



GLADSTONE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Chambers – 1100 Delta Avenue

March 23, 2026

6:00 PM

MINUTES

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order, gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Alleigence.

Clerk Berry called the roll:

PRESENT

Mayor Joe Thompson

Commissioner Judy Akkala

Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Mantela

Commissioner Whitney Maloney

ABSENT - EXCUSED

Commissioner Steve O'Driscoll

Mayor Thompson opened the public hearing at 6:02 PM for the Public Act 33 Police & Fire Special Assessment for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (note the staff report incorrectly states 2025-2026).

The following spoke:

Wilma Vanderdonk, 2000 Lake Shore Drive

Cathy Sjoquist, 15 Kenneally Blvd

Jackyln Burton, 1106 Minneapolis Avenue

Bob Westerlund, 417 Elm Street

Robert Pontius, 18 Weston Avenue

The following were letters submitted for the hearing:

3-14-26

ATTN: Kimberly Berry

WE PROTEST SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
Levy for Fiscal yr 2026-2027

Wayne A Robitaille
Rebecca M. Robitaille

1514 MICHIGAN AVE
GLADSTONE MI

meeting on MARCH 23RD 6pm
Poster 3/10/2026

Rec'd 3/18/2024
Kim Berry.

From: [Vicki Viau](#)
To: [Kim Berry](#)
Subject: Protest of Proposed Act 33
Date: Monday, March 23, 2026 2:15:44 PM

Date: March 23, 2026

To: Kimberly Berry, City Clerk
City of Gladstone
1100 Delta Avenue
Gladstone, MI 49837

RE: Protest of Proposed Act 33 Public Safety Special Assessment (4.5 Mills)

Property Owner: Vicki Viau (Co-Owner)

Address: 1107 Delta Avenue, Gladstone, MI 49837

Parcels:

[052-043-009-00](#)

[052-043-010-00](#)

[052-064-004-00](#)

[052-052-012-00](#)

Dear Ms. Berry and Members of the Gladstone City Commission,
I am writing as a property owner to formally protest the proposed Act 33 Public Safety Special Assessment.

I believe in supporting our police and fire services, but I also believe the city must first make the most of its current budget and prioritize essential services before asking taxpayers for additional mills. Decisions about spending and benefits should be carefully reviewed and aligned with what similar communities are doing.

I am also concerned that this assessment may be used to shift existing costs rather than address a true need, which makes it difficult for taxpayers to understand where their money is really going.

Transparency is important to me. I would like clear information on current police and fire funding, how those funds are being used, and exactly how this new revenue would be spent.

Finally, I do not believe a new property assessment of this size should move forward without giving the community a direct voice. For these reasons, I respectfully submit my protest.

Sincerely,

Vicki Viau

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Date: 03/21/2026

To: City of Gladstone
Attn: Kim Berry
City of Gladstone Commissioners
Joe Thompson
Brad Mantela
Judy Akkala
Whitney Maloney
Steve O'Driscoll

Subject: Protest Special Assessment for Police and Fire Protection Costs and Expenses

Please use this letter as my official protest to the Special Assessment for Police and Fire Protection Costs and Expenses. Listed below are the 52 properties that you will be impacting with this special assessment:

052-035-001-00, 052-621-018-00, 052-616-017-00, 052-486-016-10, 052-620-002-91, 052-581-023-00, 052-050-004-50, 052-057-005-00, 052-084-007-00, 052-011-019-00, 052-072-013-00, 052-045-003-00, 052-047-016-00, 052-060-011-00, 052-090-020-00, 052-075-001-10, 052-068-001-00, 052-044-015-00, 052-044-008-00, 052-043-011-00, 052-043-013-00, 052-029-006-00, 052-031-014-00, 052-059-018-00, 052-061-004-00, 052-272-006-00, 052-273-019-00, 052-581-022-00, 052-581-019-00, 052-076-017-00, 052-009-011-00, 052-042-005-00, 052-036-003-00, 052-043-003-00, 052-067-012-00, 052-067-007-00, 052-581-020-00, 052-074-017-00, 052-014-002-00, 052-100-001-00, 052-060-007-00, 052-017-012-00, 052-017-009-00, 052-014-003-00, 052-017-020-00, 052-621-019-10, 052-020-002-00, 052-581-006-00, 052-581-005-00, 052-048-010-00, 052-581-003-00, 052-581-002-00

I want to be very clear that this is not a protest against the Police and the Fire Protection departments. We all know this is a shell game of money. The State of Michigan opened up an avenue for City's, like Gladstone, to exploit and you are doing just that. Some of you probably have convinced yourself it's the best and only way for the City to move forward especially with MERS, wages, materials, ect always in the background and since you have not been voted off the commission you feel obligated to fall on that sword. You are mistaken.

I am protesting for the following reasons:

- 1) These departments were previously funded without the need for this special assessment.
- 2) This is NOT the will of the majority of people in the City of Gladstone.
 - a. 1st time this passed 90% of the comments were a NO during the commission meeting.
 - b. 3 years later we have been worn down and our experience now shows that you, the commission, are really not concerned with the City residences voices.
 - c. The Special Assessment for roads is a great example of this.

- 3) Commission is unwilling to put this to City wide vote
 - a. IF you believe in the need for this so strongly then convince us and let us vote.
 - b. YOUR long standing on the commission is NOT the green light to these Special assessments.
 - i. Most of us are too busy working to pay for the costs of living in this City vs putting forth the appropriate effort to replace the commissioners that continue to vote these Special Assessments in.....
 - c. The commission is afraid to let the citizen's vote on this.
- 4) Some of my properties listed above have no structures on them – I do NOT need Police and Fire Protection.
- 5) This one is an OPINION: The City has failed to be properly communicate where the funds will be spent, NOT the funds that fund the Police and Fire protection. The funds that are now available because the City found a way to pay for Police and Fire protection – so the OPTION OF HAVING THOSE OTHER FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE. IF these monies were SO needed the City should be screaming on top of a mountain top ALL the good and necessary things that are being done with these monies. I shouldn't have to look hard to find where the money is going. I shouldn't have to wonder "what the plan is next year and the year after". What is the plan, what is the detailed list of all the places the money is going?

The notice that was sent out and the meeting that is being held is for ceremony purposes only. This Special Assessment has already passed. There will be some citizens that will be fighting the legality of multiyear use of this specific Special Assessment, and I wish them the very best. Knowing the conclusion, that this commission will pass this special assessment, **we as citizens must take up the torch and do what is required to put this type of Special Assessment on the voting ballot so that WE the citizens can vote for this special assessments like this.**

Thank you,



Jeff Diebolt
906-630-1414

3-23-2026

I Patrick Hess 1402 2nd Ave N.

Vote 'NO!' for Special Assessment

on 3/23/2026

052-621-062-00

Patrick Hess

Patrick Hess

1402 2nd Ave N.

Gladstone, MI 49837

Commissioners NO to raise taxes

My name is Dolores DeSisle
a life long resident of the city
My husband Dale passed away
in September, He was on federal
retirement, We did not get social
security, I got \$2,100 per month a
month \$252.00 from my
social security, Every time
we turn around you are raising
something. We pay alot in
electric & water, I need to pay
my bills plus taxes for city
card ins house insurance, You just
raised the house evaluation now
you want money for police and
fire, Do we need a full police
force ~~no~~, We have state police
and sheriff's department here, try
living with my retirement,

RECEIVED
MAR 20 2020
BY: CAB

City Commissioners
Meeting March 23

March 20, 2026

City Commission:

I protest the special assessment levy for police & fire protection assessed costs & expenses by the city commission of the city of Gladstone. It should be voted on.

Melissa Pischel

052-371-043-00

Pischel Melissa

3 Pinewood Drive

Gladstone, MI 49837

RECEIVED
MAR 23 2026

BY:

Daniel and Harriet (Holly) Geurts
155 29th St. Lot 124
Gladstone, MI 49837
March 23, 2026

Kim Berry,
Gladstone City Clerk
1100 Delta Ave.
Gladstone, MI 49837

Ms. Berry,

We received your letter explaining the special assessment levy and property tax increase. We are sending this letter in protest to appeal the tax increase to fund fire protection costs and expenses. We feel any increase in mills should be put to the vote of the people.

Sincerely,
Daniel W. Geurts
Harriet (Holly) Geurts

Rec'd 3/23/20 KB

Jared Johnson

906-398-7896

411 LOUEDA ST

GLADSTONE, MI 49837

City of Gladstone

RE: 2026-2027 Special Assessment Levy For Police and Fire Protection

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to begin by expressing my genuine appreciation for the City of Gladstone and the staff who make it such a welcoming place to live. My family has proudly called Gladstone home for over ten years and has treasured community events like the Fourth of July Parade and Old Fashioned Christmas. It is a clean, peaceful city, and I am grateful for that.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Special Assessment Levy. While I understand that municipal costs increase over time and I have accepted incremental tax adjustments without dispute, the cumulative burden has become difficult to absorb. In 2024, my property taxes increased by approximately \$500 - the largest single-year increase I have experienced here. This year brought an additional \$100 increase due to market adjustments. The proposed levy would add a further 10% on top of that.

I respectfully urge the City to consider alternatives before placing this burden on property owners. Specifically, I would encourage the City to explore revenue-generating opportunities - grants, partnerships, or other means of production - before turning to additional assessments. I would ask that, if passed, it be introduced as a staged, phased increase rather than a lump addition, giving residents time to plan accordingly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that the City will weigh the impact on residents carefully as this decision moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jared Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jared Johnson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dear Gladstone, Michigan City Commission member:

