the Sustainability Manager in a 2025 EDI Committee meeting and during the Public Service budget hearing.
The Sustainability Specialists would help Lansing in its commitment to its people and the environment by reducing pollution and increasing revenues through grants, energy efficiency and better waste management.

Account	Line Item	To	From
101-173901-998000	General Fund, Non-Departmental, Contingency		($67,000)
202-000000-679100	Major Streets, Appropriation of Fund Balance		($4,000)
203-000000-679100	Local Streets, Appropriation of Fund Balance		($3,000)
590-000000-679100	Sewer Fund, Appropriation of Fund Balance		($14,000)
596-000000-679100	Trash Fund, Appropriation of Fund Balance		($21,000)
597-000000-679100	Recycling Fund, Appropriation of Fund Balance		($21,000)
101-453603-801700	General Fund, Public Service, Operating (Engineering)	$67,000	
202-453634-801700	Major Streets Operating (Engineering)	$4,000	
203-453634-801700	Local Streets Operating (Engineering)	$3,000	
590-453670-801700	Sewer Fund Operating (Engineering)	$14,000	
596-453622-801700	Trash Fund Operating (Engineering)	$21,000	
597-453685-801700	Recycling Fund Operating (Engineering)	$21,000	
Total		**$130,000**	**($130,000)**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLILTY SPECIALIST AS STATED.

Council President Kost noted the first amendment used $67,000 in the resolution that was just passed. Council Member Jackson asked is there not $67,000 in that same fund. Mr. Brower asked if the fund contingency is only the $250,000, and so for this one it would be drawn from fund balance or another account. Council President Kost asked about the rainy day fund, and was told14.2%, with the changes proposed the budget would be balanced without a change in fund balance. If draw from fund balance it would be reduction but currently above balance by 2%. Council Member Jackson noted he did not plan for first amendment to take from first source, he asked Mr. Brower where else the $67,000 come from. Council Member Spadafore acknowledged this was in the budget priorities and asked if he spoke to the department since they started the hiring process. Council Member Jackson stated the 3 Bloomberg have limited to what they can do, and the full scope of the need is beyond what the Bloomberg employees can do, and Ms. Welch stated there is an interest for a FTE to the Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion.
Council President Kost passed the gavel.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST MADE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION TO TAKE THE $67,000 FROM THE “RAINY DAY FUND” WHICH WAS STATED IS AT 14.2%.

Council Member Brown asked what that 14.2 $ is. 173 million, FB 22.8 million, excluding transfers out approximately 6 million

Council Member Garza noted the impact on street funds, and if they can utilize the fund balance. Mr. Brower stated he would need to wait and see what is going to happen with the State on their street funding to the City. The transfer out, is more less for those funding from the property tax millage. Council Member Brown noted the amendment reflects Major and Local street funding for this amendment. He asked what the 2% dollar amount of the FB, can they take from FB instead of streets. Mr. Brower stated it would be less than 1%. Council Member Brown asked again, can the FB used for this budget amendment instead of streets, sewer, trash and recycling. Mr. Brower this was written up for the distribution of what this position is organized. Council Member Brown asked again, instead of taking money from those line items, is it possible to take funds from the 2% of the FB. Mr. Brower stated it would be a proposal to increase the cost of the GF. Council Member Spadafore said the $250,000 contingency was ongoing dollars. Mr. Brower confirmed when the budget was proposed revenue and expenditures was for Council to allocate, and every year can expect. Council Member Spadafore noted when moving from FB, and would not agree with that with pending other increases in the future and other costs in doing business. Council Member Brown asked Council Member Kost if he would want to look at other accounts instead of the GF. Council Member Kost noted a lot of the increases were assessments on property taxes and other revenue streams, and accounts for the increases to match expenditures. In consensus with Council Member Spadafore.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOST WITHDREW HIS MOTION.

Council Member Carter passed the gavel back.

Council Member Jackson spoke on the amendment, and in the future the Mayor could make adjustments in the future budgets to keep this position.

