

DRAFT



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, August 10, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Pehlivanoglu 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- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Greg Venker, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, City Attorney
Christopher Mumby, Deputy Mayor
Brad Funkhouser, CATA CEO
Andrew Brieshke, CATA, Deputy CEO
Dick Peffley, LBWL, General Manager
Heather Shawa, LBWL Assistant General Manager
Scott Taylor, LBWL Chief Financial Officer
Calvin Jones, LBWL Government Community Relations
Michael Falk, Pyrotecnico
Loretta Stanaway
John Nolan
Mike Smalligan
Elaine Fischhoff

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 27, 2026, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu stated public comment will be made after the two presentations.

Presentations

Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Upcoming Service Changes- Update

Mr. Funkhouser spoke on the annual service changes. In January annually they have a retreat with the Board and look at a 5-year plan, review on the state and federal revenue and

DRAFT

this year they had to look at the gas prices. They evaluated trimming making the service more efficient with the vehicles they have. The Board has approved the following direction, resulting in an 8% decrease in their operating budget. Mr. Brieshke went through the service changes, and the public hearing notice is up, and the hearing is August 19th. These changes will go into effect August 24th, route 1 from 9-15 minutes to every 15 minutes- Monday – Saturday, and Sunday service will not change. Late night services will cease. For route 9, will include elimination of the outbound loop, now proceeding to Kalamazoo and going to MLK, not up to LCC. Route 9 will no longer include LCC, but other routes will service LCC. Route 18, will begin serving Spartan Village, and Route 20 will no longer service Spartan Village. With Route 20, service times will change adding 10 minutes Monday – Friday; Saturday – Sunday will change to every 40 minutes. There are two limited routes currently, there is one trip in morning and one in afternoon, these run Monday – Friday, and they are being proposed to be taken away, but there is a connector service that will expand to cover loss of the fixed limited routes. These services were proposed and put forth to the public, on the website, held public meetings; Meridian Townships, City of Mason, City of East Lansing, City of Lansing. There has been feedback, and this is an annual process, and they believe these service changes will have the less impact on the public. Mr. Funkhouser stated there is a comprehensive analysis in addition to this short term. They are looking at vehicle types, and is ongoing. These are separate efforts and plenty of opportunities to hear from the public.

Council Member Carter referred to the statement on eliminating the LCC routes, and asked about the alternatives. Mr. Brieshke stated route 9 is being eliminated to go to LCC, but there are other routes that go to LCC on in bound and out bound routes. Council Member Carter asked about the attendance at their public meetings, comments, etc. Mr. Brieshke stated the turn out was low, but the comments were evaluated by the planning team, and heard from the riders. Mr. Funkhouser stated they also had outreach sessions on the buses when they are on for transit already.

Council Member Nevarez Martinez referred to the public meetings, and asked if there were comments that changed their proposals. Mr. Brieshke stated there was one comment on the elimination on the limited routes (Webberville, Williamston and Mason) they plan to continue to use the connector services. There is a meeting with the CATA Board in August and they will consider the fares.

Council Member Hussain asked about the operating budget reference and why. Mr. Funkhouser admitted that a year ago they considered pulling \$12 million from tax and investment funds, and but will only need to pull \$8 million, and are being really cautious. They will be meeting with the US Secretary of Transportation shortly, they are planning for the cuts and prepared, and came in better than expected. Council Member Hussain, when will they approve. Mr. Funkhouser stated the next meeting of the Board will have the public hearing and take action, but they do give them selves more time if at the hearing they want to make changes they can. Mr. Brieshke stated the services changes will go into effect on August 24th. Council Member Hussain asked how they get the information. Mr. Funkhouser admitted they ride the bus regularly and ask the riders about how they get from A to B, they partner with other agencies, and always have one on one conversations. Council Member Hussain asked about the new building at 511 S Washington, and renovations. Mr. Funkhouser stated the contractors have been in for the preconstruction meeting, and on schedule to being this fall. They have gotten Tri County Regional planning to hold their meetings there, and they will locate there first. They will then go for more funding to expand. Mr. Brieshke added they are excited for the building at the new location; the board meetings are there, the bid documents were released on July 27th, and due August 31st. They anticipate construction this fall, and it is usable now.

DRAFT

Council Member Kost asked about the elimination of Route 1 late night, were the MSU game schedule taken into consideration. Mr. Brieshe it was considered, but when looking at the margin, it was a small number of riders. It has been addressed at public comments, and they are looking at alternatives. In terms of 3 night per week, on a bus that is not regularly utilized, it was a tough decision, but has been looked to offer alternative services. Council Member Kost about student transit vs 10 years ago. Mr. Brieshe stated in East Lansing they are seeing changes in housing with students. It is becoming concentrated in town, more people walking.

Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked about getting MSU student opinions and input. Mr. Funkhouser stated he rides the bus and the uniqueness of campus, they put staff on the two points of transit centers, and they are talking to them. Mr. Brieshe stated they having listening sessions and they have staff at ramp on Shaw Lane during the first week of school. They can address service routes throughout the year, and can make alterations.

Lansing Board of Water and Light Proposed Rate Changes

Mr. Peffley spoke on the public hearing last week. During the hearing there was one speak and no electronic call ins. They did communications with paid ads, social media, to inform the public of the strategy. The best practice with utilities is to have third parties, and they used USF review for conformity. Committed to not cut back on any services. Mr. Taylor touched on the filing which listed additional revenues.

Council Member Kost stepped away at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Taylor spoke on the notice for the hearing, proposed rate sheets, and included of the filing was the customer impact. With the rate increases they were lower then the original proposed.

Council Member Kost returned to the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Taylor went through the document in the packet outlining the changes in the services, simplifying the street light structure, transition from steam to hot water, and if approved by BWL tomorrow they take effect in October.

Council Member Nevarez Martinez referred to the filing, and asked how they are justifying the difference in charging business vs. residents. The gross amount the business pay is a lot, but the percentage is larger for the residents. Mr. Peffly stated each customer class is based on cost of service, and that protection protects residential. When looking at each rate class, they look at what costs BWL, and do not let those costs go to other classes, so best practices for all utilities. They are under cost of service for residential. Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked when they look at budget do they look at other things to cut instead of rate increases, and making administration costs, and eliminate staff. Mr. Peffley stated their salaries are less then other utilities make and they need to be able to recruit and are in line with other industries.

Council Member Hussain stated they trimmed budget by \$7 million last year, how was that done. Mr. Taylor stated it came from a variety of places; trim trimming has gained a lot of efficiencies and able to complete trim cycles at lower costs; refine estimates, and tighten budget down. Went through departments, and rather than outside consultants, they will provide oversight and train internal staff do to the consultant service costs. Council Member Hussain asked how they compare to other municipal owned utilities in water and electric. Mr. Taylor stated they bench mark again their competitors, and could look at other but they have different areas. Council Member Hussain spoke briefly asking about the annual rate increases. He then asked about new pole infrastructure, and Mr. Peffley stated once BWL

DRAFT

finishes their project, they are being told by end of summer, and full completion will be next summer.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (up to 3 minutes)

Ms. Stanaway spoke about BWL rates, and asking Council to consider that their increases which does not include City increase on the recent millage passed on the ballot, the increases with sewer, etc. She also voiced her concern with the document which speaks to the meters, and also the holidays are vague in the document. Ms. Stanaway concluded with speaking about CATA, and wants more discussion on safety at the CATA Center on S. Grand.

Mr. Nolan spoke about incidents at CATA and on a situation he was involved in on a CATA bus, asking for Council to look into his case. He also pointed to his concern with the violence at the bus station.

Mr. Smalligan spoke on what he believes was a safe secure election. He then spoke about the recent vote on the PILOT ordinance, and saw that as a sign of good governance. Lastly, he asked for BWL overview, to improve governance at BWL, not letting them choose their own regulators.

Ms. Fischhoff spoke on her concerns with the BWL rate increases, service charges.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Fireworks Permit -Pyrotecnico; Frances Park
Council Member Kost summarized the application.

Mr. Falk stated the he was contacted by the Union Mission Baptist Church which will have a car show, movie in the park, and fireworks.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE FIREWORKS PERMIT FOR FRANCES PARK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ORDINANCE – Amending Chapter 247; transition of Boards and Commission to the ward structure provided by the City Charter

Council Member Kost outlined the change, conforming to the new Charter that was passed.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 247 FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO WARD STRUCTURE PER CITY CHARTER.

Council Member Hussain asked OCA about this transition in 2029, and with sworn into office January 2030, and asked about what the plan in 2028 will look like. Mr. Venker stated the Ward alignment will be set by the Election Commission; City Attorney, Assessor and City Clerk. In 2028 that process will begin with looking at it in line with election law, balancing ward on density and size. They have not started the discussions, but begin in 2028, and have it done in time for applications in 2029 to run for office, so they know what Ward they live in. They would like to be done with their task before November 2028. Council Member Hussain asked if the new wards require a vote of Council, and Mr. Venker reviewed ordinance, and would provide to Council Member Hussain.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Mr. Venker confirmed 2-203 Wards, they will apply the census, Council shall approve, and have to be done 120 days before primary in 2029.

DRAFT

ORDINANCE – Amending Chapter 248; transition of Board of Water and Light members to the ward structure provided by the City Charter

Council Member Kost stated this will conform with new charter.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 248 FOR BWL BOARD MEMBERS TO A WARD STRUCTURE PER CITY CHARTER. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ORDINANCE – Amending Chapter 266; provide for an eight (8) member Arts and Culture Commission in accordance with the City Charter

Council Member Kost stated this will go from 12 to 8 members, and conform to the Charter and ordinance. This one and the two previous have had their public hearings.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 266; EIGHT (8) MEMBERS TO THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY CHARTER. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Other

Council Member Kost made it clear to the public that the City Council does not vote on the BWL rates, it is the BWL Board, and encouraged the public to attend the BWL meetings to voice their concerns on rates and services.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 6:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee