



**CITY OF LINDEN
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M.

LOCATION: LOOSE SENIOR CENTER, 707 NORTH BRIDGE STREET, LINDEN, MI 48451

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Elizabeth Armstrong. The meeting was held at The Loose Senior Center located at 707 North Bridge Street, Linden, Michigan 48451.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present. A Moment of Silence was observed for troops overseas.

ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

City Council Present: Mayor Elizabeth Armstrong, Mayor Pro tem Brad Dick, Pam Howd, Denise Miller, Thomas Hicks, Brenda Simons, Jerry Link

Absent: None

Others Present: Ellen Glass, City Manager; Don Grice, Director of Public Works; Nicole Weissenborn, Deputy Clerk

a. Excuse Absent Member(s)

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Armstrong reviewed the public comment procedure.

Public comment regarding water on Rolston Road. Also commented on no access, difficulty accessing area of property, due to construction. Grice provided a response and briefly discussed with resident.

Motion by Link, second by Miller to amend the agenda to add a topic and discuss Ethics Ordinance. Motion carried 6-1. Armstrong clarified this would be Discussion Item C.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2025
- b. Application to Use Public Property: LAFF Pancake Fundraiser: October 12, 2025
- c. Application to Use Public Property: HIL Zombies, Monsters & Scarecrows: October 17-18, 2025
- d. Application to Use Public Property: HIL Ladies Night: November 8, 2025
- e. Financial Reports

Motion by Miller, second by Hicks to approve the consent agenda. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

AYES: Armstrong, Howd, Miller, Hicks, Dick, Simons, Link

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Revisions to Proposed Ordinance No. 421 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 90: Animals

Armstrong reviewed public comment procedure for this agenda item.

Public comment regarding chicken ownership and caring for them; shared opinion on having chickens in regards to property details; referenced a hotline comment about chickens and shared opinion on maximum acreage and number of chickens.

City Council discussed reasoning for increasing the chicken maximum; egg quantities for families; shared suggestions for the number of chickens related to acreage and coop/run size; referenced Young's review letter in regards to parcel size; case by case basis; grandfathering provisions, not possible and reason; chickens as pets consideration; permit and reasoning; HOA's rules versus city ordinance; outreach and education; and complaint-based enforcement. Dick shared another community's guidance.

There was discussion with resident regarding their number of chickens, ordinance language and square footage. Council clarified and further discussed with resident their coop and run size areas and details.

Councilors confirmed with Glass the following, in reference to Manchester's Ordinance: six chickens if under half an acre; 10 chickens if between half to one acre; maximum of 15 chickens for any property larger than one acre, with a run size equal to the minimum of 10 square feet for number of chickens kept; clarified coop size of three square feet per chicken, with structure still falling under zoning ordinance; permit and keeping setback 50 feet away from any residence, as recommended.

- b. Cunningham-Limp – Mill Renovation

Ryon Barker, with Cunningham-Limp provided an introduction and provided a detailed overview of the Mill Project budget proposals and information to be provided for the next meeting. Councilors, Barker and Staff discussed the mussel study through EGLE, foundation precaution actions; cost; estimated timeline; grant funds, budget years and additional costs; clarified final design aspects; over budget and making up difference; addition details;

stabilization; and roofing. Glass clarified Cunningham-Limp's role; requested any questions from Council, as this would be brought back to the next meeting for final decision.

Councilors requested to see the items prior to the next meeting; requested cost difference for metal roof alternative, referenced \$15,000 difference. Barker explained contract aspect and evaluating and further discussed proposals and scope.

c. Ethics Ordinance

Link shared opinion and reasoning for adding this topic; discussed previous ethics complaints; associated costs and no actions as a result of; and to gauge if further discussion is needed at a future meeting.

Council members discussed the ordinance; purpose and reasoning; policy versus ordinance; costs; standards; how it came about and the vote; and application of ordinance to all city boards and commissions and what would have to be done for all if made into a policy instead.

Discussion between Howd and Glass about reason this topic wasn't being added to this agenda, topic origin and timeline. Glass discussed purpose of Council's Rules of Procedure; who it applies to; and clarified each board has their own bylaws; shared option to take topic to the September work session and discussed the purpose of work sessions and handling of agenda topics and Council's option to include topics within Council Comments.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Glass provided an update on the following items:

- Fiscal year-end preparation
- BS&A transition
- Loose Senior Center bids received
- Lew Bender session notes

Grice provided an update on the following items:

- Lindenwood Project
- Dam Pathway Project
- West Rolston Road Project
- Safe Routes to School Project
- East Broad Street construction
- Minor repairs on multiple roads

Miller left the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Miller returned to the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Link commented on the ethics ordinance-related discussion this meeting.

Howd commented on advance notice on agenda topics; shared reminder of the Linden Mill Historical Society Anniversary party invitation. Commented on the Holly Dam and other area dams; Parks and Recreation Commission event details.

Simons discussed the Mott Foundation donation to LAFF Pathway; Ed Koledo's retirement from Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation (SLPR); and shared the number of ethics complaints.

Miller commented on not being at last meeting and reasoning; and each board member works hard and thanked Mayor and staff.

Hicks commented loves work session meetings.

Dick commented on the purpose of work sessions and also shared details on the last Karaoke at the Mill event.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Howd, second by Hicks to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Armstrong at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Weissenborn, Deputy Clerk

Approved: _____