

City of Lansing Charter Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda



Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers
Lansing City Hall, 10th floor
124 W. Michigan Avenue

July 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment

4. Minutes

A. June 18, 2024

5. Officer Reports

A. Chair

B. Vice-Chair

C. Clerk

6. Unfinished Business

A. Community Meetings Plan

B. Postcard

C. Facebook Page

D. Returned Legal Counsel RFP

7. New Business

A. Rules Amendment for Public Comment

B. Rules Amendment for Attendance and Absences

C. Article I. Overview and Priorities

8. Commissioner Remarks

9. Adjournment

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (517) 483-4131 (TTY 711). 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation request.

Present: Commissioners Adams Simon, Anderson, Bauer, Boyd, Jeffries, Qawwee, Washington

Absent: Commissioners Dowd, Lopez (Excused)

Staff Present: Deputy Clerks Lemaster, Drever

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeffries at 6:30 PM.

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Commission. A quorum was present.

Adopt the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Bauer to adopt the agenda.

Moved by Chair Jeffries to amend the agenda to add Legal Counsel RFP as item d. under Unfinished Business.

Motion Carried.

Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Nicklas Zande spoke about Stakeholders, the proposed Charter review process, and the composition of City Council.

Julie VandenBoom spoke about Commissioners' community engagement and suggested a list of community stakeholders.

Heath Lowry spoke about the Community Meetings Plan.

Ryan Kost spoke about the structure and rules of Commission meetings.

Melissa Horste spoke about public participation.

Norma Bauer spoke about the Model City Charter.

Fred McLoughlin spoke about accessibility of meetings for members of the public.

Farhan Sheikh Omar spoke about transparency in City leadership.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to approve the minutes of June 4th, 2024 as presented.

Motion Carried.

Officer Reports

Chair

Chair Jeffries spoke about the proposed rules change for public comment, which will be on the next agenda. He also spoke about the process to submit items to the agenda.

Vice-Chair

Vice Chair Adams Simon spoke about respect and grace in the Commission's work.

Clerk

Deputy Clerk Lemaster acknowledged the written communications included in the packet and asked Commissioners to submit their headshot and bio for the website.

Unfinished Business

Community Meeting Plan

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to adopt Plan A.

Amended by Commissioner Qawwee to move forward with plan A with scheduling adjustments as necessary.

Motion Carried.

Motion Carried.

Proposed Charter Review Process

Moved by Commissioner Boyd to approve the Review Timeline.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Article Discussion Plan.

Motion Carried.

Stakeholder Presentations Plan

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to approve the draft as written.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Commissioner Boyd to approve the draft postcard. Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to table the postcard to the next meeting.

Motion Carried.

Legal Counsel RFP

Moved by Commissioner Washington to hold a special Committee of the Whole meeting to review the Legal Counsel RFP.

Motion carried.

New Business

Facebook Page

Moved by Commissioner Boyd to approve the policy.

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to amend the policy to allow comments, and to inform members that to get a response, they should email the Commission.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Commissioner Qawwee to amend rule 4 to add “as needed or as such”.

Motion Carried.

Motion Carried.

Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Washington explained that she is having a connectivity issue with technology.

Commissioner Boyd encouraged members of the public to speak about the changes to the public comment rules.

Vice-Chair Adams Simon encouraged everyone to email chartercommission@lansingmi.gov to get in touch with all commissioners.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jeffries at 8:03 PM.

To: Lansing City Charter Commission Members

From: Emery Drever, City Clerk's Office

RE: Written Public Comment

The following attachments represent the written public comment received by the Charter Commission via their email, chartercommission@lansingmi.gov

- N. Bauer, 6/17/2024
- J. Vandenboom, 6/21/2024
- N. Bauer, 6/24/2024
- T. O'Dell, 6/24/2024
- N. Bauer, 6/24/2024
- A. Schor, 6/29/2024

Drever, Emery

From: Norma Bauer <activadvocate@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 7:42 PM
To: Chartercommission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please don't let our Strong politician Mayor distract you from your primary task

...and don't let his appointed City Attorney distract you, either.

Your primary task is to review the existing Charter under which you serve during the entire 3-year span, all but a few months left of that period, and much of it will no doubt be spent in setting up the date for the election to present whatever you propose to Lansing registered voters for an up-or-down-vote. Time is of the essence!

