



**MINUTES**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Monday, April 6, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Spadafore called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Councilmember Tamera Carter  
Councilmember Jeremy Garza  
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, Mayors Office  
Mayor Schor  
Jake Brower, Chief Strategy Officer  
Jackson Mills, Budget  
Jason Hogan, IT Director  
Charles English, Assessing  
Chief Backus, LPD  
Cheryl Rupprecht, LPD  
Jennifer Czeiseperger, Assessor  
Michael Lynn Jr.  
John Warmb  
Jon Kermiet  
Deborah Mulchahey, virtual  
Loretta Stanaway

Mayor Schor stated that under agenda Item 6.C, Deep Green has withdrawn their request for the buy sell agreement, and withdrawn their rezoning request, and the City will withdraw the rezoning and take the buy sell agreement off the table.

**Minutes**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 30, 2026 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Council Member Spadafore stated they will take public comment at the end of the budget presentations.

## **Presentations**

### **Department Budget Presentations**

Council President Spadafore noted 15 minutes as a guideline, as they did at the last meeting.

### **Information Technology**

Mr. Hogan went through the list of questions provided by Council leadership.

**QUESTION 1** -What are three accomplishments your department achieved last year.

The first was ADA compliance on the website redesign. Ongoing to make sure compliant, and with PDF compliance, which was at 52% compliance and purchased a tool to hopefully to be completed by end of 2026.

Supported 800 retirees with access to BSA to review check stubs online.

They continue to do life cycle management, replacement of equipment and upgrading window programs.

**QUESTION 2** – What are three priorities or goals your department aims to accomplish this year.

The goals this year is successful building migrations for the new fire stations #9 and #8, Ovation, new City hall and public safety complex.

Upgrades on asset management converting to Triple Unity system.

Working on upgrades on LPD implementing new video management system to replace Indigo. A new ticketing, IT management service system, which will give more stats and asset tags.

**QUESTION 3** – What has changed in your budget request, and what is one-time vs. ongoing.

BSA and Microsoft services were big impacts in the budget, BSA was under IT budget for \$48,000 for on-premise version, and have add 259K of the cloud version was added , and there was a gap in what was forecasted.

There was an increase from \$68,000 to \$153,000 to run virtualization for the software. IT is testing solutions to migrate to save cost, and migration on cheaper services.

Microsoft and software costs are going up, the 3-4% increases are gone, costs are going up. Solutions they have looked are will not meet the needs.

**QUESTION 4** – How are staffing levels and vacancies affecting your budget and operations.

Working on new building moves, cell phone deployments, asset tags, and software changes, so taking on more work with vacancies. He acknowledged his team for all they do.

**QUESTION 5** – What steps is your department taking to optimize the budget and contain costs.

IT provides technological services to each department, and each is evaluated to determine if there is potential cost savings.

Re-evaluated contracts with savings of \$144,000 a year.

Service backup was split and provided savings of \$23,000.

Purchased 100 laptops before increases in 2026, and that saved \$59,000.

**QUESTION 6** – What internet metrics or performance based strategies ensure operational efficiency.

They use key performance indicators to identify customer satisfaction and objectives. They have work with departments on projects status, including HR and LPD.

They are replacing the ticketing tool to measure more in the near future, and down the road it will have artificial intelligence.

Council Member Garza asked about the rate increases for Microsoft and if they can purchase a five year plan with a fixed rate, Mr. Hogan stated they are in a 3 year contract and at 1.5 year they will reassess. Google came in but they could not provide the same services Microsoft could provide and with a shift the transition is long. Council Member Garza asked about the \$144,000 savings in cell phones, and what are they doing to prevent paying for cell phones for people who are no longer employed. Mr. Hogan stated they are generating monthly reports and tracking and will address with the onboarding and off boarding process in their new ticketing system.

Council Member Kost asked about his IT concerns with response time, and Mr. Hogan stated they have 5 staff at the help desk. The number needs to be re-evaluated through other means on who is answering the phone, and if the City wants that or if they want a portal, or submit a ticket. Once those parameters are defined he would know more. Mr. Hogan stated they are not a multi tier level help department, if the City were to go to a multi tier model they would need more resources.

### Assessing

Mr. English and Ms. Czeiszperger went through the list of questions provided by Council leadership.

