



**MINUTES**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.**  
**Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers**

**CALL TO ORDER**

~~City Clerk Swope~~ Council Member Spadafore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Councilmember Tamera Carter  
Councilmember Jeremy Garza- excused  
Councilmember Adam Hussain  
Councilmember Ryan Kost  
Councilmember Clara Martinez  
Councilmember Deyanira Nevarez Martinez  
Councilmember Trini Pehlivanoglu  
Councilmember Peter Spadafore

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff  
Greg Venker, City Attorney  
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, City Attorney  
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's office  
Chris Swope, City Clerk  
Rob Stolpstad, Deep Green Tech.  
Jack Pressman, Deep Green Tech.  
Debra Mulcahey  
Steve Japinga, Chamber of Commerce

**Minutes**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 5, 2026 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Mulcahey spoke in opposition to the sale of property at Lot 49 and the rezoning for said property; Z-2-2025 and ACT-7-2025.

**Discussion/Action**

**RESOLUTION – Elected Officers Compensation Commission (EOCC); Set First Meeting of 2026**

Mr. Swope stated that the ordinance requires the EOCC meets every two years, Council set the first meeting date, and they have 45 days to make their determination. This resolution will just set the date and time of their first meeting.

Council Member Hussain asked what the first meeting substance consists of. Mr. Swope stated it is usually an organizational meeting, what they want to review during their sessions to make their determinations. Council Member Hussain asked if this will be public meetings and in the Council conference room. Mr. Swope confirmed it is public, and the location is set for Council conference room for the first meeting. Council Member Hussain encouraged them to meet in the conference room to allow for two way conversations.

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION SETTING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EOCC FOR FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 AT NOON.**

Council Member Hussain asked Council leadership to work with EOCC to come to Committee of the Whole to outline their work before their decisions. Council President Spadafore acknowledged the request and agreed to work with them.

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0.7-0**

**RESOLUTION – POLLING PLACES; RELOCATION OF MULTIPLE PRECINCTS**

Mr. Swope explained that with working with school district they have been reducing the number of schools they use due to their structuring. In addition there is an opportunity for elections to happen on days there is school in session, and that can cause for a logistical issue at the schools. Due to staffing changes at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing has asked not to be a voting location any more.

Council Member Kost asked about the Ward 2, Precinct 12, the location is in Ward 1, and does that not matter for election purposes. Mr. Swope stated there is also Ward 2, Precinct 14 already there, but it does not matter.

Council Member Hussain asked what the notification process will be by the City Clerk. Mr. Swope stated that with permanent change they get postcards, if they have emails they will end those as well, for those that will no longer be a polling place, they will place signage directing them to the new location. Council Member Hussain asked if there is consideration for language barriers. Mr. Swope stated they have tools, but they do not have enough non-English speaking skills they do not have the justification for staffing for that.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked about residents that may feel uncomfortable approaching a place of worship for voting, and asked why places of worship are used, and why the specifics of going to polling location. Mr. Swope stated that Michigan Election law states it has to be a public building, but is sometimes hard to find a big enough location for staff, machines, voters. With churches spaced out all over the City, having ADA compliance access already, there are lists that can rule places out. There are multiple alternatives, there is early voting opportunities.

Council President Spadafore asked the percentage of voters at the day of and those in advance. Mr. Swope said in City primary it was 10% and general 10%, and presidential was 25%.

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE POLLING PLACE CHANGES FOR WARD 1 PRECINCT 10, WARD 2 PRECINCT 12, WARD 2 PRECINCT 18 AND WARD 2 PRECINCT 20. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.7-0**

RESOLUTION – Set a Public Hearing; ACT-7-2025; Sale of City Property, Lot 49, 200 block, S. Cedar Street

Council President Spadafore asked if there was any discussion tonight; the action requested tonight is setting the public hearing.

Council Member Hussain asked about presentations. Council President Spadafore stated the presentation will be on 1/26/2026 at Committee of the Whole.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR ACT-7-2025 FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.7-0

RESOLUTION – Introduction and Set Public Hearing; Z-2-2025; 220 S. Larch St. and 3 adjoining parcels on E. Kalamazoo and S Cedar; Conditional Rezoning from DT-3 to IND-1 Industrial

Council President Spadafore stated they will be present at the 1/22/2026 Committee meeting for a formal presentation.

Mr. Stolpstad and Mr. Pressman spoke briefly on the proposed Deep Green data center. They are just starting the process for a 24-megawatt heat reuse data center. Deep Green is a different kind of data center from what everyone is reading about nationally. It is a \$120 million plus investment in the community with data and groundbreaking closed loop water cooling system in conjunction with BWL to recycle heat generated. He noted upcoming events on 1/15/2026 and 1/24/2026 where they will do presentations for the community. [www.Deepgreen.energy/lansing-public-info](http://www.Deepgreen.energy/lansing-public-info)

Regarding the rezoning request, it was noted the staff report does do an excellent job detailing why the facility would fit with the surrounding areas. This design will match the BWL aesthetics and conform with the form-based code. This is a conditional rezoning specific to a data center. Regarding the ACT-7-2025, the staff reports notes the current parking lots which are under-utilized. The purchase agreement is for \$1.4 million and in addition to that, they will generate taxes that can be used to support city services, schools, etc.

Council Member Kost asked who will be here on 1/26/2026 and was told EDP, BWL, and Deep Green representatives. Council Member Hussain asked about a recap of the timeline; set hearing tonight, presentation on 1/26/2026 at Committee of the Whole, public hearing and special presentation at Council on 2/9/2026, back to Committee of the Whole and potentially to Council 2/23/2026 for deliberation and action.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked for them to confirm they could address all concerns.

Mr. Pressman added that this site was selected to provide the heat transfer for the City working with BWL, it is an important part of the go-forward model.

Council President Spadafore asked about the impact on downtown. Mr. Pressman stated it is a closed loop; there is heat from the servers, transferred to the mechanical system to the BWL loop. At 100% of Deep Green cost, they will extend infrastructure to the BWL loop.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR Z-2-2025 CONDITIONAL REZONING FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2026. MOTION CARRIED 8-0. 7-0

**OTHER**

No other topics.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at: 6:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved as amended by the Committee January 26, 2026