



## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

**City Hall, 10th Floor Conference Room**

### **AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. 02-18-26 meeting minutes

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Progress updates on the Tree Inventory & Management Plan, Consumers Energy Renewable Energy Program, Municipal Waste Study, and the potential addition of statutory ex-officio members
- B. Review Environmental Action Plan and prioritize topics
- C. Research on 'LEED for Cities and Communities'

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion on potential for 2026 Arbor Day proclamation and 'No Mow May' initiative

B. Discussion on data centers and their potential development within city limits

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

(3-Minute Limit)

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**9. NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 04-15-26 AT 6:00 PM**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 02-18-26**  
**MEETING MINUTES (PREPARED 03-05-26)**  
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Date: Wednesday, 02-18-26

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Conference Room on 10<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, 161 W Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan

**I. Call to Order** *Chairperson Kazmier called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.*

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:** *Commissioner Kelli Kazmier (Chair)*  
*Commissioner Andrew Johnson*  
*Commissioner Samantha Kloos*

**Absent:** *Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood*

**Staff:** *Jeffrey Crow, City of Jackson Engineering*

**III. Adoption of the Agenda**

*Motion made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Kloos to approve the agenda as presented approved unanimously.*

**IV. Approval of the minutes for the 11-12-25 and 01-14-26 meetings**

*Motion made by Commissioner Kloos and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes for the 11-12-25 and 01-14-26 meetings as presented approved unanimously.*

**V. Old Business**

- i. Progress updates on the Tree Inventory & Management Plan, Consumers Energy Renewable Energy Program, Municipal Waste Study, and the potential addition of statutory ex-officio members.*

*Commissioner Kazmier requested that Mr. Crow discuss the progress updates on the above-mentioned items, to which Mr. Crow responded in the affirmative.*

*Mr. Crow mentioned that the draft Tree Inventory & Management Plan is complete. He provided one hard copy of the report for the group to circulate and distributed a one-page executive summary to each Commissioner. He reviewed the material by reading the executive summary and responding to questions. He also mentioned that a meeting with the Engineering, Forestry, and GIS Departments is scheduled later in March to review the draft and provide feedback for incorporation into the final report.*

*Commissioner Johnson suggested that the Commission prepare a letter supporting the recommendations in the final Tree Inventory & Management Plan report, to which Commissioner Kazmier and Commissioner Kloos responded in the affirmative.*

*Mr. Crow stated that there is still time to enroll in the Consumers Energy Renewable Energy Program, but there are no new updates on whether Consumers Energy will return to present the program to City Council at a future meeting. He also mentioned that there are no new updates on any upcoming Municipal Waste Study work by City staff or the addition of statutory ex-officio members to the Commission.*

*ii. Research on LEED for Cities and Communities*

*None.*

*iii. Discussion on Invasive Tree Species and Pest Insects*

*None.*

*iv. Recap of 'Cost Savings from EAP initiatives' Meeting*

*Commissioner Kazmier provided a recap of a meeting she had with former Mayor Mr. Dobies regarding Environmental Commission initiatives. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Mr. Dobies with a better understanding of the Commission's direction and explore potential cost savings from its initiatives. Discussion topics included the Consumers Energy Renewable Energy Program, the Municipal Waste Study, and the absence of statutory ex-officio members on the Commission. She mentioned that, if only one initiative were to move forward, the Municipal Waste Study appears more likely to advance than the Renewable Energy Program because implementing a single-hauler waste system in Jackson could deliver more immediate financial benefits to residents, whereas the Renewable Energy Program is a long-term investment with benefits realized over time.*

## VI. New Business

### i. Election of Officers

*Motion made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Kloos to select Commissioner Kazmier as Chair, Commissioner Johnson as Vice Chair, and Mr. Crow as Secretary for calendar year 2026 approved unanimously.*

### ii. Other New Business

*Commissioner Kazmier stated that the Environmental Action Plan should be reviewed at the next Commission meeting to help prioritize topics. She added that her focus will remain on continuing her research on LEED for Cities and Communities.*

*Commissioner Kloos discussed the importance of conducting annual environmental initiatives, including 'No Mow May' and Arbor Day proclamation, to which Commissioner Kazmier and Commissioner Johnson responded in the affirmative.*

*Commissioner Kazmier discussed the previous 'No Mow May' initiative and Arbor Day proclamation from 2023, and texted City Councilmember Will Forgrave about potentially supporting both items if they appear on 2026 Council meeting agenda.*

*Commissioner Kloos requested that Mr. Crow discuss Sec. 2-370 'Conservation budget activity established' and Sec. 2-371 'Other sources of funding for conservation', to which Mr. Crow responded in the affirmative.*

*Mr. Crow mentioned that Sections 2-370 and 2-371 establish the City of Jackson's conservation fund, allowing Council and private donations to support the Environmental Commission's activities. The city may also accept grants, gifts, and use fundraising methods, including partnerships and crowd-funding, for conservation projects. These sections are linked below:*  
[https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_CH2A\\_D\\_ARTIIBOCO\\_DIV10ENCO\\_S2-370COBUACES](https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH2A_D_ARTIIBOCO_DIV10ENCO_S2-370COBUACES)

*Commissioner Kloos discussed the importance of community engagement and stated that she would like to gather input from residents regarding data centers and their potential development within city limits. She added that she is also concerned about potential rollbacks to EPA grants and other funding opportunities that could affect the city's ability to support future environmental-related projects.*

## **VII. Citizen Comments**

*None.*

## **VIII. Commissioner Comments**

*Commissioner Kloos mentioned that Ms. Mara Mackey submitted her Environmental Commission application in 2025 and expressed support for her appointment to the Commission.*

*Commissioner Kloos expressed concern about city-owned sidewalks covered in snow and ice, adding that the City itself appears to be the largest violator of the sidewalk clearing ordinance. She stated that this issue presents both a safety and environmental concern. She acknowledged the volunteer program that assists residents in clearing sidewalks but added that some city-owned sidewalks remain neglected and uncleared. She also mentioned that she had raised these concerns with the 11th floor (DPW/Utility Billing) prior to this meeting and added that maintenance issues such as these are clouded by a lack of trust in the City's ability to complete the work. The ordinance for sidewalk clearing is linked below: [https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_CH23STSIOTP\\_UPL\\_ARTIVSI\\_S23-107SIBECL](https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH23STSIOTP_UPL_ARTIVSI_S23-107SIBECL)*

*Commissioner Johnson expressed concern over the stalled progress in appointing ex-officio members to the Commission. He mentioned that adding members would help advance the completion of the goals outlined in the Environmental Action Plan.*

## **IX. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 03-18-26 at 6:00 pm**

## **X. Adjournment**

*Motion made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Kloos to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:43 pm.*