Council Meeting
Common Council
October 5, 2026

The regular meeting of the Common Council was held at 21 S. Elm Street, Zeeland, MI 49464 on Monday, October 5, 2026. Mayor VanDorp called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilmembers - Mayor VanDorp, Mayor Pro-Tern Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Langeland Perkins, Bult
ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Attorney Jim Donkersloot, Interim City Manager/Finance Director Kevin Plockmeyer, Board of Public Works General Manager Robert Mulder, Clean Water Plant Superintendent Doug Engelsman, and City Clerk Kristi DeVerney

The Invocation was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Councilmember Timmer and Supported by Councilmember Lam to approve the Consent Agenda.

1. Approve minutes of the City Council Work Study of September 21, 2026.
2. Approve minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of September 21, 2026.
3. Receive for information minutes of September 10, 2026, Planning Commission meeting.
4. Receive for information draft minutes of September 21, 2026, Personnel Committee meeting.

Motion carried. All present voting aye.

Public Comment

Mr. Velderman (Zeeland East High School), representing the German American Exchange Program, introduced the 23 German students and their 2 German teachers from the area of Hanover, Germany. Zeeland East High School is a part of a reciprocal exchange program where Zeeland East students will be visiting Germany in May 2027. The German students and teachers will experience the wonderful City of Zeeland with tours that involve agriculture, geology, the U.S. education system and so much more.

Juanita Bocanegra (58th District Court Judge) has been serving since 2020. She stated she believes in grace, second chances, and accountability. Her name is on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, election.

Communications
None

Interim City Managers Report
ICM Plockmeyer reported:

Church Street Construction Project

Progress is continuing between Main Avenue and Central Avenue with sidewalks and crosswalks. Base course of asphalt is tentatively scheduled for this week. North of Main Avenue, crews work to grade the roadway towards Washington Avenue with closures expected within the next week.

Tax Incentive Committee / Mead Johnson

The Tax Incentive Committee met before the Council Work Study to review two applications from Mead Johnson & Company, LLC that requested (1) to establish an Industrial Development District to encompass its expanded campus, including recently acquired properties and (2) an Act 198 Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate application for ventilation improvements to its existing facilities at 725 E Main Avenue. These will come before the City Council at an upcoming meeting.

FY2026 Audit

Brickley DeLong was onsite last week conducting fieldwork for the City's FY2026 annual audit. The audit is continuing through its follow-up phase as the auditors complete their review and work toward finalizing the City's financial statements and audit report. Final audit presentation and acceptance is anticipated before the City Council at a December Council meeting.

Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission's October 1st meeting began with a bus tour of the City to begin development of the 2027 Planning Commission Capital Improvement Projects List.

The Commission also held two public hearings for (1) a site plan review application from Plascore for construction of a new 83,500-square-foot industrial building and related site improvements at 500 E Roosevelt Avenue and (2) a special land use application for an accessory dwelling unit at 44 W Garfield Avenue.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

A capital-improvement priority survey was distributed to members of the Cemetery & Parks Commission to help identify and rank potential projects for inclusion in the plan. Responses are due soon so results can be compiled and incorporated into the Commission's upcoming discussion. The next phase of the planning process is to establish priorities for future park and recreation improvements.

Public Power Week / BPW Open House

The Zeeland Board of Public Works celebrates Public Power Week October 4-10. The BPW will host a community open house and ribbon-cutting at its renovated Customer Service Office on Thursday, October 8.

Pumpkinfest

The Pumpkinfest Parade was held on Saturday, October 3rd with the City Council participating in the festivities. Thank you to Zeeland Festivals, City staff, volunteers, and everyone else for all they do to make Pumpkinfest a huge success.

Action Items

26.156 Main/Centennial Four-Way Stop Traffic Control Order

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen and Supported by Councilmember Lam to approve the All-Way stop at the corner of Main Ave. and Centennial St. and direct that appropriate signage be installed.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.157 Rich Street No Parking Traffic Control Order

Motion was made by Councilmember Timmer and Supported by Councilmember Bult to approve the Traffic Control order for No Parking on the North side of Rich Ave. between Peck St. and S. Maple St. and direct that the appropriate signage be installed.

