



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM

City Hall, 10th Floor Conference Room

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE 11-20-24 MEETING MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of 11-20-24
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Prioritization of issues for Commission focus
 - B. Committee assignments
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7. CITIZEN COMMENTS (3 MINUTE LIMIT)**
- 8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 9. NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 02-12-25 AT 6:00PM**

10. ADJOURNMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 11-20-24
MEETING MINUTES (PREPARED 12-16-24)
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Date: Wednesday, 11-20-24

Time: 6:00 pm

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

I. Call to Order *Chairperson Kazmier called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.*

II. Roll Call

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

Absent: *Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood*

Also Present: *Freddie Dancy, Ward 2 Councilmember*
Jessica Hilton (completed online application; not yet appointed or sworn in)

Staff: *Jeffrey Crow, City of Jackson Engineering*

III. Adoption of the Agenda

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

IV. Approval of the minutes for the 09-18-24 meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Kloos and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes for the 09-18-24 meeting with a correction under V. Old Business, i. Prioritization of issues for Commission focus, c) Research on health consequences of solid waste dumping, to state that no further research or action is currently planned. Motion was approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

i. Prioritization of issues for Commission focus

Commissioner Kazmier asked Mr. Crow for an update on the City's qualifications toward Tree City USA certification.

Mr. Crow discussed the four standards for Tree City USA certification and the City's upcoming Tree Inventory and Management Plan. He mentioned the proposed plan has not been shared with Tree City USA personnel and may be incomplete, partly due to excluding trees in City-owned parks and parcels. He also mentioned the absence of a Tree Board within the City and the potential incompleteness of the City's tree ordinance, available on the City's website and noted in the meeting minutes for April 19, 2023. He suggested if the Commission recommends pursuing Tree City USA certification and the City proceeds, the City could then apply for certification using the existing tree ordinance and incorporate feedback later for adoption. He mentioned the City's annual forestry management spending exceeds the minimum required for Tree City USA certification. He also mentioned the need for the Mayor or an approved representative to annually observe and proclaim Arbor Day, which was last completed in 2023. He suggested following the same 2023 procedures to host an Arbor Day ceremony in 2025. He plans to provide milestone updates on the Tree Inventory and Management Plan which is expected to be substantially completed by October, 2025.

Commissioner Kazmier provided an update about her ongoing research into "LEED for Cities" certification. She mentioned pursuing certification would require staff time for data review and information-gathering, including tree canopy inventories and energy audits.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested and Mr. Crow agreed that Mr. Crow will provide an update at the next Commission meeting regarding the Veregy Study.

Commissioner Johnson asked Commissioner Flores if Jackson Crossing is pursuing EV charging stations for the parking lots associated with Jackson Crossing.

Commissioner Flores mentioned Jackson Crossing has designated areas for future EV charging stations with a power source ready through Consumers Energy, but no further research or action is currently planned.

Commissioner Johnson introduced Ms. Bradish-Orta (Community Affairs Manager, Consumers Energy), at which time both advocated for adding more EV charging stations in the City. Commissioner Johnson plans to prepare a preliminary cost assessment for repurposing four downtown parking spaces into designated EV charging stations.

Commissioner Johnson suggested and Mr. Crow agreed that Mr. Crow will provide preliminary information at the next Commission meeting regarding City funds and interest toward EV charging stations near the downtown post office (Lot 8) and the Grand River (Lot 5).

Commissioner Kloos mentioned a City resident attended last month's canceled meeting to advocate for repurposing a city-owned corner lot on Douglas and 1st (1415 1st Street) into a community garden or park. Commissioner Kloos shared that she spoke with Mr. Mays (Grant Coordinator, Community Development Department), and Mr. Mays mentioned the property and the adjacent lot are designated for the 100 Homes program, but smaller City-owned vacant lots could be considered for repurposing.

Mr. Crow suggested and Commissioner Kloos agreed that Commissioner Kloos will continue to communicate with Mr. Mays about the possibility of repurposing City-owned vacant lots into community gardens or parks.

Commissioner Johnson asked Commissioner Kazmier if the Commission plans to address solid waste action items.

Commissioner Kazmier responded in the affirmative and requested information from Mr. Crow on the City's recent solid waste action efforts.

Mr. Crow mentioned, under the direction of City Manager Greene, the City formed the Municipal Waste Team earlier today to explore possible service improvements and cost reductions for residents. He mentioned the team's goal is to provide decision-makers with the information needed for the future of trash collection. He will provide milestone updates toward an eventual presentation at a 2025 City Council meeting.

ii. Committee assignments

Not discussed; designated assignments are within i. Prioritization of issues for Commission focus.

VI. New Business

i. Approval of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Motion made by Commissioner Flores and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule as presented approved unanimously.

VII. Citizen Comments

Councilmember Dancy expressed support for the newly formed Municipal Waste Team and looks forward to reviewing two or three options during an eventual presentation at a 2025 City Council meeting.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

None.

IX. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 01-15-25 at 6:00pm

X. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Flores to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:17 pm.

CITY OF JACKSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
2025 MEETING SCHEDULE (APPROVED 11-20-24)
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Meetings of the Environmental Commission will be conducted on the 10th floor of City Hall at 161 W Michigan Avenue. Meetings will commence at 6:00pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 11-20-24
CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES
ARTICLE II, ARTICLE III, SEC. 28-105, SEC. 28-110
(PREPARED 12-16-24) PAGE 1 OF 1

The following links to information were requested at the 11-20-24 Commission meeting:

Code of Ordinances

Online content updated on November 1, 2024

Codified through Ordinance No. 2024-05

Adopted July 16, 2024. (Supp. No. 88)

ARTICLE II. - REGULATION OF TREES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH26VE_ARTII_RETRPUPR

ARTICLE III. - REGULATION OF GRASS, NOXIOUS WEEDS, SHRUBBERY, AND TREES ON PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY

https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH26VE_ARTII_IREGROWESHTRPROWPR

SEC. 28-105. - LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH28ZO_ARTI_VSIBUDEST_S28-105LAST

SEC. 28-110. - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STANDARDS

https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH28ZO_ARTI_VSIBUDEST_S28-110ENPRST