Questions you can research:

FIRST: Is there anything in the Charter that says that elections have to be held on a Tuesday? For the convenience of voters who choose to vote in person, **can you choose a day when the schools are closed so voters don't have to find a new voting place?** Admittedly, the City Clerk needs time to attract and train poll workers to officiate on election day. Commissioners don't have to be concerned about how convenient it is for the City Clerk and staff to find an alternate date. Certainly, it was not convenient for them to find polling place that is accessible and find new polling place identities for 7 different districts and to get that word out to voters in a timely manner for the May 7 election and set up the room so voters could find which table was the right table for their newly-assigned polling place number! Basically, I'm asking: **Is this Commission an Independent Commission or not under Home Rule?**

SECOND: Why go through the laborious, time-consuming task of hiring a qualified municipal attorney to represent the interests of you, the people voters have chosen to represent them when there is no litigation pending and may not ever be? The Governor will review what you propose to assure that it complies with Michigan law before it goes to the voters.

THIRD: Why not review our existing charter and compare it line by line with the Model City Charter? This administration has confidence in the Michigan League for Public Policy and the MLPP has traditionally had confidence in the National Civic League's Model City Charter, now in its 9th edition <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/model-city-charter-9th-edition/> which "**continues [its] tradition of recommending the council-manager form of government... [with] an emphasis on civic engagement and equity.**" If any line of our existing charter appears in the Model City Charter, keep it. If it doesn't appear in the model, have a rich discussion on whether and the extent to which it could be amended to fit our diverse City so a portion could go into the charter you'll present to the voters.

FOURTH: Does this Commission have to meet in City Hall or can it meet in an alternate venue that has the capacity to provide much more and better accommodations? Admittedly, City Hall is convenient for City employees and gun-carrying guards. It's also extremely inconvenient for citizens who cannot attend in person nor interact on line. Jerry Norris has already stated that The Fledge can be made available if Brian asks for it. This venue is visitable for persons with mobility impairments. Nearby parking is abundant in the street and in a nearby lot. Room for many observers is abundant and so are microphones. Guards would not be necessary. Entrepreneurs could be hired to run cameras, projectors,

make name plates, etc. Might have to hire a financial manager but overall would save money that fewer people would be hired on a limited-term contract without the salary and benefits of City Employees and 4 guards. The agenda could be drawn up by Brian and not be limited to one hour twice a month.

This process can provide a focused framework for the work ahead in the time left.

Thank you for serving!

Love,

Norma Bauer - she / WE

Drever, Emery

From: Julie Vandenboom <julievandenboom@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Chartercommission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] stakeholder list

Hi, here's the list of stakeholders that I presented on Tuesday:

Churchill Downs Neighborhood Organization
Lansing Eaton Neighborhood Organization
Cristo Rey Community Center
Baker Donora and Potter Walsh neighborhoods
Refugee Development Center
Lansing Empowerment Network
Northwest Initiative
The Fledge
Allen Neighborhood Center
Women's Center of Greater Lansing
Capital Area Disability Network
Westside Neighborhood Organization
Eastside Neighborhood Organization
The Place for Us Coalition
Capital Area Friends of the Environment
Salus Center
Nation Outside - Lansing chapter
The Rent is Too Damn High

I've had conversations with people from all of these organizations and heard their ideas for what will make Lansing more prosperous and inclusive for the folks they represent. I hope you all will make time to do the same.

Thank you,
Julie Vandenboom

Drever, Emery

From: Norma Bauer <activadvocate@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:42 PM
To: Chartercommission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: A stakeholder for you to listen to you

Dear Membrs of the Lansing Charter Review Commission,

Thank you for your willingness to serve on this empowering process! Attached is an idea that I hope some of you find helpful.

Ted O'Del is a trained City Manager who serves on the Planning Commission for the City of Lansing. Their next meeting is in August at the Lansing Empowerment Center.. Ted served as hired Chief Administrator in tiny Beaverton, MI.

I believe he was fired due to petty local politics. In any case, he no doubt has firm ideas about city charters in general and dynamics that some of you might wish to avoid in the deep dive into municipal governance that you are about to engage in. After all, this is the reason the voters of Lansing voted for you.

Forewarned is forearmed.