Ayes: Timmer, Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.158 Library Acoustic Improvement Contract Award

Motion was made by Councilmember Lam and Supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen to award a contract to Lakewood Construction in the amount of $105,659 and establish a total project budget of $115,659, which includes a $10,000 contingency allowance for unforeseen construction conditions, and authorize City staff to execute the necessary contract documents and proceed with the project.

Ayes: Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.159 Senior Utility Advisor Position

Motion was made by Councilmember Langeland and Supported by Councilmember Timmer to approve the establishment of the BPW Senior Utility Advisor position under the terms summarized and detailed in the job description. This recommendation was approved by the City's Personnel Committee and supported by the BPW Board of Commissioners.

Ayes: Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.160 GIS Intern – Part-Time

Motion was made by Councilmember Perkins and Supported by Councilmember Langeland to approve transitioning the seasonal GIS Intern position to a year-round part-time position.

Ayes: Perkins, Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Langeland, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.161 Line Supervisor Position

Motion was made by Councilmember Bult and Supported by Councilmember Lam to approve establishing the Line Supervisor position to reflect the current operational, technical, and supervisory needs of the Zeeland BPW and City of Zeeland, and to approve the corresponding annual salary range provided by Human Resources: $96,885 (minimum), $125,013 (midpoint), and $153,141 (maximum).

Ayes: Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.162 Match on Main Grant Agreement – Mandu Escapes LLC

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen and Supported by Councilmember Perkins to approve the related grant agreement between the City of Zeeland and Mandu Escapes LLC.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.163 Ordinance Amendment – Planning Commission Membership

Motion was made by Councilmember Timmer and Supported by Councilmember Lam to approve the ordinance amendment to Sections 2-155 and 2-156 of the City Code allowing the City Manager or Interim City Manager, if selected by the Mayor, to serve as the administrative representative to the Planning Commission regardless of City residency.

Ayes: Timmer, Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.164 Retiree Health Insurance Renewal

Motion was made by Councilmember Lam and Supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen to approve renewal of the Humana Medicare Advantage health and prescription drug plan for eligible retirees and spouses effective January 1, 2027, at a monthly premium of $222.43 per member.

Ayes: Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

26.165 Dental Insurance Renewal

Motion was made by Councilmember Langeland and Supported by Councilmember Perkins to approve the 2027 dental insurance renewal through The West Michigan Health Insurance Pool at the rates presented.

Ayes: Langeland, Perkins, Bult, Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Mayor VanDorp
No Vote: None
Absent: None

Mayor Pro-Tem Gruppen thanked ICM Plockmeyer for all his work over the last few months and for his work on the insurance renewal regarding the best interest of Zeeland employees.

Mayor VanDorp stated that Pumpkinfest was a great success. Councilmember Lam thanked staff for their pride in the City as it shows with amazing planning during the year.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilmember Timmer and Supported by Councilmember Langeland to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M. Motion carried. All voting aye.

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Mayor Richard VanDorp III

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City Clerk Kristen R DeVerney

MEMORANDUM OF-STUDY SESSION
Zeeland City Hall Council Chambers Monday, October 5, 2026
5:45 P.M.

Mayor VanDorp called the Study Session to order at 5:49 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilmembers - Mayor VanDorp, Mayor Pro-Tern Gruppen, Timmer, Lam, Langeland, Perkins, Bult

ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Attorney Jim Donkersloot, Interim City Manager/Finance Director Kevin Plockmeyer, Community Development Director Tim Maday, Marketing Director Abby deRoo, Board of Public Works General Manager Robert Mulder, Howard Miller Library & Community Center Director Amanda Hanson, Police Chief Tim Jungel, and City Clerk Kristi DeVerney

Main/Centennial Four-Way Stop Traffic Control Order

Police Chief Jungel stated this is a change that residents have requested for some time. Because the warrant requirements of the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD) have changed, this is an appropriate time for the City to evaluate the intersection under the current guidelines.

The factors that are considered to warrant an all-way stop in this location include:
- Pedestrian/bicyclist traffic
- Students traveling to and from school
- Vehicular traffic

This intersection now meets the MMUTCD criteria for evaluating an all-way stop control.

Staff recommended approving the All-Way stop at the corner of Main Avenue and Centennial Street and direct that appropriate signage be installed.