QUESTION 1 -What are three accomplishments your department achieved last year. Became fully staffed with FTE union employees, Also, 4 have achieved their level 2 certification in this past year and one more enrolled.

They have been active in scanning their historical documents to become paperless, using City third party sourcing and inhouse staffing.

They have obtained pivot-point software; a tablet based field inspection program, allowing more efficient field work.

QUESTION 2 – What are three priorities or goals your department aims to accomplish this year.

They will complete the scanning to be ready for the move to the new City Hall.

In 2027 the State Tax Commission will perform their audit of the assessment roll, so they are preparing the policy and procedures are in place to make sure in compliant.

Working on training in using the pivot-point software.

QUESTION 3 – What has changed in your budget request, and what is one-time vs. ongoing.

Pivot point software is the only change that impacts the budget. The new software and program is part of the increase with the tablets coming this year, but new software and program is part of the increase in the proposed budget.

QUESTION 4 – How are staffing levels and vacancies affecting your budget and operations.

They are not expecting any retirements, and do not expect any vacancies. There is a small budgeted amount for interns to help with scanning.

QUESTION 5 – What steps is your department taking to optimize the budget and contain costs.

Answer questions daily on why people are taxed and why taxes are so much, and they reuse everything they can to be efficient and cost savings. Again, the pivot point program will help to be more efficient in the field.

QUESTION 6 – What internet metrics or performance based strategies ensure operational efficiency.

Field inspections, permits, sales verification, 20% reappraisals they attempt to do, and the pivot point will be able to comply that data to show how many inspections, etc. they have done for tracking.

Council Member Kost asked for insight on yearly increases and how they work. Ms. Czeiszperger stated every year they come up with two values; one is the assessed value based on market, half of what they think you would sell your house for; done annually based on market research. The other is the cap value, that is the prior year taxes times the rate of inflation, and once those are calculated, the lower of the two is what taxes are based on; the taxable value. The year after a purchase of a home, the value is uncapped. That SEV becomes the taxable value.

Council Member Kost asked how many staff they currently have and Ms. Czeiszperger stated 10 and when asked if that is sufficient, she confirmed they are making it work.

Council Member Hussain noted in November Council was told that Ms. Czeiszperger took a job in Farmington Hills and was only working one day a week through March and asked where she was currently and the replacement plan. Ms. Czeiszperger state they have not filled the position yet and she has agreed to stay on so the City is in compliance with the State required certification assessing level.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu referred back to the statement on scanning, and if they are contracting with a company or individuals.

Council Member Kost stepped away at 5:24.

Ms. Czeiszperger states they work with the IT department is using, and they do not have contract employee or student support in their office. Certain things in their office they can do, they are keeping up with, with current staff.

#### City Attorney

Mr. Venker went through the list of questions provided by Council leadership, and briefly summarized their department noting they are not taking on projects and no proposed no new positions.

Council Member Kost returned to the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

QUESTION 1 -What are three accomplishments your department achieved last year.  
Working on court ordered compliance cases, mostly property maintenance code.  
Targeted enforcement on batching multi properties by one owner.  
Undergone rewrites of multiple ordinances.  
Continuing focus on relationships with other departments.

QUESTION 2 – What are three priorities or goals your department aims to accomplish this year.  
Maintain the level of service they have done over the past years.  
Increase abilities of attorneys in the offices.  
Decrease amount of time for ordinances when requested by Council.

QUESTION 3 – What has changed in your budget request, and what is one-time vs. ongoing.  
Largely unchanged, personnel cost scheduled to decrease, and operation shows an increase due to property maintenance line in the budget.

QUESTION 4 – How are staffing levels and vacancies affecting your budget and operations.  
The impact is not negatively impacting, not expecting retirements, and have one vacancy.  
Currently up to 9 attorneys, and overtime is not an issue.

QUESTION 5 – What steps is your department taking to optimize the budget and contain costs.

Being largely personnel, he stated there is only so much they can do. When move to City hall, they have limited subscriptions that are not needed, trim expenses to reference books. Cost of digital has gone up though.

QUESTION 6 – What internal metrics or performance based strategies ensure operational efficiency.

They have tools to track regular items; track contracts, ordinances, resolutions, and differences between departments on those items.

Use internal software to track FOIA requests and get responses out.

They use a software tracking criminal prosecutions; monitoring offerings and outcomes.

Council President Spadafore informed the public again that Agenda item 6 C was pulled, and public comment will occur after budget presentations and also if they wish to speak they can sign up until that time.

#### Police Department

Chief Backus and Ms. Rupprecht outlined responses to the questions provided to Departments.

QUESTION 1 -What are three accomplishments your department achieved last year.

Hired 25; 18 officers sponsored to the academy and 7 cadets hired, and 5 of those are eligible to enter the academy.

Moved to AXOM management system, which includes incorporation of body cameras and digital evidence. The City LPD is the first agency going live and certified crimes reporting with the State and FBI.

With crime reduction, there was 25% reduction in nonfatal shootings, 14% reduction in fatal shootings and 23% reduction overall fire arms incidents.

QUESTION 2 – What are three priorities or goals your department aims to accomplish this

Hiring to fill vacancies; understand they have vacancies and deficiencies in their staffing.

Goal to look at positions currently staffed by sworn officers, and to turn into non-sworn positions. They can take sworn sergeants into civilian supervisors and back in the field.

Scheduled to move into new facility between Christmas and New Years, going live to 2027.

QUESTION 3 – What has changed in your budget request, and what is one-time vs. ongoing.

Ms. Rupprecht noted to Committee that LPD has minimal changes in budget. Increases seen with allocated shared expenses, include increase in IT, three items noticed been allowed to add to Capital Improvement (CIP) :

- Stock picker for PSU unit – allowing assistance with obtaining evidence
- Improvements to drone and robotic team
- A necessary move to digital storage and upgrade system they already have.

There is an additional one time change, moving into a permanent change of staffing in the detention offices, to move those sworn in officers to street.

QUESTION 4 – How are staffing levels and vacancies affecting your budget and operations.

Chief Backus, to get past vacancies, they have prioritized staffing; special assignments – task force, narcotics, position that offer supplemental service, those have ben unfilled. The goal is to fill those.

In terms of budget, vacancy staffing help with overtime so not exceeding.

They do expect 5 total retirements; 1 age eligible, and 4 eligible based on years of service.

In current hiring practice/process, sponsor police academy in LCC. There are 30 applicants in background phase and 5 of those are cadets, and worked for LPD for over a year.

QUESTION 5 – What steps is your department taking to optimize the budget and contain costs.

Always review contracts, look at software and make sure it is relevant. In this past year there were 5 programs, identified that can be replaced with one program and spoken to them with not renewing and started talking to replace with one.

Optimizing budgeting by purchasing software programs to allow scheduling for patrol and officer, overtime tracking, personnel files for LPD, integration for current BSA. Hope to move away from paper files and spreadsheets.

Continuingly applying for grants for hiring.

QUESTION 6 – What internet metrics or performance-based strategies ensure operational Department meets weekly and look at crime patterns to be proactive.

Weekly Ms. Rupprecht provides each member in the department and up to date budget reporting, showing were allotted and keeping on track to finish project within 12 month year.

Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked him to reiterated the crime statistics mentioned earlier, and the Chier stated about the 14% reduction in fatal, 24% non fatal, 23% firearm incidents and defined those. Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked if working with organizations partnership helpful towards those statistics. Chief Backus confirmed that everyone has specificity and some of those are outside the police department. By communicating and working towards the best common goal.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Stanaway acknowledged all members who asked the questions to Deep Green, and asked for the process and results. She then noted a concern on BWL substations to convert for steam and provided an example of running new infrastructure for new lines.

Michael Lynn Jr. spoke in support of the action to pull the ACT on the sale of City property to Deep Green along with their withdrawal on rezoning. Lastly he spoke on planning meetings for the future.

Mr. Warmb spoke briefly on the proposed data center that withdrew.

Mr. Kermiet acknowledged those that put in the effort to have Deep Green withdraw their request and encouraged council to put forth efforts on how to move forward and find ways to address BWL activities.

Virtual comment -

Ms. Mulchahey spoke on the presented budget, speaking to specifics with assessing, LPD and BWL funds.

### **Discussion/Action**

RESOLUTION – ACT-7-2025; Sale of City Property, Lot 49, 200 Block S. Cedar Street  
Mayor Schor informed the Committee and the public earlier in the meeting that the applicant on the rezoning connected to this, Z-3-2026 has withdrawn their application along with withdrawn the buy/sell agreement.

### **OTHER**

There were no other topics of discussion.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at: 6:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee April 20, 2026