



Agenda: Battle Creek City Commission

Meeting Date: June 25, 2026 - 4:00 PM
Location: Battle Creek City Hall - City Commission Chambers - 3rd Floor
Chair: Mayor Mark A. Behnke

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager, welcomed everyone to the goal setting workshop.

ROLL CALL

City Commission

Present

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

Absent

Commissioner Jim Lance
Commissioner Carla Reynolds
Vice Mayor Sherry Sofia

City Staff

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager	William Kim, City Attorney
Marcie Gillette, Assistant City Manager	Victoria Houser, City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT - LIMITED TO 3 (THREE) MINUTES PER INDIVIDUAL

There were no public comments.

OVERVIEW OF PROCESS

Peter Dams, Dams & Associates, noted the evening's workshop would be for strategic planning for the City's future. Mr. Dams reminded the Commission to focus on the future and things the Commission could control or influence. Mr. Dams encouraged the Commission to have an authentic dialogue with a willingness to share their thoughts and feelings.

REVIEW OF CURRENT GOALS AND PROJECTS

Ms. Zimmerlin noted the workshop would provide an opportunity for the Commission to focus on goal setting for fiscal year 2027 - 2028. Ms. Zimmerlin reminded the Commission the focus

areas included Economy, Safety, Transportation & Mobility, Utilities, Environment & Community Design, Arts & Culture, Recreation and Governance.

Ms. Zimmerlin shared a presentation with each focus area, their general goals and the FY 25-26 Work Plan with actions and resulting outcomes and/or progress.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Mr. Dams reviewed the vision, mission, goals and commission objectives, which are supported by department objectives.

Mr. Dams explained the Gap Analysis was to identify the most critical challenges that could keep the City from executing its mission and moving toward its vision. Mr. Dams noted the results would help to identify goal areas, while drafting compelling long and short-term strategic objectives.

Each Commissioner noted their three top challenges on yellow paper, which were posted on the board. Each challenge was categorized as

1. Collaborative Community Governance
2. Attractive, Vibrant, and Prosperous Community
3. Safe and Secure City
4. Cohesive Neighborhoods

Commissioners brainstormed potential strategic objectives that could close the gaps and overcome barriers and challenges while driving Battle Creek government toward mission excellence and vision realization.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Ms. Zimmerlin stated Mr. Dams would consolidate the information for the steering committee to review. The next step would include City staff to develop the projects needed to accomplish the goals. Once that step was completed, the projects, processes and procedures would then be presented to the commission for consideration.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Mayor Behnke, along with the Commissioners, thanked Mr. Dams for efficiently facilitating the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Behnke adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm.