



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, October 13, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Kost called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Office
Greg Venker, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, City Attorney
Mayor Schor – arrived at 5:18 p.m.
AJ Schicht
Aria Morey
Puppy Rosser

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2025, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council President Kost stated to the public that at this City Council Committee of the Whole meeting, we affirm the importance of every individual's right to speak and to be heard. Public comment is a vital part of our democratic process, and we welcome diverse perspectives in a space that values respectful dialogue.

To maintain a productive and inclusive environment, we ask all participants to speak respectfully and to listen attentively, even when opinions differ. Everyone deserves to share their views without interruption, intimidation, or hostility.

Please be reminded that this forum operates under established rules to ensure fairness and order. If a participant speaks out of turn, disrupts others, or refuses to follow the rules of conduct, they may be asked to leave the meeting.

Let us all do our part to contribute to a respectful, thoughtful, and civil discussion.

We will stop public comment sign up at the start of agenda item C. At that time Council staff will collect the sign up sheets at the back of the room.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION –Reappointment; Linda Sanchez-Gazella; Citizen Retiree member of the Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees; Term to Expire June 30, 2029
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT LINDA SANCHEZ-GAZELLA; CITIZEN RETIREE MEMBER TO THE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD, TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2029.
MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

DISCUSSION – RESOLUTION – Advocacy Support

Council Member Jackson spoke briefly on the reasoning behind the draft document. This included the reasoning due to a request from constituents. Council Member Jackson summarized the meeting of Equity Diversity and Inclusion, and their requests, demands, and statements to help enlighten the City, Mayor's office and Council. Based on the discussion, Council Member Jackson stated he drafted the resolution in the packet, after reaching out to the Advocacy representatives, who came back with a change making sure discrimination is included as something that is unacceptable by City employees or City agencies receiving funds. Council Member Jackson concluded by stating his belief is this captures the request and the draft starts the discussion. Council President Kost noted there are copies at the back of the room.

Council Member Spadafore acknowledged everyone who came to the Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion with action recommendations that were under the purview of the City. He then read a proposed amending the 7th WHEREAS to:

WHEREAS, the Lansing City Council will develop pro-LGBTQ+ ordinances and policies, and encourages the Administration to do the same, to ensure that existing and new programs are inclusive of and accessible to LGBTQ+-affirming individuals and businesses; and to place LGBTQ+ community members to City boards and commissions or establish an LGBTQ+ advisory board to ensure representation and inclusion in civic decision-making; and

Because according to the Council Member Spadafore he supports Council having a part in it.

Council Member Jackson stated this is a strong Mayor form of government where the Mayor does the policies, and contracts, and encourages the Mayor. If Council made a recommendation for policy, the OCA would tell Council they cannot do a policy but can only recommend, and that is why it was worded the way it was.

Council Member Brown spoke in concurrence with Council Member Jackson.

Mr. Lawrence stated they are currently doing employee trainings and working on making the City a welcoming place.

Council President Kost stated he has heard of three (3) incidents in the 1st Ward, the Ward he represents. As soon as they have happened he has worked with the owners, LPD, public service and the Mayor to address the concerns. Regardless of this resolution outcome, he will continue to work on this, and Council is aware of the problems beyond words.

Council Member Jackson asked for an consideration on any action after public comment.

Council Member Spadafore stated that he proposed the amendment to make sure that legislation has a role in this as.

Public Comment

AJ Schicht acknowledged the Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion for starting the discussion and spoke in support of language for change, and asking Council to take their concerns to actualize the statements in the resolution.

Aria Morey spoke in support of the resolution as presented in the packet; draft 2 and acknowledge the Council for their continued work.

Puppy Rosser spoke in support of the resolution as it is currently written. Puppy did question why “welcoming” instead of “sanctuary”.

Discussion/Action:**RESOLUTION – Advocacy Support**

Council Member Jackson accepted the friendly amendment by Council Member Spadafore.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MOTION WITH THE AMENDMENT. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Other

No other topics.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee October 27, 2025