



## **Agenda: Battle Creek City Commission**

Meeting Date: June 16, 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. LaCosse.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **City Commission**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Jim Lance

#### **City Staff**

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager	Marcel Stoetzel, Deputy City Attorney
Aaron Kuhn, Revenue Services Director	Victoria Houser, City Clerk
Doug Bagwell, Deputy Police Chief	Michelle Hull, Human Resource Director
Steve Skalski, Public Works Director	Chad Frein, IT Director

### **PROCLAMATIONS AWARDS**

Beautiful Battle Creek Awards for May and June 2026

Mayor Behnke presented the Beautiful Battle Creek Awards.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

FY 2026 Water and Sewer Rate Presentation - Stantec

Cole Sullivan, Stantec representative, presented the FT 2026 Water & Sewer Rate Study.

## **CHAIR NOTES ADDED OR DELETED RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 411, regarding an easement, was added to the agenda.

## **PETITIONS COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS**

There were no petitions, communications or reports.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A Public Hearing to receive public comment on the Brownfield Plan for "The Fields at Battle Creek" development.

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**

Joe Harris commented on resolution 414 regarding the proposed water/sewer rates, expressing concern about the readiness fees.

Steve Koch also commented on the proposed water/sewer rates and readiness fees.

John Kenefick commented on resolution 415 regarding the 2026 refunding bonds, also commenting on resolution 414.

Ryan Boylan commented on resolution 411 regarding an easement to Consumers Energy to help upgrade the electrical grid that served Fort Custer Industrial Park.

Eric Lathers, Consumers Energy, stated the easement would allow Consumers Energy to install safer and more reliable infrastructure, which should help to reduce the number of power outages in the Fort Custer Industrial Park.

## **COMMISSION COMMENT REGARDING MEETING BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

## Minutes

Minutes for the June 2, 2026 City Commission Regular Meeting

## Petitions, Communications, Reports

City Manager's Report for June 16, 2026

Ambulance Report for May 2026

## Proclamations Awards

Proclamation for Juneteenth Family Day 2026

## Resolutions

408 - A Resolution appointing six members, Courtney Iobe and Terry Youmans from Community Action; Donny Williams; David Censke; Mary Simmons; and Markeia Simmons to the Post Addition Neighborhood Planning Council #1.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

409 - A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to execute and sign Contract 216627CON with the Michigan Department of Transportation for resurfacing along Riverside Dr and along Limit St.

Motion/Vote 1  
Motion to Approve  
Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell  
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

MOTION Passed

410 - A Resolution requesting authorization for the City Manager to accept a proposal from Midwest Employers Casualty Company to provide Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance services for the period of 7/1/2026 through 6/30/2027 at an estimated cost of \$95,962.00.

Motion/Vote 1  
Motion to Approve  
Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell  
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

MOTION Passed

411 - A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to enter into a permanent Easement For Electric Facilities agreement to Consumers Energy Company through city-owned property at 3954 M. L. King Jr. Memorial Highway, Parcel No. 52-0608-27-512-0, for the purpose of installing and maintaining electricity power transmission infrastructure.

Motion/Vote 1  
Motion to Approve  
Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell  
Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

MOTION Passed

**RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSENT AGENDA**

412 - A Resolution authorizing Jose Segovia to purchase 2 months of generic service credit pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS).

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

413 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to (continue to) employ retiree Doug Bagwell for an interim period, not to exceed past 6/30/2027 under 296.09(c).

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

414 - A Resolution authorizing Water and Sewer System Rates for all customers for FY2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030.

Comm. LaCosse proposed a motion to postpone the vote on this resolution until the first meeting in July,

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager, noted the increase in rates had already been incorporated into the budget,

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Postpone

Moved By: Jessica Lacosse

Supported By: Jenasia Morris

Ayes: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jessica Lacosse, Jenasia Morris, Sherry Sofia

Nays: Mark Behnke, Patrick O'Donnell, Carla Reynolds, Christopher Simmons

Abstain: None

MOTION Failed

Mayor Behnke, noting the City has expanded the water & sewer service area to the casino and the Blue Oval development, and was also working with Newton Township, commended everyone for staying on course.

Comm. LaCosse recommended additional consideration for residents, requesting additional time to review the rates in the future.

Ms. Zimmerlin noted the rates for the Blue Oval development would be adjusted once staff had better data on the flow rates.

Steve Skalski, Public Works Director, noted the City of Marshall is the customer, not Blue Oval, confirming that issues occurring on the Marshall side of the water/sewer utility would be the responsibility of Marshall to repair. Mr. Skalski stated Battle Creek has maintenance agreements with the other municipalities. Mr. Skalski noted the City would assist Marshall if requested, who would then receive an invoice for services.

Comm. Katsarsky-Smith stated she would have preferred to have more time to consider all the information related to the proposed costs and rates.

Comm. Simmons expressed appreciation the rates were already included in the budget, also noting the increases were below the rate of inflation. Comm. Simmons stated the City was moving in the right direction, while also considering additional growth throughout the county.