Love,

Norma Bauer - she /WE
Pilgrim Norma on FB & Messenger

Drever, Emery

From: Ted O'Dell <todell8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:10 PM
To: Norma Bauer
Cc: Chartercommission
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] A stakeholder for you to listen to you

Norma:

Thank you for kind words and faith in my professional abilities. As I think most of you know, I would be happy to help the city in any capacity that is appropriate.

Just a minor correction to your email... I did serve as the city manager in Beaverton, Michigan, where we implemented, a completed place-making moderation of the downtown business district, purchased new firefighting equipment, breathing apparatus, and a ladder truck. Those projects were made possible by state and federal grants.

We also completed the purchase of the city owned Hydro Electric facility and had it completely rehabbed, thereby creating a revenue source for the city. In addition, we installed brand new water meters, in all of the homes within the city limits. Along with that, we implemented a 527 agreement with the local Township to provide municipal water and fire protection.

My memory tells me that prior to the end of my tenure with the city of Beaverton, the citizens voted to implement and update the city charter. Yes, I was part of the process and would be happy to share any information and experiences I have with the Lansing city charter commission.

As much as I enjoyed the position and the people I worked with, I had to leave the city of Beaverton because I had been excepted into the Michigan Education Association UniServ Serve Academy. I was not terminated nor was I asked to leave. In fact, then Mayor offered me a more attractive employment package to stay. But I had already committed to the Michigan Education Association.

The MEA and it's UniServ Academy is where I was trained as a professional negotiator in matters of public school employee Rey including contract negotiations, grievance processing, arbitration representation, EEOC hearings and representation along with aspects of federal adjudication in matters dealing with SSI and SSD.

Thank you again for your kind words and trust in me. Should the current Lansing City Charter Commission feel there is a place for me to help I would be interested in doing so.

With every best wish,

Ted O'Dell

THINK BIG, BE BOLD, DO IT NOW!
(248) 302-0073 - call/text

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Drever, Emery

From: Norma Bauer <activadvocate@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:18 PM
To: Ted O'Dell
Cc: Chartercommission
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] A stakeholder for you to listen to you

Ted, I'm so glad that I got it wrong. Thank you for your massive and impressive accomplishments at Beaverton!

As for sharing your opinions with this process. everyone gets their 3 minutes if you can come to the meetings in person wherever and whenever they are. Chairman Jeffries has the option of extending the time limit and there's always this email to all the members, as you know. You offer a tremendously relevant viewpoint about a City Manager form of governance. I believe if the Members study what the MLPP and the National Civic League have to say about a City Manager Charter and options / questions that arise with that, there's a chance that the Commission can have some rich discussions about how many wards, how does the transition happen, what the role of City Council is in charge of, how to draw up a posting about electing a City Attorney and what, in particular, can be struck from the existing charter. Et cetera!!!

It's a LOT to accomplish by December of 2026 is it? The devil's in the details, of course but well-intentioned people can make progress.

Best wishes to you all.

And if anyone knows of anyone who'd like a visitable condo in a tree-shaded area and a convenient location, let Ross H. Yednock know at his sbcglobal.net email address. That would help me a lot! It would be perfect for a senior who's eager to downsize to a two-bedroom apartment or a 1st time buyer who might be eligible for a \$10K grant from the City for help with downpayment and closing costs, cuz I don't want it to go to a greedy landlord who'd want to charge Rent That's Too Damn High!. It would be good for a senior who wants to Age in Place or a younger person who's already caregiver to a grandparent who'd be able to help with utilities and wifi in lieu of rent--a Granny and Me sort of arrangement. Plenty of closets and the laundry room right by the bedrooms. All major appliances can be included as fixtures.-- washer, dryer, range, refrigerator, dishwasher, insinkerator and microwave. window treatments, too and maybe some furniture if they want it. Dehumidifier in the 400s sq/ft. private secure basement. Parking space close to the ramp and carport, too.

Love,

Norma - she / WE

On Mon, Jun 24, 2024 at 6:10 PM Ted O'Dell <todell8@gmail.com> wrote:

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With every best wish,

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Forewarned is forearmed.

Love,

Norma Bauer - she /WE
Pilgrim Norma on FB & Messenger

From: Andy Schor <andy.schor@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 29, 2024 1:18 PM
To: Chartercommission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Article 1 thoughts

Hello Charter Commissioners. I have mentioned to many of you that I would share any of my thoughts as you review the charter commission, based on my experience as mayor and as a citizen of the city.

I understand you are looking at article one this coming week. Below are some of my thoughts for charter updates as you review article one.

Happy to chat about these at any time if you want. Thanks.

Andy

Article 1

Recommended Change: remove boards and commissions from the definition of officer

Reason: These are not paid employees and should not be treated as such. They are volunteers and donate their time to help the city, but they are not city employees or elected officials and shouldn't be considered officers of the city.

Recommended Change: Add sexual orientation, gender identity, housing, and others factors to non-discrimination and civil rights clause. I recommend bringing in some diversity experts to discuss what should be included.

Reason: We have many more people that should be protected. As part of our city DEI trainings, we have learned much that can be specified in order to ensure we are the most inclusive community we can be. I expect an expert can come in and make recommendations for anything that could be added.

To: Lansing City Charter Commission Members

From: Emery Drever, City Clerk's Office

Friday, June 28, 2024

RE: Community Meetings Plan

Here is the update for scheduling community meetings in association with Neighborhood Associations. The information is in chronological order of scheduled meetings.

Ward 3

The Commission is invited to host an open meeting at the Churchill Downs meeting on **Tuesday, August 20, at the Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center at 6:30 PM.**

The Churchill Downs Association will take approximately half an hour for their business before turning the meeting over to the Charter Commission.

Ward 4

The Commission is invited to host an open meeting at the Westside Neighborhood Association meeting on **Wednesday, August 28, at the Letts Community Center at 6:30 PM.**

Ward 1

The Eastside Neighborhood Organization is interested in hosting the Commission at one of their upcoming meetings. The President is working to secure a large enough meeting space during the month of September on a Monday or Wednesday at the Foster Community Center. If it is not available, they will move their meeting to the Gier Community Center. Nancy will have an answer by Monday, July 1, so I will update this information once that is coordinated.

Ward 2

We are in contact with East Sycamore Park Neighborhood Watch who has agreed to publicize any meetings the Charter Commission hosts through their channels. The Watch does not currently have an active meeting location because of construction at Mt. Hope School. We have reached out to the Unitarian Universalist Church at 5509 S. Pennsylvania, which is a polling place and has adequate meeting space to host a meeting. If this meeting takes place on a Saturday, the Watch has requested the Commission avoid the weekend of September 14 and 15.



The Lansing Charter Commission is reviewing our city's charter,
the document that outlines how our local government works.
We want to hear from you!



Attend a meeting
or listening
session



Provide
public comment



Submit a
Comment
Submission Form



Email the
Commission

Visit lansingmi.gov/1233/charter-commission for more information.

Lansing City Charter Commission
124 W. Michigan Ave. 9th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933



Upcoming Charter Commission Listening Tour

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | LOCATION
Date & Time |
| 2 | LOCATION
Date & Time |
| 3 | LOCATION
Date & Time |
| 4 | LOCATION
Date & Time |

John Doe or current resident
123 Street Name
Lansing, MI ZIPCODE

Drever, Emery

From: Lori Simon <simon4lansingchartercommission@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Jeffries, Brian; Drever, Emery
Cc: Simon, Lori
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Charter Language For Postcard

Please see he proposed language for the postcard:

The Lansing City Charter is the founding document that outlines the structure and operations of the City of Lansing, establishing the framework for its government including Powers of the City, Structure of government, the Election Process, Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens, Fiscal Management, and the Amendment Process.

VC Simon

Drever, Emery

From: Swope, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:15 AM
To: Jeffries, Brian; Simon, Lori
Cc: Drever, Emery; Jackson, Brian
Subject: mailing cost update

Brian Jeffries and Lori,

My initial estimate for the cost of the mailing was low. Turns out the mailer likely does not qualify for non-profit postage rate; the USPS only lets government use the non-profit rate for election related mail.

Here are options:

- Send as originally discussed for a cost of \$18496.59.
- Send to active voters only for a total cost of \$16537.62.
 - Omit voters on “verify” or “challenged” status. Verify and challenged are:
 - Voters who have had mail returned so likely don’t live at and have not voted or responded to a forwardable mail piece.
 - Voters who got a drivers license in another state and have not voted or responded to a forwardable mail piece.
 - If there are other active voters at the address, they would still receive the mailing.
- Use postal saturation for a total cost of \$19510.23
 - This would go to every address by carrier route regardless of having a registered voter.
 - Would also include businesses.
 - Since postal routes don’t follow city boundaries, there may be some people missed or there may be some notification to people outside the City.

