CITY OF LINDEN
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026 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 6:31 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 our firefighters and police heroes.

City Council Present: Mayor Elizabeth Armstrong, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Link, Brad Dick, Tom Hicks, Pam Howd, Denise Miller, Brenda Simons
Absent: None
Others Present: Ellen Glass, City Manager; Scott Sutter, Chief of Police; Brian Will, Fire Chief; Don Grice, Director of Public Works; Brooke Card, City Treasurer; Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk; Mike Gildner, City Attorney; Adam Young, City Planner/Zoning Administrator

a. Excuse Absent Member(s)

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

(A) New Firefighter Introductions, By: Fire Chief Will

Chief Will introduced a new firefighter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS
None.

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Public comment about emails sent; city charter language; handbook; comment cards; shared requests; referenced questions and discussions during previous meetings.

Public comment about Loose Center uses; rooms; referenced documents shared with Council regarding canceled classes. Also commented on Police reports; May Activity log; search engine; and class calendar.

Motion by Miller, second by Armstrong to add agenda Item f. Loose Center Uses and Item g. Bills for the Equipment. Motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

(A) Corrected City Council Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2026
(B) City Council Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2026
(C) Financial Reports

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

AYES: Dick, Miller, Hicks, Simons, Link, Armstrong, Howd
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(A) Monthly Grant Updates: All Pending & Newly Applied for Grants

Glass referenced updated grants list shared. Armstrong and Glass discussed including the list in regular meeting agenda packets.

(B) Meeting Recording

Kanyak provided an update regarding scheduling for equipment.

(C) Contract Statuses - Museum and Library in Mill Building

Glass had no update.

(D) Loose Van Update

Glass had no update.

(E) Comment Cards Update

Glass had no update.

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Resolution No. 11-26 Mosquito Ballot Language Approval

Glass reviewed the topic. No public comment was received. No comments from Council were received.

Motion by Howd, second by Simons to approve Resolution No. 11-26 Mosquito Ballot Language Approval. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

AYES: Link, Armstrong, Simons, Howd, Dick, Miller, hicks
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

(B) Resolution No. 12-26 CLG Grant Acceptance

Kanyak reviewed the topic. Glass, Kanyak and Council further discussed grant purpose, details, timeline and procurement procedures. Armstrong referenced email and explained most questions answered; also requested additional background information in future, Glass referenced grant list. Miller and Kanyak further discussed procurement process and resolution items.

Motion by Hicks, second by Dick to approve Resolution No. 12-26 CLG Grant application. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

AYES: Link, Hicks, Armstrong, Miller, Howd, Dick, Simons
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

(C) Ordinance No. 427 Amending City of Linden Zoning Ordinance (Housing Readiness Zoning Amendments)

Young provided background and reviewed the topic. Council and Staff discussed Planning Commission approval and feedback incorporated; MSHDA Grant; local control; reimbursement process; clarified non-conforming residential use in a commercial district; clarified commercial in residential area; mixed-use scenario residential allowable, commercial not. Armstrong discussed list of items to be eligible for grant, Young addressed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dick to approve Ordinance No. 427 Amending City of Linden Zoning Ordinance (Housing Readiness Zoning Amendments). Roll call. Motion carried 6-1.

AYES: Miller, Simons, Howd, Dick, Link, Hicks,
NAYS: Armstrong
ABSENT: None

(D) Ordinance No. 428 Amending Chapter 72 of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances (Bicycles, Scooters and Mopeds)

Sutter reviewed the topic.

Public comment about ticketing, Sutter addressed.

Public comment about vehicles on the LAFF Pathway, Sutter explained.

Public comment on list of what is not allowed, Sutter explained.

Public comment about safety equipment language, Sutter explained.

Public comment on language about hours and reasoning, concern on street, briefly discussed with Sutter.

Public comment on lighting, Sutter explained.

Council, Sutter and Gildner discussed ordinance language to allow utilization after dark for work transportation purposes; lighting language and bringing back next meeting. Armstrong discussed incidents with Sutter; motor vehicle code; and sharing on website and newsletter after adoption.

