



Agenda: Battle Creek City Commission

Meeting Date: April 7, 2026 - 7:00 PM
Location: City Commission Chambers
Chair: Mayor Mark A. Behnke
Title: Battle Creek City Hall - City Commission Chambers - 3rd Floor

INVOCATION

7:02

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Sherry Sofia .

ROLL CALL

City Commission

Mayor Mark Behnke	Commissioner Paige Katsarsky-Smith
Commissioner Jessica LaCosse	Commissioner Jim Lance
Commissioner Jenasia Morris	Commissioner Carla Reynolds
Commissioner Patrick O'Donnell	Vice Mayor Sherry Sofia
Commissioner Christopher Simmons, attending remotely	

City Staff

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager	William Kim, City Attorney
Ted Dearing, Assistant City Manager	Shawna Beach, Records Elections Clerk
Shannon Bagley, Police Chief	Lisa Silkworth, Records Elections Clerk
Olivia Heuermann, Service Desk Technician	Steve Skalski, Public Works Director

PROCLAMATIONS AWARDS

Battle Creek Finest Award - Bobby Holley

Mayor Behnke and Commissioner LaCosse presented a proclamation to Mr. Holley.

Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month 2026

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2026.

Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2026

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2026.

Proclamation for Crime Victims' Rights Week 2026

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation for Crime Victims Rights Week 2026.

PRESENTATIONS

Battle Creek Police Department Civilian Police Academy Alumni Association - Roger Ballard

Roger Ballard shared a presentation of the Battle Creek Police Department Civilian Police Academy Alumni Association. The BCPDCPAAA presented an award to BCPD for \$10,000.

CHAIR NOTES ADDED OR DELETED RESOLUTIONS

There were no added or deleted resolutions.

PETITIONS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

There were no petitions, communications or reports.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Hearing to receive comment on the Brownfield Plan for the proposed Allen Edwin Homes redevelopment projects, Outpost Terrace and Eldred Corner.

Mayor Behnke declared the public hearing open, inviting attendees to provide public comment.

Hearing no public comments, Mayor Behnke adjourned the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS

Barry Wayne Adams spoke about resolutions #354 and #355 regarding emergency authority.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

348 - A Resolution adopting Ordinance 10-2026, amending Section 296.09 of the Battle Creek Code of Ordinances, "Retirements".

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds,

Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: Jenasia Morris
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

349 - A Resolution adopting Ordinance 11-2026, amending Section 21 of Chapter 882 of the Battle Creek Code of Ordinances, to extend the commencement and completion deadlines for the Blue Light Development PILOT.

Commissioner Lacosse asked for clarification

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

COMMISSION COMMENT REGARDING MEETING BUSINESS

There were no Commission comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

Minutes

Minutes for the March 17, 2026 City Commission Regular Meeting

Petitions, Communications, Reports

City Manager's Report for April 7, 2026

Ambulance Report for February 2026

Travel Synopsis, NAHRO WashCon 2026, Commissioners Simmons and LaCosse

Proclamations Awards

Proclamation for Earth Week 2026

Proclamation for National Volunteer Week 2026

Resolutions

350 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to grant a permanent easement to Consumers Energy Company through a portion of 119 South McCamly Street, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017, for the purpose of upgrading and maintaining power transmission infrastructure.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

351 - A Resolution seeking authorization regarding a contract with W. Soule and Company in a not-to-exceed amount of \$90,795.00 for emergency replacement of the

server room chiller.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

352 - A Resolution seeking authorization of a contract for severe weather sirens from West Shore Services, Inc. in a not-to-exceed amount of \$61,200.00.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

353 - A Resolution seeking authorization of a contract for Cisco phone system software and hardware updates from Logicalis, Inc. in a not-to-exceed amount of \$71,544.24.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

354 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager and Emergency Management Administrator to enter into an Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement (EMPG) with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division.

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

355 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to adopt the City of Battle Creek Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), as developed and maintained by the Emergency Management Administrator.

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

356 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute MDOT Bridge Repair Contract 26-5090, Job #220625CON.

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSENT AGENDA

357 - A Resolution seeking acceptance of a bid for 2026 Capital Preventative Maintenance Program project from Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC in an estimated amount of \$618,407.95, with unit prices prevailing.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

358 - A Resolution seeking acceptance of the lowest responsive, responsible bid for 2026 Rehabilitation Program project from Lakeland Asphalt Corporation in an estimated amount of \$1,056,558.90, with unit prices prevailing.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

359 - A Resolution seeking acceptance of the lowest responsive, responsible bid for BTL Reconstruct Taxiway A project from Hoffman Bros. Inc., in an estimated amount of \$9,971,470.00, with unit prices prevailing.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

360 - A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to temporarily suspend a Park Rule prohibiting fishing to allow for two children's fishing activities: a pre-event on June 13, 2026, and the "5th Annual Johnny 'Jake' Collier - Teach a Kid to Fish Event" on August 9, 2026, to take place at the specified Goguac Lake location.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

361 - A Resolution recognizing the Lakeview Band and Orchestra Boosters, Inc. as a non-profit service organization operating in the City of Battle Creek for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License from the State of Michigan Lottery Bureau's Charitable Gaming Division.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

362 - A Resolution seeking approval for amendments to the "2025-2026 Fee, Bond and Insurance Schedule" for the City of Battle Creek to include the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) - Credit/Debit Card Fee.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: James Lance

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

363 - A Resolution approving a Brownfield Plan for the proposed Allen Edwin Homes redevelopment projects, Outpost Terrace and Eldred Corner.

Mayor Behnke thanked Allen Edwin for investment in the City.

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

364 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the Good Faith Written Offer and to execute a Warranty Deed to sell 226 square feet of city-owned vacant land at 62 Yuba Street, Parcel No. 52-0890-00-001-0, to the Michigan Department of Transportation for \$1,000.00.

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

365 - A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to purchase 42.05 square feet of land located at 200 W. Michigan Avenue, Parcel No. 52-0254-00-051-0, from Burnham Brook Community Center for \$1,051.25.

Motion/Vote 1
Motion to Approve
Moved By: James Lance
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons, Sherry Sofia, James Lance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

(Limited to three minutes per individual)

Gloria Szakacs mentioned needing a traffic light at LaVista.

David Moore spoke about Bobby Holley and the Lakeview Marching Band.

Reece Adkins commented about school zones.

Autumn Smith spoke about police investigations.

John Kenefick mentioned flooding issues in Battle Creek.

Barry Wayne Adams spoke about MEADA/Blue Oval factory.

Steve Koch noted changes from 2020 and management not being available.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner O'Donnell mentioned upgrading the sirens and changing technology. Commissioner O'Donnell also spoke about the upcoming election.

Commissioner LaCosse commented on the weather sirens being for people outside, also commenting on the ballot proposal and the recall process.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Behnke adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.