I am writing to each of you to express my dis-pleasure w the “NOTICE OF HEARING ON DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT LEVY FOR POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSED COSTS AND EXPENSES BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GLADSTONE” recently mailed to our residence. It is incredible that considering the referendum on use of Special Assessments for projects traditionally funded in part by them, that the City would turn around and find a State Act to create a Special Assessment such as this. I think you all know me and I believe that I qualify as an expert on City of Gladstone finances. I know that it is very difficult to operate a city w/ full services due to very constrained revenues. I also know that it is very difficult to be a City Commissioner when the decision to reduce expenses very definitely affects people’s lives. However, I CANNOT believe that the members of the City Commission REALLY BELIEVE they should be making the decision in this matter. I DO BELIEVE that each member of the City Commission knows that this is a decision of the citizen/taxpayers to decide. I am very aware of possible repercussions from this matter should the City Commission decide to again levy the millage by vote of the City Commission. I urge the City Commission to let the people decide this matter by Public Referendum. This letter is an official appeal filed to preserve my right to appeal any action of the Gladstone City Commission to the Michigan Tax Tribunal per instructions of the City Clerk Kimberly Berry.

Property address 1701 South Lake Shore Drive

Sincerely, Joseph and Colleen Maki

Dear Gladstone, Michigan City Commission member:

I am writing to each of you to express my dis-pleasure w the “NOTICE OF HEARING ON DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT LEVY FOR POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSED COSTS AND EXPENSES BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GLADSTONE” recently mailed to our residence. It is incredible that considering the referendum on use of Special Assessments for projects traditionally funded in part by them, that the City would turn around and find a State Act to create a Special Assessment such as this. I think you all know me and I believe that I qualify as an expert on City of Gladstone finances. I know that it is very difficult to operate a city w/ full services due to very constrained revenues. I also know that it is very difficult to be a City Commissioner when the decision to reduce expenses very definitely affects people’s lives. However, I CANNOT believe that the members of the City Commission REALLY BELIEVE they should be making the decision in this matter. I DO BELIEVE that each member of the City Commission knows that this is a decision of the citizen/taxpayers to decide. I am very aware of possible repercussions from this matter should the City Commission decide to again levy the millage by vote of the City Commission. I urge the City Commission to let the people decide this matter by Public Referendum. This letter is an official appeal filed to preserve my right to appeal any action of the Gladstone City Commission to the Michigan Tax Tribunal per instructions of the City Clerk Kimberly Berry.

Property address 116 Cliffs Drive

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Property address 576 North 8th Street

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Property address 609 North 8th Street

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Property address 150 Cliffs Drive

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Property address 107 4th Avenue Northeast

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Property address 413 Minnesota Avenue

Sincerely, Joseph and Colleen Maki

March 20, 2026

Gary R. Micheau
120 Cliffs Avenue
Gladstone MI 49837

Dear Gladstone City Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed special assessment levy for police and fire protection costs and expenses for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$565,781.00, as outlined in the public notice (which includes an unexplained +\$27,376.00 > fiscal 2025/2026). While I fully support the essential services provided by our police and fire departments, I have concerns regarding the financial impact of this assessment on residents and businesses within the special assessment district.

First and foremost, the estimated total levy of 4.5 mills (2 mills on the Summer tax bill and 2.5 mills on the Winter tax bill) represents a significant increase in the tax burden for property owners. Given the current economic climate and the financial challenges that many residents and businesses are facing, this additional assessment may place undue hardship on property owners who are already struggling to manage rising costs.

Furthermore, it is unclear whether alternative funding sources have been fully explored to offset these costs without imposing an additional levy on taxpayers. Has the Commission considered reallocating existing budget resources, pursuing state or federal grants, or implementing cost-saving measures within the police and fire departments? Before approving this special assessment, I urge the City Commission to conduct a comprehensive review of potential funding alternatives – including cost sharing with neighboring communities - to ensure that all available options have been exhausted.

Additionally, the method of assessment and the fairness of the distribution should be examined closely. The impact of this levy may disproportionately affect certain property owners within the special assessment district, and a more equitable funding solution should be considered to distribute the financial responsibility fairly across the community.

I respectfully request that the City Commission reconsider the proposed special assessment levy and seek alternative solutions to fund police and fire services without imposing an additional financial burden on property owners. I also encourage the Commission to provide further transparency on the necessity of this assessment and allow for additional public input before a final decision is made.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to serving the residents of Gladstone and urge you to make a decision that prioritizes financial responsibility and community well-being.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Micheau

March 20, 2026

Angie Micheau
408 S. 7th St
Gladstone MI 49837

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to serving the residents of Gladstone and urge you to make a decision that prioritizes financial responsibility and community well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angie Micheau", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

March 20, 2026

John Lewandowski
604 Minnesota Ave
Gladstone MI 49837

Dear Gladstone City Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed special assessment levy for police and fire protection costs and expenses for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$565,781.00, as outlined in the public notice (which includes an unexplained +\$27,376.00 > fiscal 2025/2026). While I fully support the essential services provided by our police and fire departments, I have concerns regarding the financial impact of this assessment on residents and businesses within the special assessment district.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to serving the residents of Gladstone and urge you to make a decision that prioritizes financial responsibility and community well-being.

Sincerely,



March 22, 2026

Subject: Formal Protest and Appearance – Special Assessment for Police and Fire (FY 2026–2027) Dear Ms. Berry,

Please accept this letter as my **formal written protest and official appearance** for the public hearing scheduled for **Monday, March 23, 2026**, regarding the proposed PA 33 Special Assessment for Police and Fire Protection.

Property Identification: * Owner Name: Justin M Butler Johanna L Butler

- **Property Address:** 10 North Bluff Drive Gladstone MI 49837
- **Parcel ID Number:** 052-621-099-00

I object to the proposed 4.5-mill assessment on the following grounds:

1. **Voter Mandate (2024 Charter Amendment):** In November 2024, Gladstone residents voted overwhelmingly to amend the City Charter to strip the City Commission of the power to levy and collect special assessments. I believe continuing to use PA 33 to levy a city-wide assessment directly contradicts the clear intent of the voters.
2. **Duplication of Services:** With the Michigan State Police present in the area, I question the fiscal necessity of a separate, assessment-funded city police structure and request a review of more efficient, consolidated funding models.
3. **Financial Burden:** A 4.5-mill assessment, in addition to standard property taxes, creates an undue hardship on residents during a period of high inflation.

I request that this protest be entered into the **official minutes** of the hearing. By submitting this written protest, I am preserving my right to appeal this assessment to the **Michigan Tax Tribunal** per MCL 211.741.

Please provide a time-stamped copy of this letter as a receipt of my filing.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Handwritten signatures of Justin M Butler and Johanna L Butler in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Justin M Butler

Johanna L Butler

March 22, 2026

There being no further public comment on PA 33, Mayor Thompson closed the hearing at 6:10 PM. No further action required.

Mayor Thompson opened the public hearing for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 proposed budget at 6:11 PM.

The following individuals spoke:

Bailey Williams, 1405 Wisconsin Avenue

There being no further comments, Mayor Thompson closed the hearing 6:16 PM.

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner Akkala to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 balanced budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

No general public comment offered.

Motion made by Commissioner Akkala, Seconded by Mayor Thompson to approve the consent agenda as presented with noted spelling corrections in the City Commission March 9, 2026 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Thompson added to the agenda under New Business Item 13 Letter of Support for Delta County Parks.

Motion made by Mayor Thompson, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela to approve the budget amendments as presented:

25/26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MARCH, 2026

GENERAL FUND

EXPENSES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT		
CITY COMMISSION					
101-101-880-001	4th of July	\$40,000	\$46,219	\$6,219	Offset by Dr. Mary Cretns
101-101-802-004	Citizen Public Law Matters	\$3,000	\$26,000	\$23,000	
		\$43,000	\$72,219	\$29,219	
CITY MANAGER					
101-172-705-000	Vacation Pay	\$4,000	\$23,500	\$19,500	Retiring City Manager vacation/sick payout
		\$4,000	\$23,500	\$19,500	
CITY CLERK					
101-215-757-000	Copies	\$915	\$2,000	\$1,085	
		\$915	\$2,000	\$1,085	
CITY TREASURER					
101-153-754-000	Postage	\$4,500	\$7,000	\$2,500	2nd mailing for winter taxes
101-253-717-000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan Exp	\$35,128	\$39,511	\$4,383	
101-253-757-000	Copies	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,300	
		\$42,128	\$50,011	\$12,183	
CITY HALL					
101-265-704-000	Wages Part-Time Employees	\$500	\$6,000	\$5,500	Upgrades to City Hall
101-265-709-000	FICA	\$84	\$400	\$316	
101-265-711-000	Medicare	\$20	\$100	\$80	
101-265-751-000	Materials & Supplies	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$4,000	
101-265-756-000	Computer	\$17,500	\$21,500	\$4,000	Increase in annual software fees
101-265-759-000	Building Maintenance	\$0	\$4,500	\$4,500	Upgrades to City Hall
101-265-800-000	Contracted Services	\$8,150	\$14,500	\$6,350	Waterworth annual software fees
		\$34,254	\$59,000	\$24,746	
CEMETERY					
101-268-970-000	Capital Outlay	\$25,000	\$0	-\$25,000	Didn't complete
		\$25,000	\$0	-\$25,000	
FIRE DEPARTMENT					
101-336-759-000	Building Maintenance	\$106,000	\$50,000	-\$56,000	Public Safety Roof replacement came in under budget
		\$106,000	\$50,000	-\$56,000	
FORESTERY					
101-429-702-101	DPW Benefits	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	
		\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	
DPW ADMINISTRATION					
101-441-806-000	Natural Gas	\$7,500	\$11,390	\$3,890	
101-441-702-000	Wages Full-Time Employees	\$7,500	\$14,000	\$6,500	
		\$15,000	\$25,390	\$10,390	
ALLEY MAINTENANCE					
101-470-702-000	Wages-Full Time Employees	\$8,000	\$17,000	\$9,000	More alley maintenance since no road projects
101-470-702-101	DPW Benefits	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$7,500	Dept covered by Electric, Water, Wastewater and
101-470-703-000	Salaries	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$3,000	Solid Waste Funds
101-470-707-000	Temporary Employees	\$1,000	\$2,400	\$1,400	
101-470-716-000	Defined Contribution Pension Plan	\$1,045	\$2,500	\$1,455	
101-470-760-000	Equipment Rentals	\$7,500	\$21,500	\$14,000	
		\$26,545	\$62,900	\$36,355	

EXPENSES

BUDGET AMOUNT BUDGET AMOUNT DIFFERENCE NOTES

MOTOR EQUIPMENT POOL

101-532-718-000	Health Insurance	\$22,281	\$24,965	\$2,684	
101-532-751-000	Parts	\$50,000	\$68,747	\$18,747	Offset by Equipment rental revenue
		<u>\$72,281</u>	<u>\$93,711</u>	<u>\$21,430</u>	

RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

101-752-758-000	Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance	\$500	\$13,521	\$13,021	
101-752-970-000	Capital Outlay	\$60,000	\$13,198	-\$46,802	Roof replacement moved to next fiscal year
		<u>\$60,500</u>	<u>\$26,719</u>	<u>-\$33,781</u>	

BEAUTIFICATION

101-753-702-000	Wages-Full Time Employees	\$0	\$2,045	\$2,045	\$10,000 covered by DDA
101-753-707-000	Temporary Employees	\$5,600	\$12,393	\$6,793	
101-753-709-000	FICA	\$500	\$890	\$390	
101-753-711-000	Medicare	\$125	\$208	\$83	
101-753-716-000	Defined Contribution Pension Plan Expense	\$25	\$225	\$200	
101-753-728-000	MSA Employer Expense	\$25	\$81	\$56	
101-753-751-000	Materials & Supplies	\$2,000	\$5,011	\$3,011	Offset by donation for Delta flowers
101-753-755-000	Gas & Oil	\$600	\$623	\$23	
		<u>\$8,875</u>	<u>\$21,476</u>	<u>\$12,601</u>	Farmers Mkt growth/increased watering

PARKS

101-754-702-000	Wages Full-time Employees	\$34,800	\$43,058	\$8,258	
101-754-702-101	DPW Benefits	\$1,500	\$2,999	\$1,499	
		<u>\$36,300</u>	<u>\$46,057</u>	<u>\$9,757</u>	

BEACH

101-755-970-000	Capital Outlay	\$15,400	\$0	-\$15,400	
		<u>\$15,400</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>-\$15,400</u>	

OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

101-756-759.013	Boardwalk	\$0	\$2,265	\$2,265	Covered by Dr Mary Cretens
101-756-759-015	Skate Park	\$1,500	\$3,464	\$1,964	
		<u>\$1,500</u>	<u>\$5,730</u>	<u>\$4,230</u>	

CAMPGROUND

101-759-800-000	Contracted Services	\$2,000	\$8,476	\$6,476	Offset by Revenue
		<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$8,476</u>	<u>\$6,476</u>	

SPORTS PARK

101-761-702-000	Wages Full-Time Employees	\$17,400	\$23,650	\$6,250	
101-761-707-000	Temporary Employees	\$36,000	\$53,720	\$17,720	First full season open in two years
101-761-713-000	Overtime	\$1,000	\$2,291	\$1,291	
101-761-751-000	Materials & Supplies	\$12,000	\$23,281	\$11,281	Snow gun repairs/Electrical repairs, replace water heater
		<u>\$66,400</u>	<u>\$102,942</u>	<u>\$36,542</u>	

INCREASE/DECREASE EXPENSES \$99,333

3/31/25 Audited Fund Balance	\$396,366
3/31/26 Projected Fund Balance	\$426,061
3/31/27 Requested Fund Balance	\$506,065

2026 Fund Balance Projection may change due to projections being a little different for the Sports Park and Motor Equipment Pool.

25/26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MARCH, 2026

LAND DEVELOPMENT FUND

REVENUES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE NOTES
103-000-665-000	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	\$0	\$600	\$600 No original budget set up
		\$0	\$600	\$600

EXPENSES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE NOTES
ADMINISTRATIVE				
		\$0	\$0	\$0