(E) Council Meetings Location - City Council Meetings within Loose Center Halls A/B

Miller explained reasoning for topic; shared feedback and thoughts regarding where to hold meetings; and requested permanent place either Hall A or B to have City Council meetings.

Public comment regarding screens for presentations in annex, Miller explained.

Public comment about having the screens in the annex and Council able to use their devices.

Public comment on audio and visual system suggested layout change.

Public comment about annex set up.

Public comments about if meetings are moving back to the Mill building and suggested layout change.

Council discussed room options; screens; layout; and further reasoning for using halls.

Motion by Miller, second by Armstrong to move Council meetings to either Halls A or B.

Kanyak requested staff flexibility related to program scheduling and requested clarification if Council still wants to proceed with equipment installation in annex.

Public comment on weeks of discussing.

Discussion regarding motion. Council and staff discussed equipment cost and scope of work in rooms; installation schedule and quotes previously provided; previous meeting locations and capacity; reasons for moving meetings between rooms and staff discretion; holding smaller meetings in annex and council and larger meetings in halls; and evening programming. Gildner, Council and staff discussed if motion is necessary and confirmed use these rooms has primary with annex secondary and to proceed with equipment.

(F) Loose Center Uses

Miller discussed reasoning for addition of item and explained class cancellations. Glass explained monthly updates; cancellation reasons regarding instructors; programming continuing during voting; yoga will be returning; discussed numbers. Miller further explained.

Public comment about name, Glass addressed.

Further discussion with Council and Glass about class cancellations and notifying; arthritis class instructor hiring part-time option, Sweeney working on solution.

Public comment referencing photo about public comment materials about Loose.

(G) Bills for Equipment

Miller requested removal of this agenda item.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Glass provided a verbal update on the following items:

- BS&A Software issue today
- Referenced update sent
- Mill project, power pole, completion date pushed back, Council tour
- County sewer rates

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT
Gildner opened it up for questions from Council. Miller asked about Charter language addressed by Gildner; city council/city manager hiring roles, Gildner referenced and explained his interpretation and Charter appointments.

Howd discussed possibility of updating city's curfew pertaining to earlier ordinance discussion, referenced law, Sutter explained and discussed low crime rate.

Council, Gildner and Glass discussed hiring process and Charter language; Charter review and approval process; appeal process and Council's role; varying language amongst cities and townships. Glass shared clarification and referenced updates and timelines regarding DPW Director new hire. Gildner also addressed Loose Department ordinance inquiry and Charter language.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS
Armstrong thanked the Departments for their reports which included reports from the Police Department, Code Enforcement, Department of Public Works and Fire Department and Senior Services Department.

COUNCIL COMMENTS
Howd thanked Clerk's Department for work on early voting days encouraged people to use early voting.

Dick commented on smoke's impact on River Roast and shared event details.

Miller thanked Happening In Linden for events. Also apologized to resident regarding a recent meeting incident. Also commented on Mill tour and progress thanked staff for Mill tour.

Link thanked and commented on Mill tour and progress.

No comment was received from Hicks or Simons and Armstrong.

CLOSED SESSION

(A) Memorandum of Understanding – Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement

Glass explained reasoning for closed session.

Motion by Howd, second by Miller to enter closed session. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

AYES: Simons, Dick, Miller, Link, Armstrong, Howd, Hicks
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Council entered into closed session at 8:19 p.m.

Motion by Miller, second by Simons to return to open session. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

AYES: Howd, Link, Simons, Armstrong, Hicks, Miller, Dick
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Council returned to open session at 8:43 p.m.

Motion by Miller, second by Howd to move that the City Council approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the City Council (City of Linden) and the Linden Police Officers Association to establish a Lieutenant position. The total cost would be a 5% increase above the Sergeant's position. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

AYES: Hicks, Howd, Link, Armstrong, Dick, Simons, Miller
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Armstrong at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

_________________________________ Approved: _____________
Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk