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**Board of Trustees Work Session Meeting
Monday, September 09, 2024
5:30 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the *Charter Township of Kalamazoo* will meet in a Work Session to be held at 5:30 p.m., on **Monday, September 09, 2024**, at the **Kalamazoo Township Hall** to discuss the below-listed items and any other business that may legally come before the Board of Trustees of the *Charter Township of Kalamazoo*.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/join?_ga=2.202497113.935849944.1724275516-555873178.1724275516

Meeting ID: Passcode:

Meeting ID: 860 2545 7296

Passcode: 718656

- A. Discussion of Changes to the Personnel Policy / Board Policies, Property Management and Financial Policies – Review only
- B. Newly Appointed Paid On Call Firefighters
- C. Discussion of Tax and Special Assessment Public Hearing and Adoptions
- D. Discussion of Core Services Revitalization Updates
- E. Discussion of Safe Streets on West Main
- F. Discussion on Any Other Items on the Regular Agenda
- G. Public Comment

Posted September 06, 2024

Don Martin

Supervisor Kalamazoo Township



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To: Kalamazoo Township Board
From: Jairus Baird, Fire Chief
Date: September 9th, 2024

We are proud to announce the recent additions of eleven Paid-On-Call Firefighters to our department. After interviews, physical exams, and background investigations over the past several months, they were issued their gear with a start date of September 3, 2024.

This brings our Paid-On-Call strength to 45 of our budgeted 65 Paid-On-Call positions. These firefighters are in addition to our 14 career members bringing our line firefighting personnel to 59 total members. These new members were added to the stations closest to where they lived with 4 being assigned to Westwood, 2 to Northwood, and 5 to Eastwood. Their names and badge numbers are as follows:

8108 - Andy (Michael) Sanford
8109 - Sherry Dow
8202 - Brady Newington
8213 - Jared Crockett
8215 - Megan Asmundson
8217 - Owen Drake
8222 - Joel Bourner
8401 - Alexander Madani
8403 - Joseph Kordenbrock
8415 - Austin Meade
8418 - Joel Wykstra

We are excited to welcome them all alongside our other members, and look forward to guiding them through their journey with our department to serve the citizens of Kalamazoo Township.

KALAMAZOO



STREETS FOR ALL

It's time to **reconnect** downtown
Kalamazoo's network of streets.

Creating a Connected City

For many years, Kalamazoo's neighborhoods, university campuses and downtown have been divided by several wide, high-traffic one-way streets.

This makes it more difficult for pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists to navigate downtown Kalamazoo safely, comfortably and enjoyably.

This lane conversion project will transform downtown Kalamazoo into a **welcoming**, **inclusive** and **vibrant** destination that offers safe travel for all modes of transportation!

Modifying the number of lanes and transitioning to two-way streets will:

- **Improve livability** by creating more bike lanes, walkways and bus/transit lines.
- **Enhance safety** by creating fewer lanes, which leads to fewer crashes.
- **Calm traffic** by slowing down vehicle speeds.
- **Promote a higher quality of life** through quieter streets and more green space.
- **Encourage economic prosperity** by supporting local businesses.

Want updates?

Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter or visit our website at KalamazooCity.org/Community/Projects/Streets-For-All.



Talking Points



The goal of these talking points is to help maintain excitement for long-term prosperity in the face of short-term inconvenience!

Q: What is Kalamazoo Streets For All?

A: A lane conversion project years in the making that will create a connected city by transforming downtown Kalamazoo into a welcoming, inclusive and vibrant destination that offers safe travel for all modes of transportation. This includes pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists. A lane conversion involves modifying the number of travel lanes and redesigning space from vehicle lanes to other uses, such as bike lanes, pedestrian walkways or bus or transit lanes.

Additional information: Kalamazoo Streets For All uses an approach to transportation policy and design that emphasizes creating streets made for all users and all modes of transportation! This can look like inclusive design that considers all ages and abilities and all modes of transportation (ex: walking, biking and bus or rail transit) and focuses on flexibility and safety for all.

Q: Why has the city decided to do this?

A: Kalamazoo's neighborhoods, university campuses and downtown are currently divided by several wide, high-traffic one-way streets. This creates barriers for pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists. Converting to a two-way street will calm the speed of vehicles to make room for other modes of transportation and cultivate a community that can be enjoyed by all.

Q: When will construction start?

A: The first step in shifting downtown Kalamazoo's traffic flow will begin on Michikal Street, with construction starting in June 2024. Updates will include:

- Reconstruction of the street, which will remain a one-way in the immediate future. Once it's able to be converted to a two-way, it will have two lanes of traffic heading south toward West Main Street and one lane heading north toward Kalamazoo Avenue.
- Sidewalk will be added to the east side of the street.
- A nonmotorized trail will be added to the west side of the street.
- Water infrastructure will be updated at the intersection of West Main Street, Michikal Street, Michigan Avenue and Stadium Drive.

We will continue to provide updates on social media as they become available.

Q: What are the benefits?

A: Enhances Safety: By reducing the number of lanes, lane conversions can decrease vehicle-to-vehicle conflict points, leading to fewer crashes.

Improves Livability: Creating space for pedestrians, cyclists and public transportation users.

Calms Traffic: Slowing down vehicle speeds and making streets more pleasant for residents and visitors.

Q: Will this improve safety?

A: Yes! Did you know? Roads have become more dangerous for pedestrians. From 2010 to 2019, there was a 45% increase in pedestrian deaths. Additionally, there has been a 15% increase in the number of pedestrians involved in traffic deaths in the last 30 years. Lastly, 2 in 5 households are likely to use forms of transportation other than a personal vehicle, like walking, biking or public transportation. *

Kalamazoo Streets For All is committed to improving safety for all and promoting safe travel for all modes of transportation!

Fewer lanes means fewer conflict points for vehicles, reducing the risk of crashes. Additionally, it will create safer pedestrian crossings and improved visibility at intersections.

Q: How does this enhance quality of life?

A: There are so many ways!

1. Reduced traffic lanes can lead to less noise pollution and quieter streets.
2. It creates more green space that can be used for landscaping, trees and gardens.
3. Less congestion and fewer idling vehicles contribute to improved air quality and reduced emissions.
4. Slower speeds and calmer traffic create a friendlier environment for residents.
5. More pedestrian-friendly areas increase opportunities to socialize.

Q: How will this support the local economy?

A: Overall, well-designed streets can attract visitors and boost economic activity. Easier access to local shops and restaurants encourages foot traffic.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: For additional updates, we recommend you sign up for the newsletter, follow the City of Kalamazoo on Facebook and X (Twitter) and/or visit KalamazooCity.org/Community/Projects/StreetsForAll.

* Sources: National Safety Council; Smart Growth America, "Dangerous by Design 2021"; Forbes Advisor