



City of Lansing
800 First Terrace
Lansing, Kansas 66043

City Administrator's Report

January 16, 2025

Agenda Items:

The City will honor and formally pin Fire Chief Joseph Gates on Thursday evening. Captains Kirk Mackey and Mark Alligood will be pinned, as well. The City would also like to recognize our new full-time employees who joined the team two weeks ago. We are currently advertising and interviewing for all open positions in the Fire Department.

Boy Scout Troop 165 has requested to use the Lansing Activity Center after hours from 4pm on February 22nd until 9am on February 23rd for the Boy Scout Anti Campout. Mr. Thomas will be present to answer any questions. A fee waiver application was received, but a refundable deposit of \$300 would be required.

Last fall, the City authorized bids for the acquisition of a one-ton dump truck for the replacement of a 2014 Ford F350 dump truck in the Parks & Recreation Department. The truck would be fully equipped and includes a snowplow, as well. The dump truck it is replacing is diesel and has issues due to the emissions standards and the vehicle rarely being utilized for highway driving. The one bid received came from Mainstreet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Lansing for \$87,017. We anticipate receiving \$30,000-\$35,000 when placing the Ford on the auction site Purplewave.com, which will offset the costs of the new truck.

Ordinance No. 1125 amends the UDO to update interior side setbacks in R1 and R2 zoning districts from 10' to 5'. Additionally, it decreases the width of side lot utility easements from 7.5' to 5'. These changes support home construction on narrower lots. By fostering flexibility in lot design and reducing regulatory barriers, this initiative aligns with Lansing's strategic goals for residential growth and housing diversity. This change was recommended by the Planning Commission with a 5-0 vote.

Selection of the Council President is on the agenda for Thursday evening. The Council President presides over meetings in the Mayor's absence.

We anticipate a request to expand the RHID to the McIntyre parcel at the February 6th meeting. The current preliminary plans show 412 lots (not 500), with three points of access. The subdivision would establish an HOA to ensure curb appeal and aesthetics. The developer is presently working on a traffic impact study and drainage study. The preliminary plat has not yet been submitted. The RHID harnesses the increase in property taxes to offset infrastructure costs, thereby lowering the final cost of the homes. Establishment of the RHID allows the sale of new homes in late 2026 to be in the lower 300s.



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We anticipate a survey for our residents to chime in on recycling questions later this week. As a reminder, switching to every other week recycling would increase our costs approximately \$1.08/month, while maintaining our current setup of recycling every week would increase costs \$3.38/month. WM would provide citizens with a 95-gallon recycling bin (same as trash) upon request if we switch to recycling every other week. Yard waste would not be impacted at this price point. Thus far, the majority of residents who have reached out to staff have requested maintaining our current service.

Public Works:

The City received a total of 11.5” of snow last week. Based on FEMA codes for the equipment utilized, materials spread, and staff time, the City spent \$53,351.56 on the abatement of the recent blizzard. We are grateful to the Street Department staff, led by Kenny Payne, who oversees the effort along with Public Works Director Mike Spickelmier.

Year End Sales Tax Update:

The year-end sales tax updates are below.

	2023 Year-End	2024 Year-End	Difference
Local Sales & Use Tax (1.9%)	\$2,431,677	\$2,855,576	*\$423,899
County Sales Tax	\$962,955	\$905,621	-\$57,334, -5.95%
County Use Tax	\$375,517	\$375,294	-\$233, -.06%
Guest Tax	\$104,902	\$70,992	-\$33,910, -32.32%

* When excluding the new sales tax for the pool, our local sales tax figures decreased from 2023.

The total non-food sales tax rate in Lansing is broken down as follows:

- 6.5% State Sales Tax (varies on food)
- 1% Countywide Sales Tax
- 1% City General Sales Tax-General Fund
- .45% DeSoto Road & Park Improvements (20 years)
- .45% Aquatic Center (20 years)
- 9.4% TOTAL
- 1% Community Improvement Dist. (Mainstreet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram property only)



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The special sales tax to pay for the Aquatic Center has generated \$685,338 in 2024. The special sales tax to pay for DeSoto Road and Bernard Park Improvements also generated \$685,338 (both special sales taxes are for the same amount, .45%).

While sales tax revenues have dropped precipitously, one positive is our interest revenue has increased due to higher savings interest rates and a new bank which allows the City to reinvest funds over a certain threshold every day. We anticipate the fiscal year to fully close in late January, at which point we'll have a fuller picture of our carryover for each fund, which will impact the 2026 budget this summer.

Wastewater:

Linaweaver Construction is in the process of submitting shop drawings for engineer review and construction staking for the Town Centre Trunk Sewer Replacement project. A preconstruction meeting was held on December 8th, with construction beginning in the middle of January 2025. Project completion is scheduled for 120 days.

Plans for the Ida/Gamble Sewer Relocation Project are under staff review. The easement consultant has indicated that the property owners have verbally agreed to the easement offers. The City will provide payment in January 2025 once all documents have been signed. The project will relocate sewers near this intersection that are oversized for the current flows.

The City's GIS contractor has begun incorporating manhole inspection data to the GIS site for staff use. The final report will be presented at the January 2025 work session. The project has identified defects and repairs in the collection system that contribute to excessive flows during rain events. Several buried manholes have also been located within the project area, which have not been located, and a small project will be bid in 2025 to raise those to grade so inspections can be performed.

Meetings & Announcements:

There are multiple openings for Police Officer I/II. Starting pay for police officers is \$50,107/year, with opportunities for overtime. Officers with experience, education, or certification can be started higher on the pay scale. Additionally, the City offers a \$3,000 sign-on bonus for new, uncertified police officers! The City has also begun advertising for Firefighter positions. Interested candidates can apply by clicking on the "How Do I?" tab under the website homepage and clicking job opportunities.

The City is hosting a hiring open house for lifeguards at 5:30pm on Tuesday, January 14th in the Community Center.

- Wednesday, January 15 Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00pm, City Hall



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- Thursday, January 16 City Council Meeting, 7:00pm, City Hall
- Monday, January 20 Martin Luther King Jr Day, City Offices Closed
- Thursday, January 23 City Council Work Session, 7:00pm, City Hall
 - Public Works CIP Discussion
 - Wastewater Update

- Thursday, February 6 City Council Meeting, 7:00pm, City Hall
- Monday, February 17 President's Day, City Offices Closed
- Wednesday, February 19 Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00pm, City Hall
- Thursday, February 20 City Council Meeting, 7:00pm, City Hall
- Thursday, February 27 City Council Work Session

Sincerely,

Tim Vandall