



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 22, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Kost called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Office
Greg Venker, City Attorney
Loretta Stanaway
Samantha Vaive, Anishinaabe Friendship Center
Tracie Kent
Demaria Beard
AJ Washington
MS. Pinkston

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment

Ms. Stanaway spoke on budget priorities and her concerns, suggestions for prioritizing public safety. She then concluded by speaking on the limited access to incidents on the river trails.

Ms. Beard spoke on limited access to the Capital on the streets, limited access on streets specifically to 3200 S. Washington, Oliver Gardens, and facilities where there are people who need access. Ms. Beard voiced her concerns with housing and lack of assistance by the City Council, HUD and Lansing Housing Commission.

Ms. Pinkston spoke in support of Ms. Kent appointment to the LEPFA Board of Commissioners.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION –Community Funding Request; Anishinaabe Friendship Center; Annual Traditional POWWOW

Ms. Vaive and Ms. Washington explained the event and the reason for the request. Lansing is a gathering place for the people; “where the rivers meet”. There has not been a center in Lansing since 1999 and this event is coming back to Lansing to bring trust back to the residents, and this POWWOW will be important to bring back annually. Ms. Vaive confirmed it is a free event, opportunity to learn about the culture, LCC has donated the Gannon ramp for parking. This is a small and new non-profit, and asking for the \$500 community fund donation and everything will go towards this event. One hurdle is the rental of Adado Park, which is a concern because that is the ancestral grounds and disheartening having the extreme cost. The groups plan is to do this annually.

Council Member Jackson asked how many people to expect and what the details of the event are. Ms. Washington stated in 2024 throughout the week they have 3,000-5,000 from all over; not just Michigan but also Canada. There were performers from out of state, and this year there is a grand entry at noon and again at 6 pm. It is not just an indigenous event, they invite all the public. Ms. Vaive encouraged everyone to come for the grand entries, bring chairs, and there will be food, events for kids, etc.

Council Member Hussain noted there is precedent where Council has increased higher than \$500 to \$1,000. Each Council Member can also provide funds from their office holder accounts; and waiving of fees would have to be done with the Mayor’s office.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE COMMUNITY FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000 FOR THE ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POWWOW BY ANISHINAABE FRIENDSHIP CENTER. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RESOLUTION –Appointment; Tracie Anne Kent; At Large Member – Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority Board of Commissioners; Term to Expire June 30, 2028

Ms. Kent stated she is seeking consideration to fill the vacancy on LEPFA, moved here in the 1990’s from school of hospitality and since graduating has worked for the local hotels. In addition to her career she has been serving on the Choose Lansing Board as well.

Council Member Garza asked Mr. Lawrence how far the region expands, since Ms. Kent lives outside of the City. Mr. Lawrence stated that region is set up by the State, and Mr. Venker stated there is no requirement for residency but the statute and the Articles of the Board do not have residency requirement, but do they have the education and experience to assist the Board. Council Member Garza acknowledged.

Council President Kost asked how she sees LEPFA working with ASM Global. Ms. Kent stated she is with a franchise hotel, and her experience is working with companies and she thinks this with ASM will be good.

Mr. Venker stepped away at 6:23

Council President Kost asked Ms. Kent if she had creative ideas to utilize Jackson Field more. Ms. Kent recalled when there were concerts that were held there, and people came in for a weekend, so utilizing that for more large events.

Mr. Venker returned at 6:24 p.m.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TRAICE KENT TO THE LEPFA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.
MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

DISCUSSION – Resolution on the Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026/2027
Council President Kost acknowledged the Committee are working on them.

Council Member Spadafore distributed a proposed priority:

Repeat Offenses: Implement a tiered fine structure that increases penalties for repeat violations of the same ordinance or regulation. This approach encourages compliance, deters chronic offenders, and ensures that enforcement costs are more fairly borne by those who repeatedly disregard local laws.

The consensus was to add this item under the Committee of the Whole section in the resolution.

Council Member Garza asked if this was worked on in the past with Code Compliance. Council President Kost they did a fee study, but did not impact what was on the budget fees. Council Member Spadafore that realigned some of the amounts if the fees covered the cost of expenses, and this is fines.

Council Member Jackson asked if there is something already for per violation, general over all. Mr. Venker stated there are some violations, where it can be counted as a new violation if you are out of compliance every day. This is parking violations on property, which is different on proofs to court. There is a limit on all fines by the Act, only as high as \$500. Council Member Spadafore stated that this is to start the discussion because there are some with grass, trash, etc. where the fine does not discourage the poor behavior. Mr. Lawrence stated there is a repeat offender fee over a 12 month period, but this is more related to more parking related.

Council Member Garza recalled code citing street parking. Council President Kost stated that parking cannot do anything with parking on property. Mr. Venker spoke on the current ordinance on who can write violations for streets, on private property, premise violations, code violations, etc.

Council Member Spadafore stated that if there is a method to accomplish this, he is open to that but wanted to take advantage of this budget priority discussion.

Other

No other topics.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee September 29, 2025