



Kankakee City Council Community Development Committee

February 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 385 E. Oak St.

Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Community Development Committee ("Committee") of the Kankakee City Council ("Council") was called to order by Chair Dave Baron on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers, proper notice having been given to the public and Committee members. There were no public comments.

The following Committee members were present: Aids. Dave Baron (2), Larry Osenga (3), Danita Swanson (4), Victor Nevarez (5), Mike Cobbs (6), and Lenora Noble (7). The following Committee member was not present: Ald. Mike Prude (1). The following guests were also present: Ald. Lance Marczak (4), Economic & Community Development Agency ("ECDA") Executive Director Barbi Brewer Watson, ECDA Assistant Director Miya Petitgoue, and Child Network Executive Director Brianne Hetman. The Chair recognized a quorum was present.

Ald. Baron asked the Committee to review the January 5, 2026 regular meeting minutes, which had been made available to the Committee in advance of the meeting. **Upon a motion by Ald. Osenga and seconded by Ald. Cobbs, the Committee voted on a voice vote to approve the meeting minutes from January 5, 2026.**

The Committee reviewed ECDA's December community development draw vouchers in the amount of \$197,896.83. Ald. Osenga asked about costs related to the demolition of property on 5th Avenue, the subsurface infill of which will be completed upon the onset of spring weather. **Upon a motion by Ald. Swanson to approve payment of the December draw vouchers totaling an amount of \$197,896.83 and seconded by Ald. Cobbs, the Committee voted (6 Yes, 0 No) on a roll call vote as follows: Baron – Y (Abstain on 26-01-09). Osenga – Y. Swanson – Y. Nevarez – Y. Cobbs – Y. Noble – Y.**

Ms. Watson introduced Ms. Hetman, who provided an overview of Child Network, its history, and scope of operations in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Child Network runs two programs from its headquarters in Bradley: The Children's Advocacy Center and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The Children's Advocacy Center serves victims of abuse by helping them through the information intake process and reporting to law enforcement. Specially-trained forensic interviewers help to gather sensitive information from victims without triggering further trauma. The CASA program trains individuals to be appointed by the Circuit Court as Special Advocates who push for the child's best interests in matters before the court. The CASA program is an opportunity for volunteers to directly serve children impacted by abuse. Child Network is funded by both state and federal grants, and it is always in need of capable volunteers.

Committee Members: Michael Prude (1), Chair Dave Baron (2), Larry Osenga (3),
Vice Chair Danita Swanson (4), Victor Nevarez (5), Mike Cobbs (6), Lenora Noble (7)

Ms. Watson then provided the ECDA monthly report, detailing the status of the 24 construction projects in process that are funded by the lead hazard, healthy homes, Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") housing rehab, CDBG demolition, and Middle Income Rehab Assistance ("MIRA") grants and programs. Quarterly reports under the ECDA's 2025-26 Public Service Program ("PSP") are due on February 13, 2026, and they will likely include requests for reimbursement. The Community Advisory Board ("CAB") will hold its public hearing for 2026-27 PSP applicants on February 4, 2026 and make recommendations on March 4, 2026. The recommendations will be presented to the Committee on April 6, 2026. The Private Security Incentive Program ("PSIP") has \$5,231.97 still available. CAB is planning new measures to increase its visibility and communication with alderpeople, including attendance at ward meetings and outreach measures. ECDA representatives will attend a community roundtable conversation regarding mental health on March 12, 2026 at Riverside Medical Center. ECDA's Contractor Recruitment efforts on February 22, 2026 was successful. ECDA is now receiving materials from renewing contractors and a new potential contractor.

The Committee then considered the sale of City-owned property at 770 Park Avenue to M4 Properties. The administrative review team had convened and determined that M4 Properties complies with all requirements for the City's program on conveying City-owned parcels, including the submission of a plan to renovate the property. M4 Properties has a budget of \$75,000 for investment into the property to use for market rate housing. ECDA has previously used this property for resident relocation during construction projects, but it had been damaged and vandalized in 2021. **Upon the motion of Ald. Nevarez to recommend approval of the sale of the property to the full Council and second by Ald. Swanson, the Committee voted in favor (6 Yes, 0 No) by roll call as follows: Baron – Y (Abstain on 26-01-09). Osenga – Y. Swanson – Y. Nevarez – Y. Cobbs – Y. Noble – Y.**

Upon a motion by Ald. Osenga and seconded by Ald. Noble, the Committee voted via voice vote to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ald. Dave Baron
Chair

Committee Members: Michael Prude (1), Chair Dave Baron (2), Larry Osenga (3),
Vice Chair Danita Swanson (4), Victor Nevarez (5), Mike Cobbs (6), Lenora Noble (7)