Rich Street No Parking Traffic Control Order

Police Chief Jungel stated Rich Street experiences periods of significant congestion, particularly when activity at the park increases. Vehicles parked along the north side of the street reduce the available roadway width and contribute to congestion and conflicts between vehicles traveling in opposite directions.

An additional concern is the number of children crossing Rich Street to access the park on the south side of the street. When vehicles are parked along the north side, visibility between approaching motorists and children attempting to cross the street can be restricted. Children may also be required to cross around parked vehicles or between vehicles, creating an unpredictable situation for both pedestrians and motorists.

Removing parking from the north side of Rich Street would:
- Improve the available roadway width and reduce congestion.
- Improve sight distance for motorists approaching pedestrian crossing areas.
- Provide drivers with a clearer view of children and other pedestrians crossing toward the park.
- Reduce conflicts between parked vehicles, moving traffic, and pedestrians.

- Create a more predictable and orderly traffic environment during periods of increased park activity.

Staff recommended approving the Traffic Control order for No Parking on the North side of Rich Avenue, between Peck Street and S Maple Street, and directed the appropriate signage be installed.

Library Acoustic Improvement Contract Award

Library Director Hanson stated that Library staff and patrons have consistently expressed concerns regarding sound levels within the Howard Miller Public Library. The building's open atrium and stairwell design allows sound to travel throughout both floors of the library, and the lack of sufficient acoustic buffering becomes particularly noticeable during busy periods.

An acoustic study of the library was conducted with a report identifying several treatment options to improve sound absorption and reduce reverberation within the building.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was developed in May 2026 (with no bids received) and again in August 2026 with Lakewood Construction ($105,659) and McGraw Construction, Inc. ($176,000) submitting proposals.

Lakewood Construction submission provided staff with greater detail regarding its proposed approach and pricing. Lakewood provided separate pricing for all three treatment options as well as unit pricing for installed acoustical wall panels, high-NRC ceiling tile, and impact-resistant acoustical wall panels.

McGraw's submission identified a number of qualifications and items to be determined following award including negotiation of the construction schedule, subcontractors to be identified after award, and other project assumptions.

The project will be funded through the Howard Miller Library Endowment Fund. In addition to the contract amount, staff recommended establishing a $10,000 project contingency allowance to address unforeseen conditions or additional work that may become necessary during construction.

Staff recommended that the City Council award the Howard Miller Public Library Atrium Acoustics Remediation Project, Treatment Option #3, to Lakewood Construction in the amount of $105,659 and set a total project budget of $115,659, including a $10,000 contingency allowance, and authorize staff to execute the necessary contract documents and proceed with the project.

Senior Utility Advisor Position

Board of Public Works General Manager Mulder stated the BPW's General Manager transition created a near-term need to preserve institutional knowledge and provide experienced support for selected utility initiatives as the BPW's new generation initiative advances, along with several other strategic priorities.

Establishing a part-time Senior Utility Advisor position would provide specialized, project-based services under the direction of the BPW's General Manager. This position would supplement existing staff resources without creating supervisory authority or displacing the responsibilities of current utility leadership.

Assignments may include preparing technical specifications and procurement documents; researching grant opportunities and preparing applications; supporting utility planning, cost-of-service analysis, and rate studies; assisting with major customer and stakeholder matters; preparing Board reports and

policies; supporting strategic and organizational improvement initiatives; providing executive coaching and succession planning assistance; and facilitating institutional knowledge transfer.

The position would be used as organizational needs warrant and is expected to average approximately 20 hours per week initially, with hours declining as transition objectives are achieved. The position is anticipated to be transitional and would be reevaluated annually to confirm the continued organizational need.

Staff recommended that City Council approve the establishment of the BPW Senior Utility Advisor position under the terms summarized and detailed in the job description. This recommendation was approved by the City's Personnel Committee at its September 21, 2026, meeting and is supported by the BPW Board of Commissioners.

GIS Intern – Part-Time

Board of Public Works General Manager Mulder stated staff would like to transition from the existing full-time seasonal GIS Intern position to a year-round part-time position. Staff would retain a trained intern, Nick Lanting, and provide continued support for the development and maintenance of COZ and ZBPW GIS systems.

