



Agenda: Battle Creek City Commission

Meeting Date: May 19, 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. Morris.

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	Commissioner Christopher Simmons
Vice Mayor Sherry Sofia	

City Staff

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager	William Kim, City Attorney
Marcie Gillette, Assistant City Manager	Victoria Houser, City Clerk
Shannon Bagley, Police Chief	Aaron Kuhn, Revenue Services Director
Michelle Hull, Human Resource Director	Elizabeth Riser, Risk Compliance Manager
Chad Frein, IT Director	Dacy Schmitt, Planning Supervisor
Helen Guzzo, Community Development Manager	

PROCLAMATIONS AWARDS

Comm. LaCosse

Random Act of Kindness Certificates - Kamryn Clark, Rex Clark and Sasha Clark

Comm. LaCosse shared her experience with the Clark family, expressing appreciation for their assistance to everyone at the park.

CHAIR NOTES ADDED OR DELETED RESOLUTIONS

There were no added or deleted resolutions.

PETITIONS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

A communication was received from Patrick Barnett, which was shared with the commission.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Hearing to receive public comment on the City of Battle Creek's proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget.

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

Brian Najdowski suggested the budget be cut by reducing Code Compliance responsibilities.

Joe Harris stated the budget did not show any funds for the Verona Well Field.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

382 - A Resolution adopting Ordinance 12-2026, to amend Chapter 1281 of Title Six — Zoning of the Code of Ordinances to make text corrections, clarify requirements, correct formatting and make changes substantive in nature to Sections 1281.01(k)(8)B., 1281.01(k)(10), 1281.04(c)(1)A&B and 1280.01(g)A.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Supported By: James Lance

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

383 - A Resolution adopting Ordinance 13-2026 to rezone the properties located at 14 Yuba St. (Parcel #8040-00-147-0), 175 Main St. (Parcel #0890-00-075-0), and 169 Main St. (Parcel #0890-00-075-0) from MFR High-Density Multiple Family District to T-3 Neighborhood Commercial District for the purpose of converting an existing vacant single-

family residence on the site into an office building to support organization operations. It should be noted that 175 Main St. and 169 Main St. share a common parcel but are separate in their addresses.

Comm. O'Donnell thanked CA for their taking care of their area of the City, bringing in more staff and increasing visibility.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Supported By: James Lance

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: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Supported By: James Lance

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 May 5, 2026 City Commission Regular Meeting

Minutes for the May 7, 2026 City Commission Budget Workshop

Petitions, Communications, Reports

City Manager's Report for May 19, 2026

Review Committee Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2026

Ambulance Report for April 2026

Resolutions

384 - A Resolution appointing Megan Bertucci as a new member to the Sustainable Battle Creek Committee.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Supported By: James Lance

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

385 - A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to enter into a permanent Easement For Electric Facilities agreement to Consumers Energy Company through a portion of Lafayette Street, and through a portion of Kendall Street, identified as Parcel No. 52-0390-00-365-0, for the purpose of upgrading and maintaining electricity power transmission infrastructure.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Supported By: James Lance

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

386 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a ten-year mortgage in the amount of \$862,000 with Recovery Services Unlimited Inc. to operate a recovery transitional housing program at 614 NE Capital, a five-unit apartment building renovated by the City of Battle Creek with federal Community Development Block Grant funds and locally controlled Opioid Settlement funds.

Comm. LaCosse inquired as to the annual mortgage payment on the \$862K over 10 years, also asking why the cost was so high.

Helen Guzzo, Community Development Manager, noted the City received several bids on the project, and the project was awarded to the lowest competitive bidder. Ms. Guzzo also noted the facility consisted of five units, with 2-3 bedrooms, with a no-payment, no-interest mortgage, creating affordable recovery housing.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Supported By: James Lance

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

387 - A Resolution seeking acceptance of the proposal of best value from Trapeze Software Group, Inc., dba TripSpark Technologies for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), and Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) services in a not-to-exceed three-year amount of \$1,250,000.

Mallory Avis, Executive Director, TACC, stated the funds would allow them to replace all of the onboard technology and back office technology, including real-time vehicle information.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

Supported By: James Lance

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

388 - A Resolution seeking approval to conduct a Closed Session on two legal matters.

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

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 commented on the public hearing, stating he did not understand what the hearing was for. Mr. Moore thanked Comm. LaCosse for giving him a ride to the meeting.

Joe Harris made several suggestions, including online surveys regarding the City's budget, location of solar fields on abandoned industrial sites, special assessments on multi-housing dwellings that have frequent calls for service, and elimination of property tax for residents 65 and older.

Brian Najdowski complained about the Commission, expressing his opinion they are not in compliance with the OMA, also complaining about Code Compliance, the AT&T building, potholes and semi-trucks.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Comm. O'Donnell thanked the mayor for helping with a driveway issue.

Comm. LaCosse apologized for her late arrival, also expressing hope the City could get more competitive bids on projects.

Comm. Reynolds apologized for missing the Budget workshop, sharing that she had a death in her family.

RECESS

The Commission recessed to Closed Session at 7:33 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

RETURN FROM RECESS

The Commission returned from Closed Session at 8:08 pm.

Motion: To approve the settlement of Marshall v City of Battle creek, BC0-23-59-01 and Shanks v City of Battle Creek, BC0-23-17-01, in the amounts recommended by counsel for the City.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Jessica Lacosse

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Behnke adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.