INCREASE/DECREASE REVENUE	\$600
INCREASE/DECREASE EXPENSES	\$0
NET TO FUND BALANCE	\$600

25/26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MARCH, 2026

MAJOR STREET

		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
EXPENSES		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT		
RECONSTRUCTION					
202-453-970.000	Capital Outlay	\$25,000	\$0	-\$25,000	Budgeted for twice
		\$25,000	\$0	-\$25,000	
SURFACE MAINTENANCE					
202-463-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$20,000	\$8,000	-\$12,000	
202-463-702-101	DPW Benefits	\$18,000	\$9,000	-\$9,000	
202-463-707.000	Temporary Employees	\$2,500	\$98	-\$2,402	
202-463-716-000	Defined Contribution Pension Exp	\$2,640	\$1,500	-\$1,140	
202-463-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$15,000	\$6,617	-\$8,383	
202-463-751-000	Materials & Supplies	\$10,000	\$12,726	\$2,726	
202-463-760.000	Equipment Rentals	\$17,000	\$7,500	-\$9,500	
		\$85,140	\$45,441	-\$39,699	
STORM DRAINS					
202-464-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,500	
		\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,500	
TRAFFIC CONTROL					
202-474-995-731	Transfer to Retirement Fund	\$0	\$1,008	\$1,008	
		\$0	\$1,008	\$1,008	
WINTER MAINTENANCE					
202-478-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$28,000	\$30,757	\$2,757	
202-478-702.101	DPW Benefits	\$0	\$38,150	\$38,150	
202-478-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$19,000	\$22,796	\$3,796	
202-478-751.000	Materials & Supplies	\$12,500	\$23,210	\$10,710	
202-478-760.000	Equipment Rentals	\$42,000	\$85,897	\$43,897	
202-478-995.731	Transfer to Retirement Fund	\$0	\$6,611	\$6,611	
		\$73,500	\$176,664	\$105,921	

EXPENSES**BUDGET AMOUNT BUDGET AMOUNT DIFFERENCE NOTES****SWEEP/FLUSHING**

202-522-702.000	Wages Full Time	\$4,500	\$3,902	-\$598	Dept moved to Solid Waste Fund
202-522-702.101	DPW Benefits	\$3,500	\$3,061	-\$439	
202-522-703.000	Salaries	\$700	\$0	-\$700	
202-522-709.000	FICA	\$353	\$229	-\$124	
202-522-711.000	Medicare	\$83	\$54	-\$29	
202-522-713.000	Overtime	\$500	\$0	-\$500	
202-522-716.000	Defined Contribution Pension Plan	\$627	\$430	-\$197	
202-522-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$4,000	\$3,046	-\$954	
202-522-728.000	MSA Employer Expense	\$250	\$158	-\$92	
202-522-760.000	Equipment Rentals	\$12,000	\$11,370	-\$630	
202-522-995.731	Pension Fund Contribution	\$0	\$884	\$884	
		\$0	\$884	-\$3,379	

ADMINISTRATIVE

202-537-804.000	Engineering & Architec Fees	\$25,000	\$0	-\$25,000	Budgeted & Expensed for in Re-Construction
		\$25,000	\$0	-\$25,000	

INCREASE/DECREASE EXPENSES \$15,351

3/31/25 Audited Fund Balance	\$516,795
3/31/26 Projected Fund Balance	\$637,282
3/31/27 Requested Fund Balance	\$484,411

2026 Fund Balance Projection may change due projections for winter maintneance being a little different.

25/26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MARCH, 2026

LOCAL STREET

EXPENSES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE NOTES
RECONSTRUCTION				
203-453-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$0	\$763	\$763
203-453-702.101	DPW Benefits	\$0	\$528	\$528
203-453-709.000	FICA	\$0	\$45	\$45
203-453-711.000	Medicare	\$0	\$11	\$11
203-453-716.000	Defined Contribution Pension Plan	\$0	\$84	\$84
203-453-728.000	MSA Employer Expense	\$0	\$32	\$32
203-453-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$0	\$1,534	\$1,534
203-453-995.731	Pension Fund Contributions	\$0	\$445	\$445
		\$0	\$3,442	\$3,442
SURFACE MAINTENANCE				
203-463-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$14,700	\$31,717	\$17,017
		\$14,700	\$31,717	\$17,017
STORM DRAINS				
203-464-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$1,000	\$3,368	\$2,368
203-464-709-000	FICA	\$136	\$231	\$95
203-464-711-000	Medicare	\$32	\$54	\$22
		\$1,168	\$3,653	\$2,485
TRAFFIC CONTROL				
203-474-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$4,000	\$300	-\$3,700
		\$4,000	\$300	-\$3,700
WINTER MAINTENANCE				
202-478-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$25,000	\$29,511	\$4,511
203-478-702.101	DPW Benefits	\$22,000	\$33,323	\$11,323
203-478-703.000	Salaries	\$3,500	\$4,120	\$620
203-478-751.000	Materials & Supplies	\$1,000	\$7,500	\$6,500
203-478-760.000	Equipment Rentals	\$30,000	\$101,333	\$71,333
		\$81,500	\$175,787	\$94,287

EXPENSES**BUDGET AMOUNT BUDGET AMOUNT DIFFERENCE NOTES****SWEEP/FLUSHING**

202-522-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$8,500	\$5,306	-\$3,194	Dept moved to Solid Waste Fund
203-522-702.101	DPW Benefits	\$7,500	\$3,871	-\$3,629	
203-522-703.000	Salaries	\$500	\$226	-\$274	
203-522-709.000	FICA	\$558	\$325	-\$233	
203-522-711.000	Medicare	\$131	\$76	-\$55	
203-522-716.000	Defined Contribution Pension Plan	\$990	\$608	-\$382	
203-522-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$4,000	\$3,549	-\$451	
203-522-728.000	MSA Employer Expense	\$300	\$208	-\$92	
203-522-760.000	Equipment Rentals	\$17,500	\$15,000	-\$2,500	
203-522-995.731	Pension Fund Contribution	\$0	\$1,029	\$1,029	
		\$39,979	\$30,198	-\$9,781	

