



City of Fraser

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

CITY MANAGER
Elaine Leven
CITY CLERK
August Gitschlag

MAYOR
Michael Lesich
MAYOR PRO-TEM
Patrick O'Dell
COUNCIL
Amy Baranski
Crystal Fletcher
George-Michael Higgins
Kenny Perry Jr.
Patrice Schornak

FRASER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
33000 GARFIELD, FRASER, MI 48026
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 - 6:30 P.M

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lesich called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lesich led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak
Absent: O'Dell

Motion by Lesich, supported by Baranski to excuse Mayor ProTem O'Dell

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion by Baranski, supported by Fletcher to remove item 8d Authorization to fill a
DPS Council Vacancy**

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

**Motion by Baranski, supported by Fletcher to add RFP for Steffens Park improvements
to the agenda as item New Business 8f**

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

Motion by Baranski, supported by Higgins to approve the agenda as amended

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

**FRASER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 - 6:30 P.M**

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes December 11, 2025
- b. Receive Board/Commission Meeting Minutes
- c. Receive Historical Commission Newsletter
- d. Receive Check Disbursements
- e. Receive Revenue and Expenditure Report

Motion by Fletcher, supported by Higgins to approve consent agenda as presented

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

7. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Strategy discussion with legal counsel regarding negotiations related to a collective Bargaining Agreement – Clerical and Captains

Motion by Lesich, supported by Baranski to enter into closed session for the purpose of a strategy discussion with legal counsel regarding negotiations related to a collective Bargaining Agreement – Clerical and Captains

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

Council entered closed session at 6:36pm

Council exits closed session at 7:32pm

Mayor Lesich called the meeting back to order at 7:32pm

Motion by Lesich, supported by Schornak to approve the agreement between the City of Fraser and the TPOAM clerical union

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Public Hearing 2026 CDBG Nonprofit Allocation
Presentations were given by representatives of:
Turning Point
Care House

**Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
Hearts for Homes**

Motion by Schornak, supported by Baranski to allocate the City of Fraser CDBG public service funds as follows:

Turning Point	\$2500
Care House	\$2000
Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$2250
Hearts for Homes	\$1000

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

b. 2026 Poverty Exemption Policy

Motion by Fletcher, supported by Higgins to approve the 2026 Poverty Exemption Policy as presented.

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

c. Promote to Fill DPW Working Foremen Position

Public Works Superintendent Barrett and Deputy Superintendent Gregroy presented

Motion by Schornak, supported by Baranski to approve the promotion to fill the DPW working foreman position.

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

~~D. Authorization to fill a DPS Captain Vacancy~~

d. