CITY OF LANSING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2026

Call To Order:
The regular meeting of the Lansing City Council was called to order by Mayor McNeill at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mayor McNeill called the roll and indicated that all were in attendance except Rebecca Hatcher.

Councilmembers Present:
Ward 1: Gene Kirby and Kevin Gardner
Ward 2: Jake Kowalewski
Ward 3: Jesse Garvey and Kerry Brungardt
Ward 4: Pete Robinson and Chris Pierce

Councilmembers Absent: Rebecca Hatcher

OLD BUSINESS:

The Regular Meeting minutes of August 6, 2026, were provided for review.

Councilmember Kirby made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2026. Councilmember Kowalewski seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Hatcher; The motion was approved.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mayor McNeill invited comments from the public.

Stephanie Pierce (404 Maple Court) discussed the option of offering political tents at the Fall Festival. Clarification was made that there will be a tent option for two parties, not individual politicians. Discussion occurred.

Kirsten Workman (331 Sage St) asked about the upcoming Brew Fest and how the transient guest fund is used for it. She voiced opinions against offering this type of event for the community. City Administrator Tim Vandall clarified the event will offer sample sizes only and designated drivers have options for non-alcoholic drinks to promote safety. Discussion occurred.

PRESENTATIONS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and approval of Resolution No. B-10-2026 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate

KSA 79-2988 established notice and public hearing requirements for certain taxing entities seeking to collect property taxes in excess of the taxing entity's revenue-neutral rate (RNR).
In order to levy taxes exceeding the RNR, entities are required to approve a Resolution after the RNR public hearing is held. As presented at the June 25, 2026 work session, the city of Lansing

intends to exceed the RNR of 40.341 mills. The proposed mill levy is 41.917, which is a 3.9% increase generating approximately $218,254.

Councilmember Kirby made a motion to open the public hearing on exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Councilmember Pierce seconded the motion. The public hearing was opened at 7:31pm.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Hatcher; The motion was approved.

Finance Director Beth Sanford gave a recap about the budget work session from June.

Chase Spears (529 S Bittersweet Ln) spoke for the City staying revenue neutral. Also had questions about Brew Fest. Discussion occurred.

Mayor McNeill invited any further comments from Council. Discussion occurred. Mayor asked what the Council would suggest cutting and mentioned this should have been brought up in prior work sessions. He also stated staying revenue neutral means inflation is not accounted for. Councilmember Brungardt added that there was help from the Federal Government prior to allow for staying revenue neutral.

Councilmember Hatcher entered the meeting at 7:31pm.

Councilmember Brungardt made a motion to close the public hearing on exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Councilmember Kirby seconded the motion.

Councilmember Brungardt rescinded his motion to close the public hearing on exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Councilmember Kirby rescinded his second.

Councilmember Kirby made a motion to adopt Resolution No. B-10-2026 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Brungardt, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey and Robinson; Nay: Councilmembers Pierce and Hatcher; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

Councilmember Kirby made a motion to close the public hearing for exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed at 7:33pm.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Hatcher, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

Public Hearing on and Consideration of the Proposed 2027 Budget

Staff is pleased to present the Proposed 2027 Budget for the City of Lansing for consideration. The notice of public hearing summarizing the proposed 2027 budget was published in the Leavenworth Times on August 6, 2026. The proposed 2027 Budget includes $510,500 worth of Capital and

Supplemental Requests as discussed at the June 25, 2026 work session and summarized as follows:

- Fire Fund
  - Hose replacement on 1 apparatus $15,500
  - Assistant Fire Chief position (hire date est. 11/1/2027) $20,000
- Wastewater Fund
  - Clarifier rehab $200,000
  - Resurface a portion of the parking lot $275,000

The proposed 2027 budget reflects a flat mill levy, but exceeds the revenue neutral rate by 1.576 mills, which equals approximately $218,254.

Councilmember Brungardt made a motion to open the public hearing on the proposed 2027 budget. Councilmember Kowalewski seconded the motion. The public hearing was opened at 7:34pm.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Hatcher, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

Mayor McNeill invited comments from the public.

Stephanie Pierce (404 Maple Court) asked for clarification on how the clarifier is paid for, confirmed it is from user fees.

Kirsten Workman (331 Sage St) asked for clarification about not having a comprehensive plan to pay for in 2027 and how that would affect the budget. Discussion occurred.

Len Burney (708 Englewood St) spoke about the East Mary curb replacement occurring after 10 years. Discussion with Mayor occurred, stating issues with original concrete mix caused problems sooner than expected requiring the repairs.

Chase Spears (529 S Bittersweet Ln) had questions about the school trail project and KDOT grant. City Administrator Tim Vandall clarified the $600k match is a next summer budget discussion as this project will take several years to complete. Discussion occurred.

Councilmember Brungardt made a motion to close the public hearing on the proposed 2027 budget. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed at 7:44pm.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Hatcher, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

Library Update

Director Terri Wojtalewicz provided an overview of the Northeast Kansas Library System and the resources it provides to Lansing Community Library.

Charter Ordinance No. 1-2026 – A Charter Ordinance designating of Official City Newspaper, and Resolution B-11-2026

Article 12 Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas provides that cities may exercise certain home rule powers, including passing charter ordinances which exempt such cities from the acts of the Kansas Legislature. The City desires, by charter ordinance, to exempt the City from the provisions of K.S.A. 12-1651 and any amendments thereto, that relates to the designation of official city newspaper in Cities of the Second and Third Class. This action will save the City on average $12,000.00 per year in publication expenses.

City Attorney Gregory Robinson explained state statutes and charter ordinances. He wanted to mention that the Mayor has a vote, and it requires a super majority to pass.

Councilmember Hatcher made a motion to adopt Charter Ordinance No. 1-2026 and Resolution B-11-2026 designating the City of Lansing website as the Official City Newspaper. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Hatcher, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey, Robinson and Mayor McNeill; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

Request for Special Meeting

The Joint Meeting of Lansing City Council and USD 469 School Board will be held during a special meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 6:00pm. In order to have a special meeting, the Governing Body must sign a request stating when, where and why it will be held.

Councilmember Garvey made a motion to have the Governing Body sign the request for the Special Meeting for the Joint Meeting of Lansing City Council and USD 469 School Board. Councilmember Kowalewski seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Hatcher, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey, and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

Executive Session – Economic Development

An Executive Session is called for a period of thirty (30) minutes to review Economic Development activities pursuant to the discussion of confidential data relating to the financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorship, exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4).

Councilmember Kowalewski made a motion to enter into Executive Session for period of thirty (30) minutes to review Economic Development activities pursuant to the discussion of confidential data relating to the financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorship, exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), beginning at 8:08 PM and returning to the Council Chambers at 8:38 PM and to include the Governing Body, City Administrator, City Attorney, Community and Economic Development Director Joshua Gentzler and Finance Director Beth Sanford. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Hatcher, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey, and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

Councilmember Hatcher exited the meeting during the Executive Session (unknown time).

Councilmember Garvey made a motion to return to Open Session at 8:38 PM. Councilmember Pierce seconded the motion. No binding action was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Pierce, Brungardt, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski, Garvey, and Robinson; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Hatcher; The motion was approved.

REPORTS:
July Fire Reports
Library Reports
July Fleet Report
City Administrator Report

Department Heads:

Community & Economic Development Director Joshua Gentzler discussed September 22nd and 23rd Comprehensive Plan gathering in the Lansing Community Center. More details coming soon.

City Attorney: none.

City Administrator:

Mr. Vandall mentioned that Lansing just won a $2.6 million dollar trail grant which will provide pedestrian upgrades to crossing K-7 at 4H as well as a unique new path making it easier for students traveling to Lansing High School; this will also help reduce traffic in the area. He also thinks the vacant parcel nearby will be more appealing to developers with established surrounding infrastructure.

Governing Body:

Councilmember Pierce:
- None

Councilmember Brungardt:
- Thank you to Tim for the grant proposal work, it is a big deal to get it, and it will improve safety for kids getting to school.

Councilmember Hatcher:
- Absent

Councilmember Gardner:
- Thank you to Terri, Beth and Tim for their hard work.

Councilmember Kirby:
- Agree with everything said so far. Mentioned that the department heads put their budgets together and they have always been justified in his experience.

Councilmember Kowalewski:

- Thank you to the members of the community for speaking. Great job to Library Director Terri for her presentation.

Councilmember Garvey:

- Agree with everything said so far. The grant is awesome for the City to have obtained.
- Asked a question about future needs of city code update to address electric bikes and scooters.

Councilmember Robinson:

- Thank you to Beth for work on the 2027 budget and sharing helpful information.
- Thank you to the citizens for speaking today.
- Thank you to Mr. Burney who reminded us that we need to be responsible today for the future.
- It's incredible that we got the grant, the added safety aspect alone will be worth $2 million.
- Talked about the real strength of Lansing, it takes all of us doing the right thing.

Mayor McNeill:

- Thank you to all the citizens who spoke today.

Councilmember Hatcher re-entered the meeting at 8:45 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Robinson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Brungardt seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Robinson, Pierce, Brungardt, Hatcher, Gardner, Kirby, Kowalewski and Garvey; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

ATTEST:

Tish Sims

City Clerk Tish Sims, MMC