Council Member Garza asked for additional clarification, there still needs another revenue stream for the $67,000, and that was confirmed. Council Member Spadafore noted this entire position is pulled from one time fungoid, and with positions currently and 3 from Bloomberg.

Council Member Jackson, difference between this and the other one, is that amendment went first, and Fire is a priority. Council President Kost noted concerns with the proposed position, with scope of grant writing and the uncertainty of grants in the Federal government with clean initiatives. There might be a conversation with HR on the vacancy factor, with a position that has been vacant for a period. Council Member Jackson stated it is not HR job to determine which position to fill, it is Councils and appreciated the idea.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu appreciated the council's efforts to build capacity, and if this position is proven productive and successful, is it possible to find a way. Sewer, trash and recycling are part of sustainability, and the other three total 74,000 could be found somewhere else, and support this position as a start for sustainability.

Motion by COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVATO AMENDET THE MOTION TO TAKE 74,000 FROM THE 2.2% IN FB. COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT.

Council Member Brown asked for clarification, that trash swore and recycling will stay.
Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if it would impact the GF reserve.
He then asked OCA if recycling can be used this money for this, because it is a fee.
Mr. Venker stated there could be an issue and asked Mr. Brower, as written, there is a draw from major, local, sewer trash recycling FB, not the enterprise. Mr. Brower stated they are draws from their fund balances. Mr. Venker then staeted to Council, if there is a justification to be drawn that recycling benefits, sewer, trash.
Council Member Jackson asked if passes today, in the future there will need to be rational on why it would not be good, and in the future the mayor will have to reconcile next year.

MOTION CARRIED -WITH ROLL CALL 6-2.

MOTION BY CARTER TO APPROVE THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

DISCUSSION – Hearing Notice from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission; ADVANCE UZP, Inc. denied requests for transfer locations to 4700 Pleasant Grove Rd and 1910 E Michigan Avenue.
Council President Kost recapped that Council sent letters to the State Liquor Control Commission in opposition, and the two locations were denied licenses. The owner is now appealing that decision, and Council is now open to discussion on how they feel on the action.

Council Member Jackson would stand behind what Council already took action on, and someone appealing would not change is stance.

Council Member Carter, agreed, but moving forward it Council were to revisit liquor transfers and would like to keep consistent.

Council President Kost stated the appeal hearing is June 17th and referred the public to the packet where the situation stands.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu stated during the hearing, anyone can log in but not input, strictly informational.

Council Member Brown noted he is not in support when the City is over capacity and support the need to be consistent.

Council President Kost spoke on the over saturation of the number of liquor licenses in the City.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO PLACE ON FILE. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Opposition to Liquor License Transfer from 610 N Cedar Steet, Suite A Mason Michigan 48854 to Liquor Express Lansing, Inc. 925 E Kalamazoo Street, Lansing MI 48912 in Lansing City in Ingham County
Council President Kost stated he requested this, and there was a sale of the Kalamazoo property and set up for a liquor store. He then spoke on the location in relation to other businesses with liquor licenses.

Council member Jackson, asked if the transfer fails, will it state at 610 N Cedar. It was clarified that 610 is in Mason.
Council Member Carter noted that there needs to be a location indicated when denying the location and look at the logistics of the location.

Council President Kost asked the OCA, if the liquor license was already purchased. Mr. Venker stated it is to transfer into the City, and typically it would have been purchased, but not sure at what point they notify the City. They can take it anywhere.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER FOR THE OPPOSITION OF LIQUOR LICENSE FROM 610 N. CEDAR SUITE A MASON MICHIGAN TO 925 E KALMAZOO STREET, LANSING. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Other

Closed Session

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER AT 6:03 P.M., Pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, I hereby move that we recess into closed session to consult with the City Attorney to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state statute. Specifically, to discuss written material from the City Attorney provided under attorney-client privilege and attorney work-product, and which is also exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to MCL 15.243(1)(g).
ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Reconvene

Council President Kost reconvened the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm
Respectfully Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee June 23, 2025