



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Tuesday, August 18, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Kost called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Kost, Chair
Council Member Pehlivanoglu, Vice-Chair
Council Member Nevarez Martinez, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Christopher Wright, Finance- Income Tax
Keith Goodwin, OCA
Greg Venker, OCA
Emily Stevens, Parks and Recreation

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Services to Senior Citizens in the City of Lansing

Council Member Kost stated this conversation as initiated for seniors who watch live or later, wanted to make them aware of all the services that are available in the City and the County.

Ms. Stevens provided copies of the upcoming senior program, which was changed to focus on older active adults. They offer meals at the senior centers, enhanced fitness programs, “silver sneakers” programming. Most daily programs are at Schmidt during the day, congregate dining, and they partner at the facility with other organizations. The recent annual senior fair had over 700 seniors attend and the senior lunch at the park is coming up. There will be monthly meetings coordinated with the seniors. They offer day trips to locations, and also offer swimming. Council Member Pehlivanoglu noted they serve on Tri County Office on Aging, and their partnership brings this full circle. Council Member Kost asked about the congregate dining at Alfreda Schmidt, where do they complete the form to register. Ms. Stevens stated they fill on site, and it gets turned into Tri County Office on Aging. This is daily from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. Currently the only wait list is the enhanced fitness program. Council Member Kost asked Tuesday, 8/25 Q & A, where that location was, and it was noted Alfreda Schmidt, and part of the monthly meeting. Ms. Stevens noted, with new rules and organization, there might be a wait list in the future, but currently there is no wait list. For the “seniors” it is 60 years of age and older. Council Member Kost asked about activities and if they are separated by “Active older” and some are 18 and over. Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked if they offer programs on flu

shots, or COVID shots. Ms. Stevens passed out a flyer on vaccination clinics, which they partner with Kroger. Council Member Kost noted they should bring their insurance card.

Mr. Wright explained they have a treasurer form 471, which is to defer summer taxes; which you do not have to be 62 and over. To avoid penalty and interest you do have to apply, and defer time there is no interest. The time is not extended if qualifications not met. One of those being gross income \$40,000 or less, age 62 or older, qualify unmarried spouse of at least 62, blind, qualifying service person, and more details on the form. This gets filed with local treasurer, county treasurer. Council Member Pehlivanoglu noted this is a deferment not a forgiveness and that was confirmed. She asked if for winter, or just summer, and it was confirmed just summer. And you have to apply annually. The person can make payments to decrease the balance, but the final balance due by February 14th. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if there are discussions with stakeholders to find this helpful, are there a large number. Mr. Wright stated he is not aware at this time, but can make inquiries and let Council know. Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked for the information on number of applicants, and if there is a survey afterwards. Council Member Kost noted there are some communities that give discounts on property taxes, and asked if there are cities in Michigan that offer that and if so which ones, and then is that something Lansing can financially do. Mr. Wright stated he can look into that information.

Council Member Kost spoke on questions that were provided to the LPD and the Chief response via email since he was not able to attend today.

- So who does handicap enforcement?
- Do we offer seniors help with the ring camera we give for free?
- What more can we do or what does the department need to aid seniors?

The Chief did not respond to specific questions, but did state via email.

LPD does not have any services aimed specifically at senior citizens. If there are identified needs and questions about whether police do or do not accommodate them, I'd be happy to reply with answers. To answer one question, while we do have technology to provide online reporting and requests, we also have a central records service counter, a front desk number listed wherever phone numbers are published and will respond to calls for service in person when a citizen can't access online resources.

Take care,
Robert Backus

Council Member Nevarez Martinez stated she would be interested in the types of calls they are getting from seniors. Council Member Kost noted he wrote that down, but that might be a better question to Ingham County 911. Council Member Kost then noted there has been inquiries on handicap parking and enforcement. The Committee spoke briefly on the practice in the past, and it was a volunteer enforcer program. Council Member Kost noted that he recalled it was a safety issue, and then asked OCA about an issue with the volunteers leaving notices. Council Member Kost then asked if parking services enforce handicap parking, and Mr. Venker stated they do. Council Member Kost stated at the next meeting they will have Mr. Van Fossen and Mr. King to speak on parking enforcement. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if HRCS was invited and Ms. Boak confirmed. Council Member Kost asked that this will stay on the agenda and an invitation will be extended again.

Ms. Stevens read details on City parking, and it states can be filed with Lansing Connect, parking enforcement and LPD. Mr. Venker stated that the City services will enforce on public streets but cannot enforce on private property.

DISCUSSION -ORDINANCE – Add Chapter 873, Section 873.01-873.11; Licensing & Regulations for Virtual Currency Machines

Council Member Pehlivanoglu spoke briefly about this proposed draft, noting earlier in the year there were representatives from AARP on consumer protection; specific to bit coin, protection for senior citizens. This was concerning and looking into it, she reached out to the City Attorney office on if this is something the City can work on as a municipality. It does say draft 5, this is the draft she received after OCA worked on it. Council Member Kost stated he also spoke to Mr. Venker after this was published with a change to annual registration. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if that would be via page 2, and Council Member Kost stated 873.02. It would be yearly fee. The Committee briefly discussed common locations they have already seen. Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked about other cities and their process. Mr. Goodwin stated Sterling Heights has this, and there has been conversations about other out of state cities. Mr. Venker stated they are pretty new, similar to creates a regulatory framework, and have not have many complaints on non-compliance. Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked if the will do active enforcement, and Mr. Venker stated they are limited by staffing for enforcement, if an ordinance gets passed, there is a marginal publicity on it, and if people see if they can file a complaint, and then deal with it as it comes. The ordinance is set up to require to set different requirements for the place and the person. Council Member Kost asked about operation annual license, and Mr. Venker stated it would be in the overall ordinance; 802 licensing in general “unless stated otherwise it is a year”. Since there is nothing in this ordinance that changes that it would default to a yearly. Council Member Pehlivanoglu referred to 873.05 and if this is different; bit coin customer service, or US crimes hotlines. Mr. Venker stated that is meant to point to the company the machines is owned by. Council Member Nevarez Martinez asked can the City put a sticker with the State number. Mr. Venker stated that the City can regulate because State is not. Council Member Pehlivanoglu stated this is a financial crimes enforcement.

DISCUSSION – Maintenance Goals for raingardens on Michigan Avenue

Council Member Kost provided a background on why he wants to speak to this. With this area, there are no maintenance on the raingardens, and asked if this committee would be interested in getting different parties together; county drain, public service, Peckham, MSU, and if the city does not have the staff to do things, looking for volunteers to do the work. Council Member Nevarez Martinez was familiar with there might be a group of student volunteers who might have something for these types. Council Member Kost stated he can extend the invitation to NCE, Public Service and the County. His discussion with the Mayor stated the responsibility is on the business owners. The consensus of the Committee is to continue the discussion and possibly a budget priority.

DISCUSSION – Budget Priorities for FY 2027/2028

Council Member Kost stated he believed these have been asked for multiple times, and stated item 5 has been completed. Council Member Pehlivanoglu noted that item 4; the City is participating in a youth program. Council Member Kost stated for item 2. There is Lansing Connect. Council Member Pehlivanoglu stated with item 2, HRCS was in to speak on Citizen Complaints, and it was understood that this item was not limited Lansing Connect, but more to do more with how people are being treated and filing their complaints. The Committee inquired into if that can be added to the Lansing Connect; and will speak to the IT Director.

Other

The Committee consensus was to meet again on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 4 p.m.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Submitted, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on