The GIS Internship provided valuable assistance while developing the intern's technical skills and familiarity with our infrastructure and mapping processes. Continuing to build on that progress would be beneficial.

The position's responsibilities include creating and maintaining geographic data in ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Online, updating infrastructure records from as-built drawings, preparing utility maps, collecting field data, and incorporating existing records into GIS.

Retaining the intern would also provide additional support and knowledge redundancy for the BPW's electric and water GIS systems.

The intern would assist with routine mapping and data maintenance, help balance competing workload demands, and support continuity during staff absences. A year-round part-time position would also support workforce development by providing practical experience alongside the intern's education. This arrangement would keep technical skills current, strengthen familiarity with COZ and BPW operations, and support potential future staffing and succession planning needs.

Staff recommended that City Council approves transitioning the seasonal GIS Intern position to a year-round part-time position. This transition would sustain the progress achieved this summer and provide continued capacity to improve the accuracy, accessibility, and usefulness of COZ and BPW GIS systems.

Line Supervisor Position

Board of Public Works General Manager Mulder stated staff would like to establish a Line Supervisor position within the Zeeland Board of Public Works. This request is part of the staffing transition associated with the retirement of the current Lead Line worker and the planned backfill of that role. The proposed structure would establish a position focused on technical support, planning, and employee supervision while allowing the Lead Line worker to concentrate on directing daily jobs and tasks in the field.

Establishing a dedicated Line Supervisor would provide additional capacity to manage coordination among engineering, contractors, customers, and field crews, along with scheduling, documentation, safety oversight, and technical support. Establishing a dedicated Line Supervisor would provide additional

capacity to manage these responsibilities and ensure crews have the information, materials, and direction needed to complete their assignments safely and efficiently.

The Line Supervisor would report to the Electric Transmission & Distribution Manager and supervise the Lead Line worker, Line workers, and Apprentice Line workers. This position would place greater emphasis on technical and office-based responsibilities, including work planning and prioritization, contractor coordination, review of construction plans and material requirements, maintenance of system records, and support for operating and capital work plans. The position would also assist with distribution equipment troubleshooting, protection and automation initiatives, and reliability improvements in coordination with engineering staff.

Under this structure, the Lead Line worker would focus on coordinating assigned work at the job site, providing direction to Line workers, monitoring progress, and communicating field conditions or resource needs to the Line Supervisor. Formal employee supervision, performance management, training oversight, and personnel matters would rest with the Line Supervisor in coordination with management and Human Resources. This division of responsibilities would provide clear accountability while maintaining experienced leadership in the field.

Staff recommended City Council approve establishing the Line Supervisor position to reflect the current operational, technical, and supervisory needs of the Zeeland BPW and City of Zeeland, and to approve the corresponding annual salary range provided by Human Resources: $96,885 (minimum), $125,013 (midpoint), and $153,141 (maximum).

Match on Main Grant Agreement – Mandu Escapes

Marketing Manager deRoo stated downtown communities were invited to pursue funding through the Match on Main grant program administered by the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) and Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Downtown Zeeland submitted two applications. Mandu Escapes LLC, doing business as La Crème, requested assistance to outfit an on-street patio, and 3D Properties, owned by Mitch Bakker, requested assistance with the build-out of the retail storefront at 140 E. Main Avenue.

The MSF has awarded the City of Zeeland up to $16,984 to support La Crème's request. The agreement is effective September 1, 2026, and the City will serve as the grantee and local administrator of this reimbursement-based award. La Crème is required to invest a minimum of 10% of the grant amount.

The La Crème application proposes to create a semi-permanent outdoor crepe station and related patio activation along Main Avenue. The project is designed to expand La Crème's service capacity, make better use of its exterior space, improve pedestrian activity, and create a more welcoming place for customers to gather downtown.

The proposed scope includes:

- Commercial crepe makers and a mobile refrigerated crepe cart/preparation station;
- Electrical upgrades, exterior/string lighting, an ordering-area umbrella, and removable patio barriers or planters;
- An additional point-of-sale device, menu boards, branded cups and crepe pouches, and a nonalcoholic beverage cooler; and
- Initial ingredients and supplies needed to launch the expanded outdoor service operation.

Match on Main is a reimbursement grant. La Crème must first incur and pay eligible project costs. The City will then assemble and submit one final reimbursement request to MEDC, including receipts and proof of payment, evidence of the required business match, a final progress report, a signed company

acknowledgment, and project completion photographs.

- Maximum State grant: $16,984.
- Minimum La Crème match: $1,698.40, equal to 10% of the maximum grant.
- Eligible costs must be incurred and paid between April 18, 2026, and September 1, 2027.
- The final reimbursement package is due to MEDC no later than September 15, 2027.
- After receiving grant funds, the City must disburse them to La Crème within 60 days.
- The City must complete required progress reporting and retain grant records for the period required by the agreement.

The City's role is administrative and pass-through in nature. Grant funds may be used only for costs approved under the agreement, and reimbursement remains subject to MEDC review and confirmation of compliance. City staff will coordinate with La Crème throughout implementation to document expenses, monitor deadlines, and prepare the required reports.

Staff recommended that City Council approve the related grant agreement between the City of Zeeland and Mandu Escapes LLC.

2026 PASER Rating Update

ICM Plockmeyer stated Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) is a standardized method used to evaluate the visible condition of paved streets based on factors such as cracking, deterioration, patching, rutting, and other surface distress. All the City's streets were visually inspected this year.

A significant portion of the roads are in good or better condition while others have moved in the opposite direction. A poor PASER rating can identify a street for further consideration to determine whether resurfacing or a more comprehensive reconstruction project is the appropriate long-term investment.

The City generally attempts to allocate approximately $350,000 annually toward mill-and-resurface projects. It also generally plans to invest approximately $1.5 million to $2 million annually in street reconstruction projects. Below is the list of streets/areas for continued consideration for future reconstruction projects and potential future mill-and-resurface projects.

Type of Improvement	Streets/Areas for Continued Consideration
Future Reconstruction Projects	Goodrich Street – Central to Lincoln; Winterhalder – Central to Dead End; Valley Drive / South Jefferson / Center / Westenbroek; Washington Avenue – State to Carlton
Potential Future Mill-and-Resurface Projects	Portions of Fairview Street; portions of East Central Avenue; Madison Court; portions of Garfield Avenue; portions of Woodward Street; portions of Jefferson Avenue; and portions of Maple Street

The completion of a citywide PASER evaluation, in 2026, establishes an improved pavement-condition baseline that staff can incorporate into the City's existing capital-planning process. Future PASER evaluations will also allow the City to better track pavement deterioration over time and assess whether the City's ongoing investment in the street system is maintaining or improving overall pavement conditions.

Ordinance Amendment Planning Commission Membership

ICM Plockmeyer stated that the proposed ordinance would maintain the Planning Commission at nine members and would continue the City's existing general membership structure. The Commission would consist of the Mayor, one member of City Council, six other appointed members, and an administrative representative. The principal change would specifically identify the City Manager or Interim City Manager as the administrative representative who may be selected by the Mayor. If selected, the City Manager or Interim City Manager would not be required to be a City elector, provided the individual is a United States citizen and Michigan resident.

Importantly, the proposed ordinance does not create a general non-resident position on the Planning Commission. The exception is limited specifically to the individual serving as City Manager or Interim City Manager. The ordinance does not extend the exception to other City employees or other members of the public. The proposed language also provides that the administrative appointee would serve a one-year term, with the appointment ending if the individual is no longer serving as City Manager or Interim City Manager. The ordinance otherwise retains the existing three-year terms for the six appointed public members.

Staff believe there to be value in having the City's administrative representative participate in Planning Commission discussions. The Commission regularly considers matters involving development, infrastructure, long-range planning, zoning, and other issues that intersect with City operations, policies, and budgets. The proposed amendment would preserve that administrative connection while providing flexibility should the individual serving as City Manager reside outside the City.

The proposed amendment is therefore intended to provide limited flexibility for the City’s administrative representative while maintaining the existing composition and residency requirements for the remainder of the Planning Commission.

Staff recommended that City Council approve the ordinance amendment to Sections 2-155 and 2-156 of the City Code allowing the City Manager or Interim City Manager, if selected by the Mayor, to serve as the administrative representative to the Planning Commission regardless of City residency.

