

Council Meeting
Common Council
December 1, 2025

The regular meeting of the Common Council was held at 21 S. Elm Street, Zeeland, MI 49464 on Monday, December 1, 2025 Mayor Kevin Klynstra called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilmembers – Mayor Klynstra, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Broersma, Kass, Timmer, Lam, Councilmember and Mayor-Elect VanDorp,
Councilmembers - Bult, Langeland, and Perkins

ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Attorney Donkersloot, City Manager Tim Klunder, Asst City Manager/Finance Director Kevin Plockmeyer, Community Development Director Tim Maday, City BPW General Manager Andy Boatright, City Clerk Kristi DeVerney and Interim Deputy City Clerk Sharon Lash

The Invocation was offered by City Councilmember, Jim Broersma

The Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

City Clerk DeVerney administered the Oath of Offices to Mayor VanDorp and Councilmembers, Bult, Langeland, and Perkins.

Former Mayor Klynstra, Councilmembers Broersma and Kass, recused themselves from the meeting and Mayor VanDorp and the City Councilmembers took their seats at the dais.

Approve Addition to Agenda

Motion was made by Councilmember Broersma and Supported by Kass to add Partial Release of Restrictive Covenant to 500 N. Centennial to the agenda.

Ayes: Bult, Lam, Perkins, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Langeland, Timmer, Mayor VanDorp

No Vote: None

Absent: None

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Councilmember Broersma and Supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Langeland, Timmer, Bult, Lam, Perkins, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Mayor VanDorp

No Vote: None

Absent: None

25.183 Ordinance 1044, Electric Rate Revisions

Motion was made by Councilmember Lam and Supported by Councilmember Timmer to adopt City Ordinance 1044 to permit Electric Rate revisions.

Ayes: Timmer, Bult, Lam, Perkins,, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Langeland, Mayor VanDorp

No Votes: None

Absent: None

25.184 Ordinance 1045 Water Rate Revisions

Motion was made by Councilmember Langeland and Supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen to adopt City Ordinance 1044 to permit Water Rate revisions.

Ayes: Bult, Lam, Perkins, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Langeland, Timmer, Mayor VanDorp

No Votes: None

Absent: None

25.185 Interim Fire/Rescue Chief Appointment

Motion was made by Councilmember Perkins and Supported by Councilmember Langeland to approve Mayor VanDorp's appointment of Mitch Harsevoort to the position of "Interim Fire/Rescue Chief" effective December 13, 2025 until a new full-time Fire/Rescue Chief is hired and initially transitions into the role (approximately two – three weeks after hire); and to set Mr. Harsevoort's annual salary during the interim period at \$45,167.20 (based on an average of 20 hours per week).

Ayes: Lam, Perkins, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Langeland, Timmer, Bult, Mayor VanDorp

No Vote: None

Absent: None

25.186 Fire/Rescue Search Committee Appointment

Motion was made by Councilmember Langeland and Supported by Councilmember Perkins to approve Mayor VanDorp's appointments to the Tax Incentive Committee with a term ending November 30, 2026:

- Richard VanDorp III, Mayor
- Sally Gruppen, City Council
- Phung Lam, City Council
- Amy Langeland (City Council Alternate)

Ayes: Bult, Lam, Perkins, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Langeland, Timmer, Mayor VanDorp

No Votes: None

Absent: None

25.191 Appointment of Personnel Committee

Motion was made by Councilmember Perkins and Supported by Councilmember Langeland to approve Mayor VanDorp's appointments to the Personnel Committee with a term ending November 30, 2026.

- Richard VanDorp III, Mayor
- Sally Gruppen, City Council
- Phung Lam, City Council
- Linda Boerman, Board of Public Works
- Mark Cooney, Board of Public Works

Ayes: Lam, Perkins, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Langeland, Timmer, Bult, Mayor VanDorp

No Votes: None

Absent: None

25.192 Appointment of Pension Committee

Motion was made by Councilmember Bult and Supported by Councilmember Lam to approve the administrative appointments to the Pension Committee for a term ending November 30, 2026.

- Richard VanDorp III, Mayor
- Sally Gruppen, City Council
- Andrew Boatright, Administrative Official
- Kevin Plockmeyer, Administrative Official
- Tim Klunder, Administrative Official

Ayes: Perkins, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Langeland, Timmer, Bult, Lam, Mayor VanDorp


Mayor Richard VanDorp III


Kristi DeVerney, City Clerk

MEMORANDUM OF – STUDY SESSION

Zeeland City Hall Council Chambers

Monday, December 1, 2025

5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilmembers – Mayor Klynstra, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Broersma, Kass, Lam, Timmer, and VanDorp

ALSO PRESENT: Councilmembers Elect – Butt, Langeland, and Perkins

ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Attorney Donkersloot, City Manager Tim Klunder, Asst City Manager/Finance Director Kevin Plockmeyer, Community Development Director Tim Maday, City BPW General Manager Andy Boatright, City Clerk Kristi DeVerney and Interim Deputy City Clerk Sharon Lash

Mayor Klynstra called the Study Session to order at 5:30 P.M.

Financial Sustainability Report

ACM Plockmeyer noted that included in the City's 2024 and 2025 Strategic Action Plans was the goal of conducting a Financial Sustainability Study. While the City is currently in an enviable financial position, changes to our concentrated tax base could create significant future headwinds. City Council demonstrated foresight in initiating this study while conditions are favorable. The study focused primarily on assessing the financial impact and the City's available responses to a potential closure of the Consumers Energy Power Generating Facility due to the age of the plant or evolving regulatory requirements.

John Kaczor (Municipal Analytics) and Nate Geinzer (Double Haul Solutions) presented the financial sustainability report to the Council members. They noted the following:

Project Goals & Objectives:

- Identify financial impacts of the potential loss of 38% of City taxable value when ZGS ceases operations
- Review current operations and finances to identify potential changes to improve long-term financial sustainability
 - Financial management policies
 - Benchmark analysis
 - Internal evaluation
 - Intergovernmental services and agreements
- Develop a financial model to forecast expenses and revenues under different scenarios
- Offer strategies the City could pursue to improve financial resilience

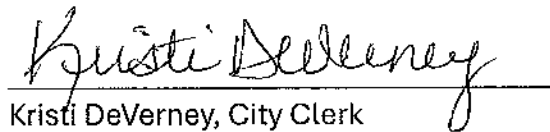
- Facilities' upgrades that will serve the community for decades
- Energy efficiency to reduce operating costs
- Housing
- Strategic reserves

Next Steps & Moving Forward

- Establish strategies for managing finances with 10-15 years of elevated tax receipts
- Consider new terms for 425 agreement and begin negotiating well before current agreement expires
- Look carefully for cost neutral parking solutions downtown

ACM Plockmeyer noted that this feedback will serve as a helpful baseline as the Council prepares for future strategic planning discussions. This will position the City to proactively navigate changes in the financial landscape as they arise.

There being no further items to discuss, Work study was adjourned at 6:02 P.M.


Kristi DeVerney, City Clerk