



Kankakee City Council Community Development Committee

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

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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, April 6, 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. Mike Prude (1), Dave Baron (2), Larry Osenga (3), Danita Swanson (4), Victor Nevarez (5), and Lenora Noble (7). The following Committee member was not present: Ald. Mike Cobbs (6). 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 City Director of Planning and Zoning Melissa King. The Chair recognized a quorum was present.

Ald. Baron asked the Committee to review the March 2, 2026 regular meeting minutes, which had been made available to the Committee in advance of the meeting. **Upon a motion by Ald. Swanson and seconded by Ald. Noble, the Committee voted on a voice vote to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2026.**

Ald. Carmen Lewis (5) arrived at the meeting.

The Committee reviewed ECDA's March community development draw vouchers totaling an amount of \$58,553.88. In response to a question from Ald. Osenga regarding the possibility of hiring an in-house lead inspector, Ms. Watson described the high demand for these inspectors and the difficulty of retaining one after spending time and money to train them. **Upon a motion by Ald. Swanson to approve payment of the December draw vouchers totaling the amount of \$58,553.88 and seconded by Ald. Noble, the Committee voted (6 Yes, 0 No) on a roll call vote as follows: Prude – Y. Baron – Y (Abstain on 26-03-03). Osenga – Y. Swanson – Y. Nevarez – Y. Noble – Y.**

In the monthly ECDA report, Ms. Watson described ongoing construction projects. Twenty-three construction projects are ongoing. ECDA has been able to remove approximately 40 people from the project waitlist since it was closed in late 2025. The Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Housing Rehab program had received many requests in recent months for furnace and roof repairs. Ms. Watson has prioritized a review of housing rehab workflows, identifying existing roadblocks and process changes to address them.

Ald. Dale Tolly (3) arrived during Ms. Watson's presentation.

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)

According to Ms. Watson, the Private Security Incentive Program ("PSIP") still has \$4,842 available to grant for public facing cameras and lighting on private residences, which must be spent before the end of 2026. She reported that ECDA will be participating in a joint community conversation with Prairie State Legal Services regarding housing rights at the Lisieux Center on April 9.

Ms. Watson then discussed available storm recovery resources, explaining that distribution from ECDA's existing federal grants was constrained and that the most expedient way to seek funds would be through the emergency fund established by United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties and the Community Foundation of Kankakee County, which have recently granted funds to Kankakee County Community Services, Inc. ("KCCSI") for financial assistance. KCCSI has released its application to aid impacted residents with windshield and auto body damage, utility payments, rent and mortgage assistance, and housing vouchers. For questions regarding insurance claims, the Illinois Department of Insurance has general information available on its website and has held informational sessions in the City.

Ms. Watson then provided information on empowOR, which is her department's preferred software vendor to help manage ECDA's housing counseling services. The cost of software would be paid from CDBG funds and help to prepare the reports that must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") on a regular basis.

Ms. Petitgoue presented the recommendations from the Community Advisory Board ("CAB") as to 2026-27 CDBG Public Service Program ("PSP") awards. This year CAB reviewed and heard presentations from four applicants seeking the City's allotment of \$70,000. This amount allows the City to fully fund the requests of the four applicants, and CAB made recommendations for the excess funds as well based on the perceived needs of the community. **Upon the motion of Ald. Osenga and second by Ald. Swanson, the Committee voted by roll call (6 Yes, 0 No) to recommend the following 2026-27 PSP award amounts to the full City Council:**

- **Cornerstone Services (resource closet for women and children) - \$5,950.00**
- **Harbor House (homeless prevention) - \$21,600.00**
- **Catholic Charities (transitional and rapid rehousing) - \$26,500.00**
- **Hippocrates Medical Clinic (medical supplies) - \$15,950.00**

Prude – Y. Baron – Y. Osenga – Y. Swanson – Y. Nevarez – Y. Noble – Y.

Upon a motion by Ald. Noble and seconded by Ald. Osenga, the Committee voted via voice vote to adjourn at 6:36 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday, May 4, 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)