



**Official Proceedings of the City Council
City of Lansing
May 4, 2026**

Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers
Lansing, Michigan

The City Council of the City of Lansing met in regular session and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Spadafore.

PRESENT: Council Members Carter, Garza, Hussain, Kost, Martinez, Nevarez Martinez, Pehlivanoglu, Spadafore

ABSENT: None

A quorum was present.

Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked people to remember Isaiah Christopher Kirby, who recently passed away, during the moment of Meditation. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked people to remember Mary Ramsey, who recently passed away, during the moment of Meditation. Mayor Schor asked people to remember Linda Sanchez Gazella's mother, who recently passed away, during the moment of Meditation. The Council observed a moment of Meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Spadafore.

Approval of Printed Council Proceedings

By Vice President Pehlivanoglu

To approve the printed Council Proceedings of April 20, 2026

Motion Carried

Comments by Council Members and the City Clerk

President Spadafore spoke in celebration of Teacher's Appreciation Day and Star Wars Day.

Council Member Kost announced the 105th anniversary of Apple Market, a locally owned grocery store.

Council Member Hussain spoke about the upcoming Third Ward Constituent Contact meeting, the South MLK Corridor Improvement Authority's annual community clean up, the Churchill Downs neighborhood yard sale, and the South Lansing Business Association's Team Up to Cleanup event.

President Spadafore announced that the upcoming Public Safety Committee meeting was cancelled.

Clerk Swope spoke about the Special Election and discussed several ways for voters to cast their ballots.

Community Event Announcements

Loretta Stanaway announced that Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries was holding their annual Geranium flower giveaway.

Mike Gorishek spoke about upcoming volunteer events held by Punks with Lunch.

Speaker Registration for Public Comment on Legislative Matters

City Clerk Swope announced the deadline for submission of public comment registration forms for those intending to address the City Council on legislative matters and that only those who have submitted a completed form will be permitted to speak.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Schor spoke about a new immigrant resource page on the city website. He then spoke about upcoming graduations from the Police Academy, the ribbon cutting for the Lansing Public Media Authority's new 520 Building, upcoming graduations at the Empower Academy, Stoop Fest, the Board of Water and Light's Adopt a River community cleaning event, and the opening day of a new Strikeout Baseball Stadium at Ferris Park.

Legislative Matters

Legislative Matters included the following public hearings:

Re-Adopting the Codified Ordinances

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Vice President Pehlivanoglu gave an overview of the public hearings.

Public Comment on Legislative Matters

Darren spoke about the budget.

Deborah Mulcahey spoke about various Legislative matters.

Referral of Public Hearings

Re-Adopting the Codified Ordinances
Referred to the Committee of the Whole

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget
Referred to the Committee of the Whole

Consent Agenda

By Vice President Pehlivanoglu to approve all items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried

Resolution #2026-138

By the Committee of the Whole
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Lansing

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that the City of Lansing submits the Annual Action Plan in order to receive Community Development fund resources, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program funds, for the upcoming fiscal year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG (\$1,966,941), HOME (\$649,926.71) and ESG (\$174,205) entitlement amount allocated to Lansing for the upcoming fiscal year is \$2,791,072.71; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing anticipates that there will be some program income (PI) and previous year (PY) funding available for CDBG in the amounts of \$75,000 (PI) and \$1,780,671.49 (PY) and \$50,000 (PI) and \$262,001.44 (PY) for the HOME program; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of federal funding allocations including program income and previous year funding equals \$4,958,745.64; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to program requirements, the city has conducted a citizen participation and open review process which has included meetings and public hearings; and

WHEREAS, the City has further promoted participation, input and review in the process by conducting two (2) separate advertised public hearings before the Lansing Planning Commission, one on December 2, 2025, regarding housing and community development needs, four people spoke, two in support of the federal funded programs and two spoke regarding the proposed pods for the homeless population; another hearing on March 3, 2026, regarding the proposed Annual Action Plan program objectives and projected use of Federal entitlement and formula program funds and there were no comments during this hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended to City Council the approval to submit the Annual Action Plan contingent that all proposed activities budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match the actual allocation amounts; and

WHEREAS, the City also initiated and carried out the required thirty (30) day public comment period on the proposed 2026-27 Annual Action Plan by publishing a notice of the availability of the plan in the Lansing City Pulse on March 11, 2026, with a comment period of March 12, 2026 – April 13, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held before the Lansing City Council on April 20, 2026, to again receive citizen comments and recommendations and to give final review to the Annual Action Plan, and there were two comments, one inquired about the use of CDBG funds to provide ADA accessibility in rental and owner-occupied homes, another person talked about the use of CDBG funds supporting housing the homeless persons; and

WHEREAS, Federal regulations require the City to make certain certifications and assurances to HUD as a part of the City's application and Annual Action Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lansing adopts the Annual Action Plan for the City of Lansing that includes housing and community development goals, objectives, strategies, and budget for the use of community development fund resources for fiscal year 2026-2027 as proposed by the Committee of the Whole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, as the City's Chief Executive Officer, or his designee is hereby authorized to sign the Annual Action Plan

and application for FY 2026-2027, including all understandings, assurances and certifications contained therein, and to submit the grant application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Mayor or his designee is authorized, as the official representative of the City of Lansing, to set-up budget line items, provide any and all information, to act in connection with the Annual Action Plan application and to execute all agreements, contracts and legal documents, including the agreement between the City and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to secure CDBG, HOME and ESG funding and implement the Annual Action Plan programs.

Adopted as part of the Consent Agenda

Resolution #2026-139

By the Committee of the Whole

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Lansing

WHEREAS, the mayor made the recommendation for the reappointments to various Boards as stated below:

Board of Fire Commissioners:

Krishna Singh as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Board of Police Commissioners:

Randy Watkins as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Samuel Brewster as the 2nd Ward Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Board of Review:

Sharon Civils as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

Board of Water & Light:

David Price as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Board of Zoning Appeals:

Kurt Berryman as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

Heath Lowry as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

Stephen Robertson as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Board:

Emily Sorroche as an At-Large Member with a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Downtown Lansing, Inc. Board:

Joshua Pugh as an Adjacent Neighborhood Resident for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Historic District Commission:

Melissa Riba as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority Board of Commissioners:

Patrick Spyke as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

Next Michigan Development Corporation Board:

Kris Klein as an At-Large Member for a term to expire April 15, 2028;

Saginaw Street Corridor Improvement Authority Board of Directors:

Diane Sanborn as a Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Paul Schmidt as a Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Potter Park Zoo Board:

Samantha Harkins as a City of Lansing Member for a term to expire December 31, 2029;

Joint Building Authority Board of Commissioners:

Jake Brower as City of Lansing Appointee for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Board of Public Service:

Samara Morgan as an At -Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Hugh McNichol as the 2nd Ward Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's office has confirmed with this resolution they have verified that the nominees have been vetted and meet the qualifications as required by the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Whole met on May 4, 2026 and took affirmative action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council, hereby, confirms the reappointments to various Boards as stated below:

Board of Fire Commissioners:

Krishna Singh as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Board of Police Commissioners:

Randy Watkins as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;
Samuel Brewster as the 2nd Ward Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

Board of Review:

Sharon Civils as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

Board of Water & Light:

David Price as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;

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Heath Lowry as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;
Stephen Robertson as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2029;

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Board of Public Service:

Samara Morgan as an At-Large Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030;
Hugh McNichol as the 2nd Ward Member for a term to expire June 30, 2030. Adopted as part of the Consent Agenda

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Resolution #2026-140

By the Committee on City Operations
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Lansing

Compost Awareness Week Resolution (May 3–9, 2026)

WHEREAS, composting returns valuable organic materials to the soil, improving soil health, enhancing water retention, and reducing runoff and nonpoint source pollution, while also decreasing reliance on chemical fertilizers and mitigating erosion; and

WHEREAS, organic materials—including food scraps, yard trimmings, and other compostable materials—continue to comprise a significant portion of the municipal solid waste stream, and composting remains a critical strategy for communities working to reduce landfill use and meet waste diversion and sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, composting organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings, food scraps, biosolids, and agricultural byproducts, when properly managed, produces a beneficial soil amendment that supports landscaping, agriculture, and green infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing is providing vital public services such yard waste and food waste collection opportunities at the curb and at local drop-off sites to assure that residents have meaningful access to programming that also advances compost availability and use in municipal operations, infrastructure projects, and community programs, contributing to improved water quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, composting supports the goals of the MI Healthy Climate Plan by reducing methane emissions from landfills, strengthening local economies, protecting natural resources, and promoting sustainable materials management; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 International Compost Awareness Week theme, "Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost," highlights the importance of composting at all scales—from backyard and community composting to regional facilities—and recognizes its role in building circular economies, creating local jobs, and fostering environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes and appreciates the efforts of organizations such as the Michigan Organics Council, along with extension services, conservation districts, residents, businesses, farmers, and public employees who contribute to advancing composting practices and education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lansing City Council hereby recognizes and supports composting as a responsible and effective method for managing organic materials and advancing the City's sustainability and climate goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City encourages residents, businesses, and institutions to participate in composting and organics diversion programs.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented at a public City Council meeting and shared with the community as a demonstration of Lansing's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lansing City Council does hereby proclaim May 3–9, 2026, as Compost Awareness Week in Lansing, Michigan.

