



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 Szciesperger, 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 FUNDING IN 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.

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.

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 October 13, 2025