



GLADSTONE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Chambers – 1100 Delta Avenue

July 13, 2026

6:00 PM

MINUTES

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order; Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Kimberly Berry called the roll:

PRESENT

Mayor Joe Thompson

Commissioner Judy Akkala

Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Mantela

Commissioner Steve O'Driscoll

Commissioner Whitney Maloney

The following individuals spoke under public comment:

Ms. Danielle McKnight, President of Parent Teacher Committee of Gladstone Cameron Schools

Ms. Katie Ingram, Gladstone Cameron School Principal

Motion made by Commissioner Akkala, Seconded by Commissioner Maloney to approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner O'Driscoll to approve the one-year contract as presented to appoint Mr. Robert Spreitzer the City Manager effective 07-01-2026 and authorize Mayor Joe Thompson and City Clerk Kimberly Berry to sign.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Commissioner Maloney, Seconded by Commissioner O'Driscoll to create a Committee consisting of Commissioner Whitney Maloney and Commissioner Steve O'Driscoll to review Chapter 54 Traffic & Vehicles Article I. General Section 54-6 Snowmobile/ORVs & Off-Road Vehicles Ordinance and bring recommendations to the Monday, July 27, 2026 regular meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner Akkala to approve the Gladstone Area Pickleball to hold the tournament at the Gladstone Sports Park Pickleball Courts on Saturday, August 8, 2026 from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM with a rain date of Sunday, August 9, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion made by Commissioner O'Driscoll, Seconded by Mayor Thompson to approve the request for disbursement #2 in the amount of \$353,950.48 for the Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project.

MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Maloney clarified that the staff report says she was part of the negotiating team for POLC contracts and she was not; she was on the Teamsters only.

Motion made by Mayor Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Maloney to approve the POLC - PSO Union contract as presented and authorize Mayor Joe Thompson and City Manager Robert Spreitzer to sign.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner Akkala to approve the POLC - Command Union contract as presented and authorize Mayor Joe Thompson and City Manager Robert Spreitzer to sign.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Akkala to create an Unoccupied Vacant Properties Committee with Mayor Thompson and Commissioner O'Driscoll along with appropriate staff to investigate the possibilities of such a program.

MOTION CARRIED

I would like to start by thanking the Parks and Recreation Department for their work in the park over the 4th of July weekend. Most of what I have been hearing about the 4th was good.

Also, I would like to thank Maddie Hubert and The Dust Bunnies for putting on the Skate Fever event in our park this past weekend. I thought that these young people did an excellent job pulling this event together. I really hope that they can bring this event back next year.

And now on a more serious note, I would like to address that I received a letter from Michael O'Connor on July 7th that he requested to add to the comments of tonight's commission meeting. I am not going to read the letter; however, I would like to comment on Mr. O'Connor's ad in the July 5th Action Shopper.

The ad starts with Mr. O'Connor thanking the citizens who took the time to sign his petition to reduce "Ready to serve" fees. I would like to thank all the citizens that came to City Hall and asked questions about the fees and received the correct information.

He also mentions that he submitted the petition to the Gladstone City Commission on June 22nd. There will be information regarding this petition presented by our clerk in her report.

He proceeds to mention that he submitted a lawsuit to the Delta County Circuit Court on June 22nd as well. Mr. O'Connor submitted four lawsuits to the court. His complaint is the City's failing to provide a yearly utility financial report, THAT REPORT WOULD BE OUR AUDIT and it is available to the public on our website or available upon request. The Audit is where Mr.

O'Connor is finding the numbers he is using in his publications. I know this because Mr. O'Connor includes pages of the Audit in his letter to me. In the lawsuit he is also REQUESTING an "Independent" Forensic Accountant with "the Plaintiffs" approval be used to Provide a Report from 2019 to 2025 of the Utility Accounts.