Adopted as part of the Consent Agenda.

Speaker Registration for Public Comment on City Government Related Matters

City Clerk Swope announced the deadline for submission of public comment registration forms for those intending to address the City Council on City government related matters and that only those who have submitted a completed form will be permitted to speak.

Reports From City Officers, Boards, and Commissions; Communications and Petitions; and Other City Related Matters

By Vice President Pehlivanoglu that all items be considered as being read in full and that President Spadafore make the appropriate referrals

Motion Carried

- Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions:

Item(s) from the City Clerk re:

Minutes of Boards and Commissions placed on file in the Clerk's Office

Placed on File

Employment Vacancy Factor Report; Fiscal Year 2025-2026, 3rd Quarter

Referred to the Committee of the Whole

General Fund Status Report; Fiscal Year 2025-2026, 3rd Quarter

Referred to the Committee of the Whole

Item(s) from the Mayor re:

Setting a Public Hearing on Noise Special Permit; Public Service Department request to allow for the Lansing Avenue Pump Station (LAPS) Project

Referred to the Committee on City Operations

Noise Special Permit; Public Service Department request to allow for the Lansing Avenue Pump Station (LAPS) Project

Referred to the Committee on City Operations

Lawsuit Settlement; Authorization to execute a Participation Agreement for the Opioid Six Remnants Defendants Settlement

Referred to the Committee of the Whole

Reappointments; Arts and Culture Commission: Shirley Carter-Powell; Board of Water and Light Board of Commissioners: Beth Graham; Capital Region Airport Authority Board: John Shaski; Income Tax Board of Review: Peter Jones; Lansing Gateway Corridor Improvement Authority Board of Directors: Robert Benstein; Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority Board of Directors: Tim Daman; Park Board: Christopher John Greene-Szmadzinski, Joan Lenhard;

Referred to the Committee of the Whole

Amending Chapter 218 to provide for the creation and semiannual update of a City Tax and Debt Dashboard

Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Setting a Public Hearing on Amending Chapter 218 to provide for the creation and semiannual update of a City Tax and Debt Dashboard

Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Old Town Social District Boundary and Commons Area Extension; Parking Lot 56 and Brenke Fish Ladder Music Park

Referred to the Committee on Development and Planning

• Communications and Petitions, and Other City Related Matters:

Communication from Danielle Raymond in support of funding for the Fenner Nature Center Maple Syrup Building
Placed on file

Notice from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission; Shake Shack Michigan LLC, 3106 E. Saginaw St., Ste. A, request for Transfer ownership escrowed 2025 Class C and SDM License with Sunday Sales Permit (PM) for Class C License – spirits and mixed spirit drink, Sunday Sales Permit (AM), Outdoor Service (1 area), Catering Permit, and Dance-Entertainment Permit from KJ Endeavors, LLC; Transfer location from 1938 W Grand River Ave, Okemos to 3106 E Saginaw St, Ste A Lansing; Transfer Governmental Unit under MCL 436.1531(1) from Meridian Township to Lansing City; New Sunday Sales Permit (PM) for SDM License – mixed spirit drink; New Outdoor Service Area; Cancel existing Catering Permit; Cancel existing Outdoor Service (1 area) (RID #RQ- 2602-02000)
Referred to the Committee of City Operations

Three communications from Alison Peeler regarding various City government related issues.
Placed on file

Remarks by Council Members

Council Member Nevarez Martinez stated that businesses were still open despite ongoing construction along Mt. Hope Ave. and Pennsylvania Ave. and encouraged shopping there.

Public Comment on City Government Related Matters

Darren spoke about homeless encampment sweeps.

Amy Campeau spoke about CATA Spec-Tran.

Mike Gorishek spoke about homeless encampment sweeps.

Mason Vore spoke about homeless encampment sweeps.

Ivan Droste spoke about homeless encampment sweeps and the data center moratorium.

John-Marc Ormechea spoke homeless encampment sweeps.

Maximillian Huckleberry spoke about homeless encampment sweeps.

Makzum Hassouna spoke about personal experiences with discrimination.

Michael Mercer spoke about various City matters.

Adjourned Time 7:50 P.M.



Chris Swope, City Clerk