ADMINISTRATIVE

203-537-995.731	Pension Fund Contributions	\$15,747	\$152	-\$15,595	
203-537-717.000	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	\$9,000	\$523	-\$8,477	
		\$24,747	\$675	-\$24,072	

INCREASE/DECREASE EXPENSES \$79,678

3/31/25 Audited Fund Balance	\$398,875
3/31/26 Projected Fund Balance	\$415,931
3/31/27 Requested Fund Balance	\$350,344

2026 Fund Balance Projection may change due projections for winter maintenance being a little different.

**25/26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS
MARCH, 2026
DEBT SERVICE FUND**

EXPENSES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE NOTES
ADMINISTRATIVE				
301-537-803-000	Audit Fees	\$600	\$800	\$200
		<u>\$600</u>	<u>\$800</u>	<u>\$200</u>
	INCREASE/DECREASE EXPENSES		\$200	

**25/26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS
MARCH, 2026
SOLID WASTE**

EXPENSES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	
SWEEPING/FLUSHING					
540-522-702.000	Wages Full Time Employees	\$0	\$3,020	\$3,020	Sweeping/Flushing moved from Street Funds to Solid Waste Fund
540-522-702.101	DPW Benefits	\$0	\$2,422	\$2,422	
540-522-703.000	Salaries	\$0	\$226	\$226	
540-522-709.000	FICA	\$0	\$191	\$191	
540-522-711.000	Medicare	\$0	\$45	\$45	
540-522-716.000	Defined Contribution Pension Plan	\$0	\$357	\$357	
540-522-728.000	MSA Employer Expense	\$0	\$120	\$120	
540-522-760.000	Equipment Rentals	\$0	\$343	\$343	
540-522-991.009	Sweeper Loan to 582	\$0	\$22,600	\$22,600	
		\$0	\$29,325	\$29,325	
COMPOSTING					
540-523-702.000	Wages Full-Time Employees	\$6,500	\$7,525	\$1,025	More time spent at the compost site with no road projects
540-523-702.101	DPW Benefits	\$5,000	\$7,142	\$2,142	
540-523-703.000	Salaries	\$1,500	\$2,527	\$1,027	
540-523-709.000	FICA	\$496	\$595	\$99	
540-523-711.000	Medicare	\$116	\$140	\$24	
540-523-716.000	Defined Contribution Pension Exp	\$880	\$1,106	\$226	
540-523-760.000	Equipment Rentals	\$13,200	\$18,298	\$5,098	
		\$27,692	\$37,333	\$9,641	
GARBAGE COLLECTION					
540-528-760-000	Equipment Rentals	\$3,000	\$9,140	\$6,140	Tipping fees increased
540-528-763-000	Landfill Tipping Fees	\$75,000	\$86,667	\$11,667	
		\$78,000	\$95,807	\$17,807	
VEHICLE EXPENSE					
540-560-751.000	Materials & Supplies	\$14,000	\$40,000	\$26,000	Garbage Truck Transmission Replacement Sweeper Maintenance
		\$14,000	\$40,000	\$26,000	
	INCREASE/DECREASE EXPENSES	\$82,773			

3/31/25 Audited Fund Balance	\$628,226
3/31/26 Projected Fund Balance	\$658,272
3/31/27 Requested Fund Balance	\$713,493

**25/26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS
MARCH, 2026
MAPLERIDGE TWP**

REVENUES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT		
706-000-614.07	RECONNECT CHARGES	\$0	\$170	\$170	No original budget was set up, contract was not renewed
706-000-616.001	WATER CHARGE	\$0	\$24,571	\$24,571	
706-000-616.003	MAPLERIDGE TWP REVENUE	\$0	\$6,601	\$6,601	
706-000-658.000	PENALTY INCOME	\$0	\$411	\$411	
		\$0	\$31,753	\$31,753	

EXPENSES		ORIGINAL	AMENDED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT		
ADMINISTRATIVE					
706-537-702.000	WAGES-FULL TIME EMLOYEES	\$0	\$1,691	\$1,691	
706-537-709.000	FICA	\$0	\$102	\$102	
706-537-711.000	MEDICARE	\$0	\$24	\$24	
706-537-716.000	DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLAN	\$0	\$186	\$186	
706-537-728.000	MSA EMPLOYER EXPENSE	\$0	\$55	\$55	
706-537-754.000	POSTAGE	\$0	\$487	\$487	
706-537-756.000	COMPUTER	\$0	\$337	\$337	
706-537-800.000	CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$0	\$441	\$441	
706-537-813.000	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$0	\$304	\$304	
706-537-999.000	PAYMENT TO MAPLERIDGE TWP	\$0	\$35,047	\$35,047	
		\$0	\$38,675	\$38,675	

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Commissioner Akkala, Seconded by Commissioner Maloney to establish committed General Fund balances in the amount of \$576,112.48 as follows:

Public Safety Car Reserve Fund: \$96,505.10

Public Safety Fire & Equipment Reserve Fund: \$410,842.94

Public Safety Equipment Reserve Fund \$44,000

DPW Reserve Fund: \$24,764.44

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Akkala to approve the 2026 Annual Special Event List as presented in the packet.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner Maloney to authorize the letter of support for Delta County Parks grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund as presented; and authorize Mayor Joe Thompson to sign.

MOTION CARRIED.

Manager Spreitzer reported the following:

Not much to report since last meeting. I would like to once again thank the DPW with their nearly around the clock performance of snow removal last week. Also, a thank you to the Water, Sewer and Electric Departments for keeping everything running during the storm. A good portion of my time since the last meeting has been spent with Patricia West preparing the request for Congressionally Directed Spending and we plan to review the request with Coleman Engineering this week before submittal.

Commissioner Maloney encouraged residents with questions to please reach out to Commissioners or city staff prior to the meetings or anytime to answer your questions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela addressed a resident who attended the last meeting and also sent out a mailer to residents in the community. He reviewed the flyer as he does with all information sent to him from residents and wants to address several of the issues in the flyer. The audits of the City are available on the website for anyone to see, funds (including the pension obligations of each fund) are separated in the audit and are not cross-mingled. He addressed the accusation that PA 33 is being assessed illegally after the public voted no special assessments- this is false. PA 33 of 1951 is a State of Michigan Statute and not a city created special assessment. This state statute grants communities with a population of 15,500 or less the authority to levy special assessments for police and fire services following a proper public hearing process, which was just done again tonight. Gladstone's population qualifies the city under this act. A City Charter amendment does not and cannot override the authority granted by the state legislature. The city's use of Public Act 33 which generated approximately \$538,000 in the last audited fiscal year was lawfully and publicly notified and properly used.

The other term in the flyer that is loosely thrown around is criminal. I'm not entirely sure what that means but if it is criminal use of funds, our Auditors, Anderson Tackman and Company issued a clean unmodified opinion on our fiscal year 2025 financial statements and found no fraud, theft or criminal conduct. It says that right in the audit and that is available on the website. They did identify some things for improvement and the city is working on those, but those are basically reporting procedures and processes. There is nothing criminally found. These statements can be thrown around, mailed out but if you have questions as Commissioner Maloney said contact us, contact the City Manager, contact the Assessor about your taxes. That is why these people are here and that is why we are here and you don't have to wait till the meetings to ask for feedback, if there is something that comes up in an agenda packet and you want to know before the meeting - you get the packets the same day we do. The same day that they are posted to the website we get them emailed to us. So if you see something in the packet or have a question let us know ahead of the meeting we can point you in the direction where you can get the information.

Commissioner Maloney added that she did sit down with this individual for a very very long time because she wanted to understand where some of these numbers were coming from. The over a million dollars specific claim came from the Electric Fund budget review, the administrative line which was just over 1.2 million dollars. It looks like a lot when it is condensed into one budget line but it is broken out in reports where every single penny is accounted for and this is all public information. So if you really really want to know where every penny goes in the city, that information is out there. It's tons of numbers, but it is all there. So when she learned where that number came from it is absolutely all accounted for.

Commissioner Akkala thanked everyone for showing up. She would really appreciate in the future instead of these public hearings where you don't really feel your getting the information that perhaps you need, our work sessions are the ones where you get that kind of information. And so next year in advance to that if you would like to know when the work sessions are, that way you can come and actually hear line by line item what's there, what isn't there and how much money it's going to cost the citizens. And once again appreciate you coming, I know it takes time and you sometimes leave here feeling like why did I even show up? I really don't know anything more than I did when I came in the front door. So she'd like to see that somehow change, but we need you to come forward to be able to advance that information to you and make you feel more comfortable about living in this beautiful City of Gladstone. She closed by thanking all of our department heads and employees for the monumentous job they've been doing since all this wonderful snow has been coming. Love snow a little frustrated with the amount we have been getting but hanging in there. It takes a lot of participation of our employees and citizens to get those garbage cans cleaned out. Appreciate all of your efforts and all of our employees are much appreciated and how well run the city really is.

The water kept working, the sewage kept flowing everything worked great, so a tribute to how well run the city really is. I encourage people to email me, you are not going to get fast food service out of me but I will always get back and if you call I will call you back. I am more than happy to answer questions like the rest of the Commission. I don't get a lot I get three emails a month at the most, so please contact me.

**Commission Comments have been summarized - see recording of meeting on the city website to listen to the full comments.

City Clerk Berry commented that the agendas, packets, minutes and recorded meetings are all available on the website. The packets are published the same time the Commissioners receive it and all the past minutes are there as well. City Commissioners contact information is also available on the website under City Commission tab and business cards are available in the front lobby of city hall.

Mayor Thompson commented if you look at other communities website and look at ours, I am impressed with the amount of information that's really available in Gladstone because I have looked at others recently and ours is far superior to a lot of them I've seen. It is a tribute to how things are done in the city.

There being no further business before the Commission, Mayor Thompson adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM.

Mayor Joe Thompson

City Clerk Kimberly Berry