



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, December 15, 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 5:33 pm
Greg Venker, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, City Attorney
Chief Backus, LPD
Cathleen Edgerly, DLI
Jacob Nevin, Stoopfest, Inc.
Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation
James Lennon, Old Town Commercial Association
Micheal Fisher
Eric Hanna
Jamie Shriner
Summer Shriner
Jason Kilday, Gillespie Group
Kevin Cordis, Stoopfest Inc.

Minutes

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

Public Comment

Mr. Lennon spoke on the Old Town Commercial Association and the impact the Principal Shopping District (PSD) has on the growth. Mr. Lennon spoke in support of the change.

Mr. Fisher spoke in support of the Principal Shopping District (PSD) and the impact it has on the Old Town, the utilization of funds, and lastly supported the expansion of the district.

Mr. Hanna spoke briefly on the parcels currently in the PSD and supported the changes.

Ms. Shriner spoke in support of the PSD boundary expansion.

Ms. Summer Shriner spoke in support of the PSD boundary expansion and her experience with the area and her business.

Mr. Kilday asked why the changes were occurring so rapidly, and on behalf of his employer (Gillespie Group) asked for this to be tabled at this time for further discussions and what the benefit would be in the expanded boundaries.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Reappointment; Dr. Thomas Woods as an At Large Member; Human Relations and Community Services Advisory Board; Term to Expire 6/30/2029

Council President Kost noted that this is a reappointment and therefore Dr. Thomas Woods was not asked to attend the meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT TO THE HRCS ADVISORY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Social District; RMB Properties LCC, dba Grewal Hall, 224 S Washington Avenue

Council Member Hussain asked Ms. Edgerly if these go through any department review before it comes to Council. Ms. Edgerly stated it does not go under City level department review, but once Council approves it goes to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Regarding looking into any issues, specific to this property, there has not been any issues. Ms. Edgerly added that this resolution was submitted earlier, but their legal name with LARA was not correct, so they have been able to clear that and now are able to apply.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE 224 S WASHINGTON AVENUE, GREWAL HALL INTO THE SOCIAL DISTRICT.

Council Member Jackson noted to the public that with a social district member, they are able to sell alcohol and carry it outside. By ordinance they are saying open containers are okay, but if not in the district it is not okay, and considers tying this to a noise ordinance because most of these have music and entertainment, noting there is a distinction that is vague.

Council Member Brown asked about correction from LCC to LLC. It was confirmed it should be LLC.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER WITHDREW HER MOTION.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE AMENDED RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE 224 S WASHINGTON AVENUE, GREWAL HALL LLC INTO THE SOCIAL DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; COPS Microgrant-Safer Lansing from the Dept. of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Chief Backus explained this is a 2 year grant, will fund May – October. This will put additional officers on the streets in the busier times. The goal is to have 3-4 officers on weekdays and weekends. There is no match, would be primarily for 2026 and 2027, May through October.

Council Member Hussain is this is similar to the grant they did in summer 2025, and Chief Backus confirmed it is a continuation of that. On Friday and Saturday there is a higher call

volume, so during those months and those days they have more community events. This would allow for more officers out to engage.

Council Member Carter asked the Chief for clarification on if it will assist with high volume traffic and speeding during those times. Chief Backus confirmed it will.

Council Member Garza asked with the \$157,500, that started this past October, will they go over that amount, and if so will the project stop. Chief Backus stated it is possible they will go over, but they are adding additional duties to what they normally would do. They will use the over time funding to cover the other efforts.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if this is a permanent assignment. Chief Backus stated this will not fund an officer to a certain space, but address event they need to respond to.

Council Member Jackson asked how this places into effect on his staffing with the potential of passing the noise ordinance on the agenda where it is being amended to 30 yards at night, the 100 yards during the day, and noise in residential areas. Chief Backus this grant is designated for crime trends, larcenies, thefts, assaults, and the second part of the grant is engagement. Council Member Jackson asked about what the officer would be doing if there is no type 1 crimes, and Chief Backus stated this is to address the patterns and engage with the communities where the patterns are. Council Member Jackson asked about arresting someone on the noise ordinance. Chief Backus stated when talking about arrest it is also about educating and building up trust. Sometimes it is not arrest, sometimes citation or police communication. Council Member Jackson asked if the Chief was aware of many people who carry weapons do not know it is illegal, and so would police explain that to people and educate. Chief Backus stated that scenario is a felony, and there is a different approach.

Council President Kost asked Council Member Jackson to stay on topic for the grant, and asked the Chief to come back at a later time for the noise ordinance concerns.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE; COPS MICROGRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

ORDINANCE – Amending Chapter 812, Section 812.01; Modify Principal Shopping District Boundaries

Mr. Venker stated there was an error in the ordinance, beginning on page 5, line 22 starting at “to the west ...” should not have been struck.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AS AMENDED TO AMEND CHAPTER 812 SECTION 812.01 TO MODIFY THE PRINCIPAL SHOPPING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

ORDINANCE – Amend Chapter 1460 , Tenant Relocation Fee, exception for tenant caused damage

Council Member Spadafore noted there was public comment on “burden of proof” and in this ordinance the City Attorney does have the opportunity to determine the damage, not the landlord.

Council Member Hussain noted that as terms of the exemption request, will that be filed in the City Attorney office. Mr. Venker stated it goes to Code Compliance and then OCA will work with them to make the determination. Council Member Hussain asked what documentation they would be looking at. Mr. Venker stated it would be civil standards, which are the standards they have set in the proposed ordinance, they would look at work orders, making sure it was not new damage, but attributed to the tenant. They would be looking for documents

and photographs. Council Member Hussain stated he would like to get an annual report; number of exemptions, number of requests, etc. Council President Kost stated that if the tenant caused the damage, the tenant would not be on the street and the City would assist in the alternate housing. Mr. Venker added that it is the hope and design, that the set up is that this would not have to be implanted because it would encourage the right kind of atmosphere. He then asked Council Member Hussain to provide the topics and questions he wants in an annual report so while they are creating the initial report they know what to ask for.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1460, TENANT RELOCATION FEE. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Non-Profit Recognition, Stoopfest, Inc.

Mr. Nevin and Mr. Cordis explained the Stoopfest event the organization and musicians.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION DESIGNATION FOR STOOPFEST INC NON-PROFIT RECOGNITION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026-2030

The Committee had no additional questions from earlier meetings or public hearings.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE 2026-2030 PARKS AND RECREATON MASTER PLAN. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Other

No other topics at this time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee January 5, 2026