



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, November 10, 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
Councilmember Peter Spadafore
Councilmember Tamera Carter
Councilmember Trini Pehlivanoglu
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Office- arrived at 5:36 p.m.
Greg Venker, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, City Attorney
Brett Kaschinske, Parks & Recreation Director
Spicer Group Representative

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 27, 2025, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION –Reappointment; Chelsea Dowler; City of Lansing member; Capital Area Transportation Authority Board; Term to Expire September 30, 2028

Council Member Kost noted since this was a reappointment, she is not present, and he asked for any discussion. There was no discussion.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CHELSEA DOWLER TO THE CATA BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2028. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Set a Public Hearing; Amend Chapter 294; Extending Eligibility for Retirement Services Credits for Fire and Police Departments

Mr. Venker stated this would allow the Chief of Fire and Police, if they are within the retirement system, if they were officers and extend to Chief they can continue to accrue. This will allow them to exceed the capped 25 years and allow them accrue up to 30 years.

Council President Kost, asked if their whole career had to be in the City of Lansing. Mr. Venker stated they have to be an active member of the LPD or LFD before ascending to Chief.

Council Member Jackson asked where this originated from. Mr. Venker stated it was a request by the Mayor, and there are some members of the force who would wish to stay but would cap at 25. This would only apply to Chief.

Council Member Hussain supported the option, and then asked if this would apply to Chiefs that have retired in the past, and Mr. Venker stated no, and then he was asked if the retirement board reviewed this and if there was an actual of the cost.

Council Member Spadafore stated there is a cap in the clause that the pension cannot be more than 110%. He then asked if there is a mechanism to work back without accruing pension credit. Mr. Venker stated this is complicated and could cause issues with losing the pension system, and those have to be implemented system wide.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2025; AMEND CHAPTER 294; EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIREMENT SERVICE CREDITS FOR FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Set Public Hearing; Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026-2030

Mr. Kaschinske stated they are asking for a public hearing on December 15th, and then went through the presentation. This summarized the study that was done for the new master plan, population statistics, parks, trails, in addition to the focus of their public meetings. This looked into how to connect people to the trails and parks, and are they accessible to the residents. This will also address park land, maintaining those acres, materials used for non-natural areas. The Park Board focused on five (5) areas, diversify, placemaking, connection, accessible, and resiliency. Mr. Kaschinske then referred the Committee to page 92 of the plan on the action plan to work with capital improvement plan, and master plans. With action plan they look at what steps do they take in the future. It was noted that Spicer Group also did the five (5) year plan for the County as well, so it has been helpful coordinating with them.

Council Member Garza asked about the Mod Pod impact on the master plan, and would those impact future grants if they went into a park. Mr. Kaschinske stated that if a park is selected, they would need to look at it as a change of use; park land to campground. If there is a grant history with that park, they would have to look at that case by case with the DNR. Council Member Garza asked if this master plan would have to be amended. Mr. Kaschinske stated that with any site that is chosen they would have to look at zoning, and this would also be part of the discussion.

Council Member Hussain first acknowledged Mr. Kaschinske, his staff and Board for their work and investments at multiple parks, courts, fitness parks, signage, etc. He then asked Mr. Kaschinske about the first objective in the first goal on connectivity; specific to the South extensions, and asked about future connections. Mr. Kaschinske stated their first action is to close on the property where it connects at Waverly, to get across Jolly Road, they would have to get an agreement across private property. There is an 11 acre property that would need to be purchased near entrance of that mobile home park, and Jolly, and then that would connect to school district property. With any land owner saying “no” would end the deal, but their definite plan is to get Waverly Park apartments, but there is a plan and could take years. It is possible and why there is vision and planning by the department and Board. Council Member

Hussain asked about the Foundation projects mentioned, and if there are any updates. Mr. Kaschinske stated that there has been a struggle for a volunteer board to take that on. One thing they are looking at is, how can a part time come in to apply for grants, fund raise, and they are looking at with the Foundation, to have someone to take the lead. Council Member Hussain asked about goals and objective, and asked if there are any opportunities forthcoming with positioning pickle ball courts in SW Lansing. Mr. Kaschinske stated they are looking at Moors Park, Quentin Park is close so talking about that, and in the other park in the area there are basketball courts that they want to keep there. Council Member Hussain referred to Goal 5 – placemaking small investments on the River Trail, use of and asked about amenities on the trail including benches, way finding signage, no bike racks, shade trees, and asked if there is any conversation on enhancing the trails where those are needed. Mr. Kaschinske noted in much of the trail in the SW Lansing, is along the Consumers Energy easement, but they can look at the amenities that they can do in that area. Council Member Hussain then spoke on shade trees in relation to above ground and under ground utilities in that area for them to consider. Council Member Hussain asked about the future of splash pads, and where would those go. Mr. Kaschinske stated that potential is always there, and they look at the areas if it is highly visible, is there traffic in that area and finding the best site for that. Council Member Hussain asked them to continue to explore a walking trail at Williard Walker, and noted Beacon South Soccer Fields has high traffic use, and making investments over the next couple years. Mr. Kaschinske stated that with Beacon is it use vs. abuse situation, and that is good. Their number one thing is the netting, and was not aware of the turf issue but will look into that. A turf replacement was done at Ferris.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR DECEMBER 15, 2025, FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2026-2030.

Council Member Hussain asked if there is planned action on 12/15/2025 and it was confirmed, and Mr. Kachinske stated yes, and it has to be the DNR on February 1, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – City Council Meeting Schedule – 2026

No Committee questions or discussion.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Mr. Lawrence noted that May 6th is a Wednesday, and if they chose that week it would be May 4th.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORÉ TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE AMENDED RESOLUTION OF THE RESOLUTION TO CHANGE MAY 6TH TO MAY 4TH. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Other

No other topics.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee November 17, 2025