



Agenda: Battle Creek City Commission

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026 - 7:00 PM
Location: City Commission Chambers
Chair: Mayor Mark A. Behnke
Title: Battle Creek City Hall - City Commission Chambers - 3rd Floor

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Comm. O'Donnell.

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	Victoria Houser, City Clerk
Shannon Bagley, Police Chief	Steve Skalski, Public Works Director
Bush McCarthy, Fire Chief	Kimberly Holley, Organizational Development

PROCLAMATIONS AWARDS

Beautiful Battle Creek Awards for April 2026

Mayor Behnke presented the Beautiful Battle Creek Awards.

Proclamation for Arbor Day 2026

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation declaring April 24, 2026 as "Arbor Day" in the greater Battle Creek area, encouraging all neighbors to recognize, plant and care for trees at their homes and places of work.

Bessie Ploeg, Asst. to Field Services, reminded everyone that they will be planting trees on Friday, April 24th at McCrea Park. Ms. Ploeg also shared that Battle Creek has been recognized as a Certified Tree City, noting over 2,500 trees were planted by volunteers who contributed over 300 hours in 2025.

Proclamation for Workers Memorial Day 2026

Mayor Behnke presented a proclamation declaring April 28, 2026 as "Workers Memorial Day" in the City of Battle Creek area, urging everyone to recognize and honor the contributions of Michigan's workforce and calls for increased workplace safety standards.

CHAIR NOTES ADDED OR DELETED RESOLUTIONS

There were no added or deleted resolutions.

PETITIONS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

There were no petitions, communications or reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

COMMISSION COMMENT REGARDING MEETING BUSINESS

There were no Commission comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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 April 7, 2026 City Commission Regular Meeting

Petitions, Communications, Reports

City Manager's Report for April 21, 2026

Review Committee Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2026

Travel Synopsis, MML Convention 2025, Commissioner Katsarsky-Smith

Ambulance Report for March 2026

Resolutions

366 - A Resolution appointing Kimberly Holley as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Title VI Coordinator for the City of Battle Creek, replacing Ted Dearing.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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

367 - A Resolution appointing Jennifer Rosa as a new member to the BCTIFA / Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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

368 - A Resolution appointing Jackson Bredehoft, Stephen Herbstreith and Jamie McCaulley as new members and reappointing Bryan Babel, Paul Conkey, Robert Corder, Linda Freybler, John Hart and Kelly Walden to the Downtown Parking System Advisory Committee.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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

369 - A Resolution appointing Jackson Bredehoft as a new member to the Sustainable Battle Creek Committee.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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

370 - A Resolution seeking approval to declare Tuesday, April 28, 2026 as Workers Memorial Day in the City of Battle Creek.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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

371 - A Resolution approving updates to the Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan and the Limited English Proficiency Plan.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

372 - A Resolution seeking approval for the submission of the Water Resources Division Grant Application to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for Dickman Area Storm Water Improvements.

Steve Skalski, Director of Public works, responding to Comm. LaCosse, confirmed this resolution included 80% grant funding, with a 20% match to be paid by Battle Creek and Springfield cities.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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

373 - A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to sign a contract for bus advertisements with Mesmerize Media, LLC for lead poisoning prevention funded by the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant for a total of \$65,800.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jenasia Morris

Supported By: Patrick O'Donnell

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)

David Moore congratulated Mr. Dearing on his retirement, thanking him for his service as Commissioner and Mayor previously, and as Assistant City Manager, wishing him well.

Kathy Antaya provided information about the Share Center, thanking the Commission and Director Elchert for pursuing the emergency shelter designation, also noting the many volunteering opportunities.

John Kenefick commented on recent flooding in Cadillac, commenting on the City's concrete channel, also commenting on the longer distance to the Post - Franklin neighborhood from the proposed new fire station.

Joe Harris commented on the City's commemorative flag policy, asking the Commission to consider changing the policy.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Sofia read a poem celebrating Mr. Dearing's service to the City of Battle Creek as an elected official and as Assistant City Manager.

Comm. LaCosse thanked Mr. Dearing for his support to new commissioners. Comm. LaCosse also commented on Starbase, located at the MI Air National Guard Base, sharing information about their program.

Comm. Reynolds congratulate and thanked Mr. Dearing for his service, expressing appreciation for his kindness, thoughtfulness and knowledge.

Comm. O'Donnell clarified that there is no Early Voting for the May 5th Special Election, also stating Battle Creek was one of only a few cities with 2 year terms, that most have 4 years terms, which is what the ballot proposal was seeking. Comm. O'Donnell encouraged everyone to participate with their NPCs and the good work they do. Comm. O'Donnell thanked Mr. Dearing for his continued service and constant support of Battle Creek.

Comm. Katsarsky Smith thanked Mr. Dearing for always being available to inform and assist the commissioners.

Comm. Morris thanked Mr. Dearing for his willingness to always help, stating this made her a good commissioner.

Comm. Lance congratulated Mr. Dearing on his retirement, stating he has been an unbelievable resource for the commission and the city, the backbone of the city, stating he will be missed.

Mayor Behnke reviewed Mr. Dearing's many years of service to the City, beginning with his election as a commissioner in 1993, and the 68th Mayor of the City. Mayor Behnke also acknowledged Mr. Dearing's contributions to economic growth in the city, noting many projects he helped to complete.

Comm. Simmons wished Mr. Dearing the very best, thanking him for his patience working with commissioners, and always being very diplomatic, stating Mr. Dearing will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Behnke adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.