I think the active registered is the best option. I believe we would want the motion to include spending authorization rounded to the next \$1000.

	all registered	active reg	saturation
per piece postage	0.295	0.295	0.194
count	48000	43000	76000
printing	2357.79	2069.25	3253.03
printer mail service	1978.8	1783.37	1513.2
total postage	14160	12685	14744
total cost	18496.59	16537.62	19510.23

Sincerely,



Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC level 3 | pronouns: He/Him
Lansing City Clerk

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC), Past President

Lansing City Clerk's Office

City Hall/Main Office | 124 W. Michigan Ave. | 9th Floor | Lansing MI 48933

Reo Elections Office | 1221 Reo Rd. | Lansing MI 48910

Main: (517) 483-4131

Direct: (517) 483-4130 | Mobile: (517) 230-1566

chris.swope@lansingmi.gov

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



Lansing City Charter Commission Comment Submission Form

Purpose

Use this form to submit your comment to the Lansing Charter Commission about the Lansing City Charter.

Context

The Lansing Charter Commission is reviewing our city's charter, the document that outlines how our local government works.

After revisions are made to the charter, the proposed charter, will go back to the voters of Lansing, who will then determine whether to accept or reject the new charter.

The Charter Commission will have a duration of up to 3 years and may present a new charter to the electorate up to 3 times. If no new charter is accepted by the voters during that time, the charter will remain unchanged.

Citizen Involvement

In addition to speaking during the public comment sections of Charter Commission Meetings and Hearings, you can submit comments through this form. The commissioners want to hear from you!

Links

[Charter Commission Web Page](#)

[Current City of Lansing Charter](#)

[< Back](#)

[Next >](#)

Lansing City Charter Commission Comment Submission Form

First Name*

Last Name*

(Optional) Contact information is optional, but providing it will make it easier for potential follow up.

Email

Phone

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

< Back

Next >

Cancel

Lansing City Charter Commission Comment Submission Form

Topic

Brief description of your Message

0 / 50

Comment*

Type the comment that you want to send to the Charter Commission here.

(Optional) Additional materials to be sent with your comment



(Optional) If your message relates to a specific article(s) in the Charter please select it here:

- ARTICLE 1 - GENERAL
- ARTICLE 2 - OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS
- ARTICLE 3 - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
- ARTICLE 4 - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

☐ I'm not a robot



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Cancel

Submit

Drever, Emery

From: Gabriel, Jason
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:56 AM
To: Drever, Emery
Cc: Swope, Chris; Jackson, Brian
Subject: Re: Charter Commission - adobe and facebook

You are welcome Emery!

Our hard costs are looking like : a \$500 restream subscription/ per 6 months, 2 pieces of equipment totaling \$1200.

We would be able to send and stop the video signal to Facebook with credentials, but will not be logged in on Facebook and won't be seeing or responding to any commenting.

Thanks,
Jason

Jason Gabriel

Director

Lansing Public Media Center – Mayor's Office of Community Media

318 N. Capitol Ave. | Lansing, MI 48933

O: 517-483-4058 | E: Jason.Gabriel@lansingmi.gov

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



Andy Schor, Mayor



Chris Swope

Lansing City Clerk

June 28, 2024

MEMO

TO: Charter Commission

FROM: Chris Swope, City Clerk

RE: Charter Commissions Legal Representation

In obtaining legal representation for the Charter Commission, we have two submitted proposals from the law firms below:

- Cummings, McClorey, Davis & Acho, P.L.C.
- The Kelly Firm, PLC

Drever, Emery

From: Jeffries, Brian
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 12:33 PM
To: Swope, Chris
Cc: Simon, Lori; Anderson, Jazmin; Bauer, Joan; Boyd, Elizabeth; Dowd, Ben; Lopez, Guillermo; Qawwee, Muhammad; Washington, Jody; Drever, Emery; Jackson, Brian
Subject: Notice of Proposed Rule Change for Public Comment

Good afternoon Clerk Swope:

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of the Commission's Rule of Procedure, please let the email serve as notice of intent to amend public comment time. This notice is being forwarded by the myself and Vice Chair Adams Simon. The proposed amendment would replace paragraph 6 with the following:

"6. Charter Commission meetings will have two periods of Public Comment. During the first period at the beginning of the meeting, comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. A second Public Comment period will take place at the end of the meeting. Comments will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker. For each section of public comment, an additional period of time shall be allowed by a vote of a majority of the members of the Commission present."

