



**CITY OF LINDEN
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 all of our Firefighters, First Responder Heroes that went to the scene in Grand Blanc.

ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

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

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Brad Dick

Others Present: Ellen Glass, City Manager; Scott Sutter, Chief of Police; Don Grice, Director of Public Works; Tessa Sweeney, Director of Senior Services & Community Engagement; Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk; Pat Parker, City Attorney

a. Excuse Absent Member(s);

Armstrong excused Dick from the meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Dementia Friendly Communities By: Jim Mangi, Dementia Friendly Services
Jim Mangi provided an introduction and presented on dementia and significance; shared personal experiences; the dementia-friendly communities non-profit program; ways to incorporate into our community and benefits; public education and activities and community involvement.

No public comment was received.

Councilors thanked the speaker; some shared personal experiences; discussed aspects of the program and how status is achieved, with Mangi; methods of sharing information and training details. Armstrong confirmed Council's interest in bringing back to next work session. Staff clarified after first of the year for next work session, Councilors confirmed.

Sutter and Mangi discussed having him present to first responders and suggested various groups. Councilors discussed setting up training sessions and start the process; other boards that should have this training and reasoning; Glass confirmed working with Mangi to get something scheduled with staff and boards. Armstrong confirmed understanding with Council and staff to move forward with.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment about dementia friendly community opportunity and shared personal experience. Shared upcoming American Legion event participation, happenings and details.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes from September 22, 2025
- b. Street Collection Application - Kiwanis: November 29, 2025
- c. Street Collection Application – LHS Project Graduation: April 18, 2026
- d. Financial Reports

Motion by Howd, second by Miller to approve the consent agenda. Roll call. Motion carried 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dick

BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 18-25 Approval of Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Agreement

Glass reviewed agenda topic and reasoning for item. No questions were received from Council.

Motion by Howd, second by Hicks to approve Resolution No. 18-25 A Resolution Approving the Agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation Contract Number 25-5480 and Designate an Authorized Signer. Roll call. Motion carried 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dick

- b. Approval of the Linden Gazebo Sidewalk Reconstruction Project

Glass reviewed agenda topic and item. Grice discussed the project scope; purpose; and grant funding. No questions were received from Council. Simons and Grice briefly discussed project details. No public comment was received.

Motion by Simons, second by Armstrong to approve the Linden Gazebo Sidewalk Reconstruction Project and award the project to MDT Construction in the amount of \$13,952.54. Roll call. Motion carried 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dick

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Consideration of Renewal of Conditional Rezoning Request: 210 Oak St. Glass reviewed reasoning for the topic and discussed the applicant's request. Parker reviewed potential options with Council. Councilors discussed bringing it back with a full Council present; confirmed there were no changes from what was originally proposed; careful when bringing back items after voted on, staff clarified it failed due to a tied vote. Parker explained vote; Council's authority regarding this situation and shared reasoning for no precedent for conditional rezoning. Armstrong confirmed with staff the majority would like to bring it back and clarified for next the next meeting.

b. Deer Ordinance
Glass reviewed topic for consideration. Sutter provided brief background and findings; language type of penalty.

Public comment about ordinance language pertaining to birdfeeders.

Public comment about disease amongst deer; feeding concerns and what attracts deer.

Councilors and Sutter discussed providing education for how to manage and DNR resources available; penalty amount and enforcement; good method to help people and prevent further disease; encouraging better yard care and ways to deter. Council confirmed with Staff to put on the next agenda, as proposed.

c. Recording Meetings
Glass explained reasoning for topic; past discussions about budget prioritizations; finding a permanent location; significant costs associated and additional factors and requirements to consider for a city; discussed PEG funding and explained this is the latest. No public comment was received.

Councilors discussed need for permanent location; referenced potential costs and suggested methods and equipment; referenced Michigan Municipal League (MML) trainings and Zoom utilization; if the community is being served by current recordings and a suggestion to pay person recording; and options. Parker explained city involvement and videos becoming public record. Councilors discussed concerns heard and if any complaints received; importance and reasoning, no timeframe for permanent place; and how to monitor/control comments when streaming. Brief discussion amongst Hicks and Parker about outside, paid recordings being public record, Parker explained, will look into and update.

Councilors further discussed possible use of PEG funding and streaming channel, Glass explained; equipment and building upon. Glass clarified recordings are public record and confirmed staff will quote for upgrade, system and solicit for bids without permanent location; shared additional considerations, confirmed with Simons this was not budgeted for. Councilors requested cost for 2026 budget; options; grant potential; location; and requested attorney look into Zoom and what requirements need to be followed pertaining to the Open Meetings Act; for retention and technology.

Kanyak reviewed consideration of ADA accessibility and other various factors for streaming and meeting recordings; training and additional IT support and significant cost. Miller requested Attorney look into considerations mentioned, Parker confirmed will be looked into. Glass clarified MML is not a government body, further explained staff has been looking into for next budget year after February planning session and budget conversations with Council. Councilors discussed permanent location need; other municipalities' set ups and YouTube utilization; to look into now and move forward towards. Glass reviewed decision made by Council on meeting recordings from February Lew Bender session notes.

d. Loose Advisory Committee

Glass reviewed the topic and discussed memo provided in packet and explained structure and purpose.

Public comment sharing thoughts on committee make up and reasoning.

Council and Staff discussed Sweeney's role; committee establishment timeframe; positive improvements since changeover; benefits of input; Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation (SLPR) representation; and expectations. Armstrong discussed reasoning for topic, Sweeney shared status update. Glass requested flexibility pertaining to the committee; referenced survey results regarding age-gap; and partnerships with other municipalities.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Glass provided an update on the following items:

- Referenced update sent
- Groundbreaking ceremony success/future ribbon-cutting
- Planning Commission zoning amendments
- Further Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) expansion with Linden
- Annex renovation progress
- Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board activities/initiatives
- Upcoming audit presentation
- Community events
- Safe Routes to School Info meeting

No public comment was received. No questions were received from Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Howd commented on birthday cake available. Discussed FEMA based community response training and consideration of a CEMA Program and reasoning, brief discussion with Sutter. Howd also commented on upcoming Radon Awareness event.

Hicks commented on today's Mill groundbreaking and future ribbon cutting.

Miller commented on the Mill groundbreaking; thanked residents and the American Legion.

Simons provided an update on the search for SLPR's Executive Director. Simons requested clarification regarding Street Collections, staff addressed.

Armstrong commented on the Mill groundbreaking thanked staff, Council and all involved; and on project completion.

No comment was received from Councilor Link.

CLOSED SESSION

a. Attorney-Client Privilege Letter

Parker reviewed reason for closed session to discuss privileged communication from the attorney.

Motion by Miller, second by Simons to enter closed session. Roll call. Motion carried 6-0.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dick

Council went into closed session at 8:22 p.m.

Motion by Simons, second by Miller to return to open session. Roll call. Motion carried 5-0.

AYES: Howd, Link, Simons, Hicks, Miller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Armstrong, Dick

Council returned to open session at 9:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Kanyak explained Council Rules of Procedure in absence of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Motion by Miller, second by to Simons to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned by Councilor Simons at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk

Approved: _____