Retiree Health Insurance Renewal

ICM Plockmeyer stated Humana has provided a 2027 renewal rate of $222.43 per member per month. The current 2026 rate is $210.56 per month, resulting in an increase of $11.87 per month, or approximately 5.6%. The proposed plan continues to include medical and prescription drug coverage through Humana’s Medicare Group Plan. The plan includes no deductible, a $10 primary-care office visit copayment, a $20 specialist copayment, and a $4,000 medical maximum out-of-pocket amount. The renewal proposal assumes 27 currently enrolled members.

Under the City's Retiree Benefit Policy, the City's contribution toward eligible retiree Medicare coverage may increase by up to 3% from the prior calendar year. When the annual premium increase exceeds 3%, the portion of the increase above the City's 3% contribution cap becomes the responsibility of the retiree. For 2027, the Humana premium is increasing approximately 5.6%, from $210.56 to $222.43 per month. Accordingly, the City's monthly contribution will increase by 3%, from $154.26 to $158.89, with the remaining premium increase reflected in the retiree contribution.

For an eligible Medicare-covered spouse, the City will continue to contribute 50% of the amount provided toward the retiree's coverage, with the spouse responsible for the remaining premium. As has historically been the case, the City’s portion of retiree health insurance costs will continue to be paid from the City’s OPEB Fund.

Staff recommended that City Council approve renewal of the Humana Medicare Advantage health and prescription drug plan for eligible retirees and spouses effective January 1, 2027, at a monthly premium of $222.43 per member.

Dental Insurance Renewal

ICM Plockmeyer stated the City has received its 2027 dental insurance renewal through The West Michigan Health Insurance Pool. The renewal provides for a 4.20% increase effective January 1, 2027. The Pool indicates that the increase is generally consistent with dental provider trends across the State and is intended to maintain the financial stability of the program while minimizing member costs.

The existing benefit structure would remain unchanged. The plan continues to provide 100% coverage for preventive services and 50% coverage for the remaining covered service categories, with a $1,750 annual maximum and a $1,500 orthodontic maximum.

The 2027 renewal represents a relatively modest 4.20% increase while maintaining the existing benefit structure. Given our experience since transitioning to The Pool, the limited employee concerns received, and the stability of the current plan design, staff does not see a reason to pursue a change in dental coverage for 2027.

The Personnel Committee reviewed the 2027 dental insurance renewal at their September 21, 2026 meeting and approved staff's recommendation to renew the City's dental coverage through The Pool and maintain the existing policy under which the City pays the full dental insurance premium for active employees and their eligible dependents.

Staff recommended that City Council approve the 2027 dental insurance renewal through The West Michigan Health Insurance Pool at the rates presented.

Utility of the Future Award Recognition – Zeeland Clean Water Plant

CWP Superintendent Engelsman stated that the Zeeland Clean Water Plant received two prestigious national recognitions in 2026.

First, the Utility of the Future Today (UotFT) Recognition celebrates water utilities that advance resource efficiency and recovery, build proactive relationships with stakeholders, and help create resilient, sustainable, and livable communities. The program provides utilities of all sizes with a framework for innovation, more efficient operations, and long-term sustainability.

Our 2026 recognition is in the Water Reuse category, honoring efforts to conserve drinking water, reduce operating costs, and protect water resources. This is the CWP's fourth UotFT recognition, following:

- Partnering and Engagement (2020)
- Beneficial Biosolids Reuse (2022)
- Nutrient Reduction and Recovery (2024)

Second, Zeeland CWP received the Platinum 5 Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for achieving five consecutive years of 100% permit compliance. This national recognition reflects the effectiveness of the City's asset management program and the dedication of CWP staff in maintaining exceptional operational performance and regulatory compliance.

CWP Superintendent Engelsman thanked the City of Zeeland's leadership, along with the partnering communities for their commitment to environmental excellence. He also gave special recognition to the CWP staff for their dedication, expertise, and careful day-to-day operations of the facility.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Councilmember Timmer and supported by Councilmember Langeland to enter Closed Session at 6:28 P.M. for purposes of reviewing an attorney's opinions. Motion carried by all voting aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Langeland and supported by Councilmember Timmer to reconvene from Closed Session at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried with all voting aye.

There being no further items to discuss, Work Study was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

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Kristen R DeVerney, City Clerk