Please add this communication to the Commission agenda for our next meeting under your report.

Thank you and have a great conference,

Brian

Proposed Rules of Procedure Amendment for the Lansing Charter Commission Attendance and Absences

8. Commission Commissioners are required to attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Commission. Regular attendance at meetings is essential for effective participation on the Commission. Commissioners are encouraged to notify the Commission Chair or designee in advance of any anticipated absences. Notification should include the reason for the absence and the expected duration.

8.1 Planned Absence with Two Weeks' Notice: Providing written notification to the Commission Chair or designee at least two (2) weeks in advance of an absence will be considered an excused absence.

8.2 Last-Minute Absence with Proof: The following absences may also be considered excused by the Commission Chair or designee, provided the member furnishes documentation or explanation as soon as possible:

- **Illness or medical emergency:** Documented illness of the member or a family member requiring immediate attention.
- **Death in the family:** Death of a close relative.
- **Work obligations:** Unforeseen work obligations that prevent attendance.
- **Public service:** Attendance at official government meetings or events.
- **Other extraordinary circumstances:** Circumstances beyond the member's control that prevent attendance.

8.3 An absence that is not excused under Section 8.1 or 8.2 is considered unexcused.

8.4 Three (3) unexcused absences within a twelve (12) month period may be grounds for the Commission to consider further action, up to and including removal from the Commission.

8.5 Six (6) or more excused absences within a twelve (12) month period will also be grounds for the Commission to consider further action, up to and including removal from the Commission.

Lansing City Charter

Article 1: General

Table of Contents

- **Chapter 1. GOVERNMENT 1**
 - 1-101 Establishment Of Government 1
 - 1-102 Boundaries 1
- **Chapter 2. INTERPRETATION OF CHARTER 1**
 - 1-201 Powers Of The City 1
 - 1-202 Liberal Construction 1
 - 1-203 Severability 1
 - 1-204 Article, Chapter And Section Headings 1
 - 1-205 Definitions 1
- **Chapter 3 RIGHTS OF PUBLIC 1**
 - 1-301 City Records To Be Public 1
 - 1-302 Non-Discrimination And Civil Rights 2
- **Chapter 4. GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION 2**
 - 1-401 Intergovernmental Cooperation 2
 - 1-402 Intergovernmental Services And Agreements 2
 - 1-403 Judiciary 2
- **Chapter 5 PENALTIES 2**
 - 1-501 Penalties For Violation Of Charter 2

Chapter 1: Government (1)

1-101 Establishment Of Government

The people of the City of Lansing, by adoption of this home rule Charter, create and continue a body corporate known as the "City of Lansing" and provide for continuing control of their municipal corporation.

1-102 Boundaries

The boundaries of the City existing when this Charter takes effect continue in effect until changed in accordance with law.

Chapter 2. Interpretation of Charter (1)

1-201 Powers Of The City

The City has the comprehensive home rule power conferred upon it by the Michigan Constitution, subject only to the limitations on the exercise of that power contained in the Constitution or this Charter or imposed by statute. The City also has all other powers, which a city may possess under the Constitution and laws of this State.

1-202 Liberal Construction

The powers of the City under this Charter shall be construed liberally in favor of the City. The specific mention of particular powers in the Charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way the powers of the City as stated in Section 1-201.

1-203 Severability

If any provision of this Charter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions of applications of the Charter.

1-204 Article, Chapter And Section Headings

The article, chapter and section headings and catch lines used in this Charter are for convenience only, and shall not add or subtract from the meaning of the words of this Charter.

Chapter 2. Interpretation of Charter (1) CTD

1-205 Definitions

The definitions provided in this section shall control the interpretation of the defined words when used in this Charter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

AGENCY means any board, commission, department, division, office or other organization of City government and includes any elective officer, appointee, or person acting or purporting to act in the exercise of official duties.

AGENCY OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH means those instrumentalities of government under the direction of the Mayor in Article 4 of this Charter and does not refer to any elected officer.

BOARD means a group of persons organized for governmental purpose and includes commissions and committees.

ELECTORS means persons registered to vote in the City. Percentages of electors shall be determined as of the most recent election.

FRANCHISE means the grant of a right by the City pursuant to law. The Board of Water and Light as a permanent agency of Lansing City Government is not the recipient of a franchise of the City of Lansing.

Chapter 2. Interpretation of Charter (1) [CTD]

1-205 Definitions [CTD]

INQUIRY means a request for information. There is no intention in this Charter to distinguish between inquiries made by City officials and inquiries made by private citizens.

LAW refers to principles of conduct, which must be obeyed. There is no intention in this Charter to distinguish among those jurisdictions with power to declare the law unless specific reference is made to federal law, state law or local law. There is no intention to limit the meaning of LAW to those laws in effect on the effective date of the Charter.

MEMBERS ELECT means that all seats are counted in determining an ordinary or extraordinary majority.

MEMBERS PRESENT means that neither vacant seats nor seats of absent members are counted in determining an ordinary or extraordinary majority.

MEMBERS SERVING means that seats of absent members are counted in determining an ordinary or extraordinary majority, but vacant seats are not counted.

OFFICER includes, but is not limited to, the elected officials of the City, the members of boards and commissions, and their executive staffs, all heads of departments and divisions.

Chapter 2. Interpretation of Charter (1) [CTD]

1-205 Definitions [CTD]

ORDINANCE means a local law enacted by the legislative body of the City of Lansing either prior to the effective date of this Charter or subsequently.

PERSON means both men and women and artificial entities, recognized as persons by state law.

PUBLISH means making something public in the manner stated in or authorized by this Charter, or if no direction is given in this Charter, in one or more newspapers circulated in the City or by posting on the official bulletin boards of the City.

SECTION means the basic unit of this Charter. RELATED SECTIONS are grouped into CHAPTERS. RELATED CHAPTERS are grouped into nine ARTICLES.

STATUTE means a Public Act of the State of Michigan as it exists at the time the provision containing the word STATUTE is to be applied.

Chapter 3 RIGHTS OF PUBLIC (1-2)

1-301 City Records To Be Public

.1 All records of the City shall be public, in accordance with State law, and shall be kept in City offices, except when required for official reasons to be elsewhere, and shall be available for inspection during regular business hours.

.2 No person shall dispose of, mutilate, or destroy any records of the City, except as provided by law.

1-302 Non-Discrimination And Civil Rights

.1 In the exercise of its powers or in the performance of its duties the City and all of its agencies shall ensure that no person or group engaged in the conduct of official business or seeking to do business with the City is discriminated against because of race, creed, political orientation, color, national origin, marital status, sex, age, handicap or for any cause not reasonably related to the accomplishment of a legitimate governmental purpose, and shall take whatever action is necessary to accomplish this purpose.

.2 The City and all its agencies shall ensure that the civil and constitutional rights of all persons are not denied or abridged.

Chapter 4 GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION (2)

1-401 Intergovernmental Cooperation

.1 The City shall, whenever it is feasible and beneficial, adopt a cooperative intergovernmental approach to the solution of urban problems. For this purpose the City shall have the power to join with any unit of government whether local, state or federal, or with any number or combination thereof, by contract or otherwise, as may be permitted by law, in the financing, ownership, operation or performance, jointly or by one or more on behalf of all, of any property, facility or service which each would have the power to own, operate or perform separately.

.2 The City may participate in organizations, both governmental and non-governmental in or beyond the corporate limits of the City. The participation of the City in those organizations is not subject to the limitations of this Charter. The City shall endeavor to secure the application of the principle of one person, one vote in any regional body. The City appointees to such organization shall file a report on their activities with the Mayor and City Council at least once a year.

1-402 Intergovernmental Services And Agreements

.1 In addition to other services the City shall have the authority to extend police and fire protection to property owned by any unit of government.

.2 The City may enter into any agreement or contract with any unit of government providing for the availability of police or fire services or for the compensation of the City for police or fire services.

1-403 Judiciary

Judicial authority shall be organized and exercised pursuant to State law.

Chapter 5 PENALTIES (2)

Chapter 5 PENALTIES

1-501 Penalties For Violation Of Charter

Any person found guilty of an act constituting a violation of this Charter may be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not to exceed 90 days, or both, in the discretion of the court. This section shall not operate to limit or prejudice the power to remove officers or discharge employees as provided in this Charter.