

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 24, 2026

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson called the Regular Meeting to order at 06:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Portage City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Nicole Miller, Kathleen Olmsted, Jihan Young, and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson were present.

ABSENT: Mayor Patricia Randall and Councilmember Victor Ledbetter.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Pat McGinnis, Chief Development Officer Peter Dame, City Attorney Catherine Kaufman, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Pearson, the audience observed a moment of silence to reflect on the service members lost in the current conflict in Iran. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2026 Portage High School Men's Swim Team: Head Coach Michelle Greene introduced the team, and the team's captains read the proclamation.

Portage Pocket Pay March Art Contest Winner: Councilmember Young announced the winner, Quinn Campagna, from Ms. Cucksey's 4th grade at Portage Central Elementary.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:

- 1) Alan Loveridge (23965 88th Ave., Marcellus) provided suggestions regarding waste hauling optimization.
- 2) Cheryl Lathrop (7142 Starbrook Street) encouraged the Council to adopt the proposed moratorium for data centers, noting energy usage costs associated with their operations.
- 3) Rachel Vinales (Kalamazoo Township) relayed her candidacy for the 8th District Court judge position on the November 2026 ballot.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Pro Tem Pearson shared where the public can access the meeting agenda and asked if anyone would like an item removed from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 9, 2026. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of March 24, 2026, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

South Westnedge Avenue Reconstruction Project - Bid Tabulation: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to award a construction contract for the South Westnedge Avenue Reconstruction project to Rieth Riley Construction Company, Incorporated, Kalamazoo, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$3,580,958.68 and authorize

the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contracts on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

FY25-26 Mill and Fill: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to award a contract in the amount of \$902,989.90 to Lakeland Asphalt for spring mill and fill asphalt repairs to major and local street sections and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Ramona Park Fishing Pier Rehabilitation: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to award a contract in the amount of \$121,360 to Riverworks Construction, Inc. for Ramona Park Fishing Pier Rehabilitation construction services, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Decertify Public Streets: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to adopt the Resolution to Decertify Public Streets. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Adopting Public Streets: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to adopt the Resolution Accepting Newly Constructed Dedicated Streets as Public Streets. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application for Lakeview Park Restroom.: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve a Certified Resolution to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund to authorize submission of the "Lakeview Park Restroom Renovation" application, make available matching city funds for the project, and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Amendment to Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 12, Project Depatie, at 5960 S. Sprinkle Road: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to receive the Amended "Project Depatie" Brownfield Plan for 5960 and 5870 South Sprinkle Road, Portage, MI, and set a public hearing for April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard for consideration of approval of Amended Brownfield Plan, being Amendment to Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 12. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 17, Copperleaf Phase 6, at 3800 W. Milham Rd.: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to receive the "Copperleaf Phase 6" Brownfield Plan for 3800 West Milham Avenue, Portage, MI, and set a public hearing for April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard for consideration of approval of the Brownfield Plan, being Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 17. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Materials Transmitted: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to receive the Materials Transmitted of March 19, 2026. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Minutes of Boards & Commissions: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to receive the minutes of the Human Services Board of February 5, 2026. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Calendar of Meetings: Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to receive the Calendar of Meetings as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Temporary Moratorium for Data Centers and Battery Energy Storage Systems: Mayor Pro Tem Pearson opened the public hearing at 6:18 PM.

1) Jason Mikkelsen (6834 Manhattan Street) expressed support for a moratorium, noting several concerns regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

2) Katelyn Clarey (Vicksburg resident) spoke in favor of a moratorium for data centers and BESS.

Seeing no other comments, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson called for a motion to close the public hearing. Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember Burns, to adopt the amendment to Ch 42, Art. 4, Div. 3 to establish a temporary moratorium for Data Centers and Battery Energy Storage Systems. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Miller provided an update regarding the Consolidated Dispatch Board of Directors, as well as the Discover Kalamazoo Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson noted Councilmember Miller's service on the Airport Committee and asked her to comment on recent news regarding additional flights at the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport. She provided information regarding the additional services, explaining why the changes were implemented.

Motion by Councilmember Burns, seconded by Councilmember Young, to receive the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Young provided an update regarding several events she had attended, as well as several recently opened businesses in the city.

Councilmember Burns relayed the recent meeting of the Council's Utility Rate Committee and the forthcoming proposal regarding the 2026 water and sewer rates.

Councilmember Olmsted relayed a reminder regarding the upcoming May 5th Special Election, noting the availability of sample ballots on the Michigan Secretary of State's website. She highlighted the proposal to amend Chapter 58 of the Code of Ordinances and encouraged residents to be informed and vote in the election.

Councilmember Miller noted the youth art contest and increased content on the city's YouTube channel. She also highlighted several upcoming city construction projects. Councilmember Miller then spoke regarding the city ordinance proposal for the upcoming election.

City Manager McGinnis credited the staff in the Community Development Department for its efforts on the Stanwood Crossings development, the Finance Department for

developing the upcoming budget, and the Public Works Department for assisting Three Rivers with its tornado brush removal. He closed with a reminder to sign up for the yard waste service through WM before the end of the month and acknowledged the completion of the Board of Review.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson began by highlighting approval of the Ramona Park Fishing Pier Rehabilitation project from the consent agenda. He then provided comments regarding the city ordinance proposal included in the upcoming May election.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk