

# AGENDA

## Committee of the Whole October 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM



Lansing City Hall, Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers  
124 W. Michigan Avenue, 10th Floor

To provide input or ask questions on any item that is listed on the agenda,  
members of the public may contact the City Council at [city.council@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.council@lansingmi.gov) or (517) 483-4177 prior to the meeting.  
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Council Member Ryan Kost, Chairperson

Council Member Tamera Carter, Vice Chairperson

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Minutes**
  - A. September 29, 2025
4. **Discussion/Action:**
  - B. RESOLUTION - Reappointment; Linda Sanchez-Gazella; Citizen Retiree member of the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees; Term to Expire June 30, 2029
  - C. DISCUSSION - Resolution - Advocacy Support
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items (Up to 3 Minutes)**

**Discussion/Action:**

  - D. ACTION - RESOLUTION - Advocacy Support
6. **Other**
7. **Adjourn**

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TTY 711) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

DRAFT



**MINUTES**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Monday, September 29, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.**  
**Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Kost called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager  
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Office- arrived at 5:33 p.m.  
Greg Venker, City Attorney  
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, City Attorney  
Brandon Waddell, City Attorney  
Loretta Stanaway  
Jennifer Szeisperger, City Assessor

**Minutes**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Stanaway spoke on the budget priorities.

**Discussion/Action:**

RESOLUTION –Special Assessment; Principal Shopping District 2025 Roll  
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY FUNDINGIN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**DISCUSSION – Resolution on the Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026/2027**

Council President Kost summarized the draft resolution and updates from the Committee. Council Member Pehlivanoglu spoke in support of the requests from the Committee on Public Safety.

## DRAFT

Council President Kost referred to the items under Committee of the Whole and proposed removing the amount for feasibility study because it is in the current budget. No opposition. Regarding the funding for the sidewalk, to increase the amount but another \$300,000 making it \$1.3 million. Council Member Jackson stated he is reluctant just keep adding without knowing what \$300,00 would get the City in the amount of sidewalks repaired. It could take up to \$12 million to catch up on the sidewalk, but there can be significant funding, but it is arbitrary. Council President Kost confirmed this would not cover a lot, but this could cover cost for maintenance doing the grinding. Council Member Hussain confirmed it is hard to answer that questions because it deals with repair, gap closure, replacement, grinding, etc.

Mr. Lawrence stated in the past fiscal year 2315 cut, 209 sections wedged, which as \$700,000. The current fiscal year is \$1 million. Council Member Jackson asked if the City had the capacity to do that. Mr. Lawrence is not city employees but a contractor.

Council Member Spadafore stated if asking for funds in the budget it should be a dollar figure and Council Member Hussain concurred including a dollar amount because this is the Council "wish list".

Council President Kost proposed changing to "for a total of \$1.5 million.." No objection by Committee.

Council Member Spadafore proposed changing the local street repair " by \$2 million for a total of \$9 million..." No objection by Committee.

Council Member Jackson spoke on the increase of funds that are needed for sidewalks and streets.

Council Member Hussain noted there was an additional request to get \$7 million, and the Mayor went above that, and were going to funds at \$10 million. It was proposed to change that language to "funding by \$2 million additionally over the FY 2026 funding for local roads...."

Council Member Jackson questioned not having the legal assistance but fund the Eviction Diversion Specialist.

Council Member Carter asked for clarification on the LFD and LPD, and Council Member Pehlivanoglu confirmed it was 3 for each.

Council Member Jackson spoke on the priority for LFD and LPD officer placement, stating this would fund, but still would not put them on the streets. He would support increasing the salary of LPD and LFD so more people would apply. Council President Kost stated he has heard they are struggling with keeping up with the retirements. The administration was asked for the vacancy factor for LFD and LPD; they were not able to provide those numbers. Council Member Jackson voiced his concerns with continuing to fund vacancies, to get officers on the streets the City should increase their benefits and salary, then the next year Council can add more officers. Council President Kost concurred, and with the vacancy factor it needs to be used for the positions not just rolled over.

DRAFT

Council Member Carter asked if the LFD apprenticeship/internship program is the same as the cadet program or separate. Council Member Pehlivanoglu and Hussain confirmed this is separate.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED FOR THE BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**Closed Session**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER Pursuant to MCL 15.268(e), to recess into closed session at 6:02 p.m. to consult with the City Attorney in connection with the following specific pending litigation. An open meeting will have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the City of Lansing concerning these cases:

|                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bernard v. City of Lansing, Meyers, Pulver and Sosebee       |
| CDDM Corporation v. City of Lansing                          |
| City of Lansing v. 113 W. Michigan LLC and JAJ Property LLC  |
| City of Lansing v. Eli Lilly, et al.                         |
| City of Lansing, et al. v. Purdue Pharma, et al.             |
| City of Lansing v. Woodside Meadows Apts Owner LLC           |
| Davis v. City of Lansing, et al.                             |
| Davis, et al. v. City of Lansing                             |
| Eskin v. City of Lansing                                     |
| Fitzpatrick v. City of Lansing                               |
| Fitzpatrick v. City of Lansing, et al.                       |
| Fountain v. City of Lansing and Barabanov                    |
| Harken v. City of Lansing                                    |
| Hokenson v. City of Lansing, et al.                          |
| Hulon v. City of Lansing, et al.                             |
| Mingus v. City of Lansing, et al.                            |
| Republican National Committee v. City of Lansing             |
| Robinson Memorial Church of God in Christ v. City of Lansing |
| Romero v. City of Lansing, et al.                            |
| Turkelson v City of Lansing                                  |
| West Malcom X LLC v. City of Lansing                         |
| Willis v. City of Lansing, et al.                            |

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**Reconvene**

Council President Kost reconvened the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

**Other**

No other topics.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,  
Lansing City Council  
Approved by the Committee

Application for Appointment to Board or Commission

Thank you for your interest in serving on a Lansing Board, Commission, or Committee.

Certain boards, commissions, or committees require appointees to be a registered elector in the City of Lansing (Charter Section 2-102) and be a resident of Lansing for one year prior to taking office (Charter Section 2-102).

Appointees to every board, commission, or committee must not be in default to the City at the time of taking office (Charter Section 2-103.2).

Lansing City Charter, Section 5-104, Ineligibility For Boards, restricts certain City employee activities on some boards: "No person holding another City office or activity employed by the City shall be eligible to be a voting member on any board."

|                                                                                                                                          |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Date                                                                                                                                     | 01/06/2025          |
| First Name                                                                                                                               | Linda               |
| Middle                                                                                                                                   | M                   |
| Last Name                                                                                                                                | Sanchez Gazella     |
| Other name(s) by which you have been known, including maiden names                                                                       | Benavides           |
| Date of Birth                                                                                                                            |                     |
| Home Address                                                                                                                             | 3913 Sierra Heights |
| City                                                                                                                                     | Holt                |
| Zip Code                                                                                                                                 | 48842               |
| Email                                                                                                                                    | Lsan0711@yahoo.com  |
| Gender                                                                                                                                   |                     |
| If you don't know which ward you live in, visit the <a href="#">Lansing Neighborhoods Ward Map</a> and type in your address to find out! |                     |
| Ward                                                                                                                                     | Regional            |
| Best Phone Number to Contact You                                                                                                         |                     |
| In what year did you move to Lansing?                                                                                                    | 1952                |
| Occupational Background                                                                                                                  | Retired             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Educational Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | BA Business Administration                                                                                          |
| <b>Are you a current City of Lansing or Lansing Board of Water and Light employee?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No                                                                                                                  |
| <b>First Choice for Board to Serve on</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees                                                                      |
| <b>Please comment briefly on why you wish to serve on a particular board or commission. Please be specific as to your goals and ideas about how you wish to contribute to the work of the board or commission.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | As past HR director for the City of Lansing, I am familiar with ERS boards. As a current retiree I have an interest |
| <p>This certification is not required but may impact potential consideration of the appointment being sought. I authorize the use of the information provided above to conduct a background search, including but not limited to criminal history, residency, and indebtedness to the City of Lansing. If selected to serve, I further authorize additional background checks during the term of my service to ensure the required criteria continue to be met. I also acknowledge that I have the affirmative duty to inform the City if I become aware of any change or condition in my status that fails to meet the required criteria.</p> |                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Agreement to Background Check Authorization</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I agree</li> </ul>                                                           |
| <b>Please type your name in this box to signify that you can serve on a board or commission and the information in this application is accurate to the best of your knowledge.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Linda Sanchez Gazella                                                                                               |
| <b>Date &amp; Time</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 01/06/2025 9:28 PM (EST)                                                                                            |
| <b>Receive an email copy of this form.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                 |

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Mayor has made the recommendation for reappointment of Linda Sanchez-Gazella as a Citizen Retiree member of the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees for a term to expire June 30, 2029; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's office has confirmed with this resolution, that they have vetted the applicant based on the original application and believes that the applicant meets the qualifications as required by the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Whole met on October 13, 2025 and took affirmative action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council, hereby, confirms the reappointment of Linda Sanchez-Gazella as a Citizen Retiree member of the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

BY COUNCIL MEMBERS BROWN, CARTER, GARZA, HUSSAIN,  
JACKSON, KOST, PEHLIVANOGLU AND SPADAFORÉ  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF LANSING AS AN LGBTQ+ WELCOMING CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing welcomes people of all backgrounds and believes that diversity is one of our greatest strengths; and

WHEREAS, Lansing thrives when all residents and visitors are safe from violence, discrimination, and intimidation; and

WHEREAS, threats against Lansing's LGBTQ+ community and LGBTQ-supportive businesses have been on the rise, fueled by harmful rhetoric at the state and federal levels that emboldens bigotry, intimidation, and vandalism, causing emotional harm, property damage, and economic loss; and

WHEREAS, the Lansing City Council strongly condemns all acts of violence, harassment, or intimidation against the LGBTQ+ community and reaffirms that every individual has the right to live freely and safely in our city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing recognizes that, in the face of inadequate state and federal protections, we must take proactive steps to safeguard our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, any threats, harassment, discrimination, or acts of intimidation by City employees or by organizations receiving City funds will not be tolerated, and appropriate disciplinary or corrective action will be taken; and

WHEREAS, the Lansing City Council encourages the City Administration and its departments to develop and implement pro-LGBTQ+ support policies, to ensure that existing business assistance programs are inclusive of and accessible to LGBTQ+-affirming businesses, and to appoint LGBTQ+ community members to City boards and commissions or establish an LGBTQ+ advisory board to ensure representation and inclusion in civic decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the Lansing City Council supports the right of transgender and gender-diverse individuals to access gender-affirming care safely and without interference, and encourages the Administration to issue an executive order safeguarding access to such care, including prohibiting the use of City resources to block, investigate, prosecute, or detain any person seeking or providing gender-affirming treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Lansing proudly welcomes and encourages members of the LGBTQ+ community to live, work, and thrive here.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Lansing City Council declares Lansing an LGBTQ+ Welcoming City, where every person's identity and sexual orientation are supported and embraced, and where acts of hate or harassment have no place in our community.

BY COUNCIL MEMBERS BROWN, CARTER, GARZA, HUSSAIN,  
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