I would just like to mention that our annual Audits have been good enough for the State Of Michigan Department of Treasury and that the City would not be able to receive State and Federal funding for our large Water and Sewer Projects that we have either received or are in the process of receiving. That being said his next lawsuit involves suing the Water Department for seeking 8 million dollars for replacing two pieces of critical infrastructure the intake is over 100 years old and the portion of main that we will install is for redundancy to the nearly 100-year-old pipe that is the only connection between the bluff and downtown. His next suit is trying to stop the City's purchase of our 2 most important Electric Transformers to replace the current ones before catastrophic failure. Finally, the last suit involves suing the commission to change the meeting time to 7:30 pm.

Now back to the Action Shopper Ad. Mr. O'Connor mentions money transferred from the utilities to the General Fund and how much money is sent to the state retirement fund. Yes, the utility funds pay the retirement expenses of their past employees to the general fund to go to the state retirement fund.

And on top of all the City Lawsuits, Mr. O'Connor has filed a formal complaint with the Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs for professional misconduct by our auditors at Anderson, Tackman and Company.

Mr. O'Connor has been suing the City of Gladstone repeatedly since 2017 and many of his current lawsuits and complaints are the same as he brought previously. From 2017 through October of 2024, Mr. O'Connor has cost the City (and the City is all Citizens, rate and taxpayers not just the manager, staff and commission) \$422,272.20 in legal fees, cost of service studies and rate studies. Not to mention time that could have been better spent by City employees. Mr. O'Connor likes to say that the Cities insurance covered this cost. However, no money has ever been received from our insurance carrier.

Again, I would like to thank all the Citizens of our community for paying their taxes and utilities. You are the City and this Commission, manager and staff try our best each day to manage the affairs of the City to provide the most we can for the dollars we receive.

Mr. Doug Bovin, resident, asked the Mayor for a Point of Order if he could make public comments at the end.

Mayor Thompson indicated we did not have public comment at the end of the meeting.

City Clerk Berry thanked City employees Rhonda Bernson, Patti LeBombard, Election Inspector Abby Wagner who assisted me in getting my absentee ballots out on time. The ballots were delivered on 3:00 PM on June 17th and they folded, stuffed envelopes, labeled and then mailed over 800 ballots to voters by 5:00 PM on June 18th. They are rock stars and I appreciate their help. Early voting for Delta County will begin Saturday, July 25th - Sunday, August 2 at the Wells Township Hall.

The following was the letter mailed to Mike O'Connor on July 8th, regarding his petition he submitted to the City Commission on June 22, 2026.



CITY OF GLADSTONE, MICHIGAN

CITY HALL, 1100 DELTA AVENUE

GLADSTONE, MI 49837

PHONE: 906-426-2311

FAX: 906-426-3122

www.gladstoneml.gov

July 8, 2026

Michael O'Connor
526 Minnesota Avenue
Gladstone, MI. 49837

Michael O'Connor,

I am writing to inform you that the citizen-initiated petition you submitted to the Gladstone City Commission on June 22, 2026 requesting a local proposal for an ordinance to allow the voters to set the monthly fee for "Ready to Serve" as shown in Attachment A to this letter has been reviewed and found to be invalid for the following reasons:

- The right for a citizen-initiated petition does not apply to matters of an administrative nature, rather citizen-initiated petitions are only permitted for legislative matters
- A citizen-initiated petition is in direct conflict with the City of Gladstone's Charter, Chapter XVI. Utilities Section 4 Power to fix rates annually rests solely with the Gladstone City Commission
- A citizen-initiated petition conflicts with the State of Michigan Revenue Bond Act 94 of 1933 Section 21 which gives the governing body the sole authority to set rates.

Therefore, the petition will not proceed for consideration by the Gladstone City Commission.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Berry
Gladstone City Clerk



A WPPI Energy community

 The City of Gladstone is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Attachment A

Code of Ordinances Chapter 58 Utilities: Article I - In General, Section 58-1 of the Gladstone Code is created to read as follows:

The fixed monthly fee for Readiness to Serve for residential users for Electric, Water and Wastewater shall be billed at \$10 per month per service. The fixed monthly fee for residential users for Solid Waste shall be billed at \$10 per month per service including all costs: customer charge, refuse pick-up, recycling, composting and any and all associated services.

There being no further business before the City Commission Mayor Thompson adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.

Mayor, Joe Thompson

Clerk, Kimberly Berry