

MINUTES
Committee on City Operations
Thursday, May 28, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Pehlivanoglu called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

PRESENT

Council Member Trini Pehlivanoglu, Chair
Council Member Clara Martinez, Vice-Chair
Council Member Ryan Kost, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Krochmalny, OCA
Keith Goodwin, OCA
Alexandra Leonard
David Odom, Assistant Fire Chief LFD
Matthew Mansberger, Fire Inspector LFD
Sean Mills, Captain LPD
Brett Kaschinske, Director Parks & Rec
Steve Bell – arrived at 4:08pm
Adam Hussain, 3rd Ward Councilmember
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence – arrived at 4:27pm

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 14, 2026 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #2223; Brian and Karen Holmes for \$502 in red tag fees at 420 Sawyer Road

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu moved this item to later in the agenda to allow the homeowners time to attend.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #2227; Alexander Leonard for \$560 in grass violation fees at 425 N. Foster Avenue

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MARTINEZ TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu reviewed the claim, and asked Ms. Leonard for any additional information. Ms. Leonard stated nothing new to add, but reiterated this is regarding a pollinated garden, not just hers but others that participate as well. Adding, what she does is very important to her and her work place.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu asked about some questions from the last meeting on IPMC code. Ms. Johnson said the IPMC does reference the length of grass violation but nothing additional.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu noted the 7 day compliance, and the growth did look over 8 inches, Ms. Leonard responded she did not receive it until 7 days later, and it was behind a fenced in area and the growth at the time of mowing was not over 8 inches. Councilmember Kost acknowledged some of the photos were difficult to see and questionable. Ms. Johnson pulled the department's photos up and were clearer, and was able to show the Committee some photos in question.

Councilmember Martinez asked law how often the Claims Review Committee (CRC) grants a portion or all of the claim. Ms. Krochmalny is unsure but believes it is not often and it all depends on the claim. Councilmember Kost asked why \$250, Ms. Krochmalny responded after reviewing the photos and works was completed they felt it was reasonable. Ms. Johnson referenced the photos and acknowledged before and after are similar. Councilmember Martinez inquired about the previous meeting and an effort being made to the ordinance changes, Ms. Johnson answered yes they are discussing it.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu asked are they obligated to look at when the violation occurred or if the newly adopted IPMC, Ms. Krochmalny stated at the time of the violation what was in place.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO GRANT THE CLAIM APPEAL 2227; ALEXANDER LEONARD IN FULL FOR \$560 IN GRASS VIOLATION FEES AT 425 N. FOSTER AVENUE.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu mentioned this isn't the first time the quality of photos have been in question, and requested a better relationship with EDP as it is rare the Committee grants claims.

MOTION FAILED 1-2.

Councilmember Kost asked law since the motion failed then the partial grant from CRC is also gone correct. Ms. Krochmalny stated the partial grant was not signed therefore it would be voided. Adding if Ms. Leonard would have signed the release for the granted \$250 the matter would have been considered complete and not move forward.

Councilmember Kost asked law if he could make a motion to reconsider, Ms. Krochmalny stated since the first motion failed, there can be another motion. Councilmember Pehlivanoglu again noted that they have to abide by the previous laws but unhappy Ms. Leonard would lose the previously granted \$250.

COUNCILMEMBER KOST MADE A SECOND MOTION TO GRANT THE APPEAL IN FULL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$560.

Ms. Hagen-Lawrence arrived at 4:27pm

Ms. Hagen-Lawrence stated that CRC voted to grant a portion of the claim, that was appealed so the full amount is in front of this body. The motion failed so there is nothing to go in front of the full Council until you have a motion that passes.

MOTION CARRIED 2-1.

Ms. Hagen-Lawrence left the meeting at 4:31pm

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu stated this will go to Council on Monday, June 8th. Councilmember Kost urged Ms. Leonard to attend the meeting and speak to Council.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #2223; Brian and Karen Holmes for \$502 in red tag fees at 420 Sawyer Road

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KOST TO BE RECUSED AS HE IS A FAMILY MEMBER.
MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu mentioned the owners were not present, and a question from the previous meeting on whether the utilities were shutoff, and noted an email received from EDP dated 04/29/2026 that indicates water was shutoff, but the electricity was not. This was added to the packet and republished. Continuing with notes on the Staff Report from the Code officer that indicates the red tag for utilities and water, and it is unfit for habitation. Ms. Johnson explained no running water indicates uninhabitable. Adding the owners did get the utilities restored on May 7th, but did not request a reinspection which is required.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ TO DENY THE CLAIM APPEAL #2223; BRIAN AND KAREN HOLMES FOR \$502 IN RED TAG FEES AT 420 SAWYER ROAD. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – Permitting and Enforcement of Fireworks in City Parks

Mr. Bell stated the biggest concern was lack of clarity with residents on what was ok and not ok that led to conflict. I was non-stop fireworks and drinking for 2 hours in the park, and eventually a fire which led to a call to LFD. Stating it was so loud his house shook, pets were traumatized and is just looking for confirmation on the policy. Mr. Bell did state last year was the first time it has gotten out of hand in the 16 years he has lived in Lansing.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu asked for clarification from the departments present which are Parks, LPD, and LFD noting main focus on July 4th, however there are multiple holidays that allow fireworks which are Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and Labor Day.

Mr. Kaschinske noted the ordinance does state dawn to dusk for all parks unless otherwise noted which is Rotary Park until midnight, and Gier Park that allows for sport activities. Exceptions are a permanent permit or a Special Event Permit Application (SEPA), and none of those were issued for a private display, and they have never granted a SEPA for fireworks other than Silver Bells or July 4th, and Lugnuts. They encourage everyone to attend the Lugnut games that do fireworks or the City firework annual display.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu acknowledged the first responders of LPD and LFD, and asked what the best course of action for a resident is, is it to call 911 or the non-emergency number for help. Mr. Manberger noted that Juneteenth is not on the ordinance list that is in the packet, and that LFD follows up on priority and dispatch is sending. Noting if they don't physically see the complaint/violation happening at the time they can't do anything. Captain Mills confirmed for LPD they must see it as it is happening, adding during July 4th LPD has a large volume of officers on hand and well as patrol officers on the streets.

Councilmember Pehlivanoglu inquired about temporary signage for parks that fireworks are not permitted, and if Ingham County is on hand for July 4th. Mr. Kaschinske responded that signage is possible, and will discuss it with maintenance. Captain Mills stated the Sheriff is not in the city but on hand and responds to a hot call if needed but not typically for fireworks. Also, noting he can request additional patrols in the area of Ingham Park now aware of the situation.

Councilmember Martinez noted she lives down the street and is empathetic, and appreciates the responses from everyone. Councilmember Kost also thanked everyone, and it is important to continue to find more officers and firefighters in the budget. Adding most offenses include alcohol or mind altering substances and that is a larger penalty.

Mr. Mansberger inquired what the Council is doing to get the information out to the public, and that LFD does not have a non-emergency number they respond to 911 fire calls or from LPD request. Councilmember Pehlivanoglu noted this is the beginning of that process. Councilmember Kost noted maybe the Administration can get it out on Social Media too.

Other

Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:04pm

Submitted by Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on June 11, 2026