Motion to Approve

Moved By: PATRICK O'DONNELL

Supported By: PAIGE KATSARKY-SMITH

Ayes: JESSICA LACOSSE, MARK BEHNKE, PATRICK O'DONNELL, CARLA REYNOLDS, CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS, SHERRY SOFIA

Nays: Paige Katsarky-Smith, Jenasia Morris

Abstain: None

MOTION PASSED

415 - A Resolution seeking Authorization for Issuance of 2026 Refunding Bonds.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

416 - A Resolution seeking approval for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 year-end budget amendments for the City's General Fund (Fund 101), Major Street Fund (Fund 202), and Michigan Justice Training Fund (Fund 266).

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

417 - A Resolution approving a Brownfield Plan for the proposed "The Fields at Battle Creek" development.

Comm. Katsarky-Smith asked how the 2024 study compare to the most recent study, particularly with the anticipated need of 28,000 additional units due to the Blue Oval development. Comm. Katsarky-Smith also asked how this property qualifies under the Brownfield guidelines.

John Hughes, Battle Creek Unlimited, stated he does not have the updated numbers from the Blue Oval development, also sharing that the state recently passed legislation to include housing in a brownfield TIF.

Ms. Zimmerlin stated she could share the two housing studies with the commission.

Comm. LaCosse noted this potential development would make a good dent in the need for more housing.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

418 - A Resolution seeking authorization for the City Manager to enter into a Purchase Agreement and all other documents necessary to purchase a vacant portion of parcel number 52-3560-00-013-0, commonly known as 165 N. Washington Street, from Bronson Battle Creek Hospital for \$150,000.00.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

419 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Comprehensive Transition Agreement between the City of Battle Creek and the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

420 - A Resolution seeking to set a Closed Session regarding a Labor Matter for June 16, 2026.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

(Limited to three minutes per individual)

Reece Adkins commented on the lack of response from Battle Creek Police regarding a woman causing a disturbance at his place of work.

Joe Harris commented on the increase in water/sewer fees, stating that although the increases seem small, over time they add up to a lot.

Shawn commented on the removal of a speaker at a prior meeting.

Srekumar Bandyopadhyay invited everyone to The Journey Within presented at the W. K Kellogg Auditorium on July 9th at 7:00 pm.

Steve Koch invited everyone to a special meeting of the Calhoun County Tea Party, June 25th at 6:30pm at the Base Bar & Grill on Dickman Road, in Springfield.

John Kenefick questioned the commission on the votes for resolution 414, also noting comments regarding the agreement with the City of Marshall for the Blue Oval plant, and the Kendall Street RR tracks, stating they are very rough and present a safety issue.

Melody Tiner stated she has talked with Chief Bagley and other officers regarding her concerns with drivers speeding on Washington Avenue, asking for better enforcement.

### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Comm. Morris expressed concern with a recent incident between Battle Creek Police and a minor student, requesting accountability, training and discipline.

Comm. LaCosse expressed her opinion the police did not have a reason to detain and search the student. Comm. LaCosse announced many local community events.

Comm. Reynolds reminded everyone of the Juneteenth events this coming weekend at Claude Evans Park.

Comm. O'Donnell commented on the vote for the water/sewer rates, thanking staff for keeping the costs below the rate of inflation.

### **RECESS**

The Commission recessed to Closed Session at 8:42 pm.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

### **RETURN FROM RECESS**

The Commission returned from Closed Session at 8:52 pm.

Motion to approve the tentative agreement with labor bargaining Organization of Supervisory Personnel of the Battle Creek Fire Department dated June 16, 2026.

Motion/Vote 1

Motion to Approve

Moved By: Patrick O'Donnell

Supported By: Paige Katsarky-Smith

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION Passed

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Behnke adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

**RESPONSE TIME PERFORMANCE  
CITY OF BATTLE CREEK  
May 2026**

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
PRIORITY 1 CALLS RESPONSES	86.5% 631	91.1% 542	92.7% 615	90.2% 640	93.7% 670
PRIORITY 3 CALLS RESPONSES	85.4% 431	92.1% 378	93.0% 440	91.0% 413	96.1% 461
WARD 1 RESPONSES	92.6% 108	89.5% 105	95.5% 111	92.6% 122	93.4% 122
WARD 2 RESPONSES	93.0% 214	96.4% 192	93.0% 201	96.4% 192	93.6% 235
WARD 3 RESPONSES	89.0% 118	88.4% 86	93.6% 108	92.3% 133	92.7% 123
WARD 4 RESPONSES	92.8% 83	90.7% 54	88.9% 72	94.4% 71	97.8% 92
WARD 5 RESPONSES	80.6% 108	85.7% 105	88.6% 123	88.5% 122	91.8% 98

RESPONSE TYPES  
CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Priority 1 ALS Responses	619	541	608	631	654
Priority 1 BLS Responses	12	1	7	9	16
Priority 3 ALS Responses	402	369	429	404	451
Priority 3 BLS Responses	29	9	11	9	10
<b>WARD 1</b>					
ALS Responses	181	166	212	195	217
BLS Responses	8	4	6	4	5
<b>WARD 2</b>					
ALS Responses	342	312	342	305	368
BLS Responses	11	2	5	4	7
<b>WARD 3</b>					
ALS Responses	186	159	177	232	209
BLS Responses	11	2	1	4	2
<b>WARD 4</b>					
ALS Responses	136	103	125	117	146
BLS Responses	4	0	3	1	3
<b>WARD 5</b>					
ALS Responses	176	170	181	186	165
BLS Responses	7	2	3	5	9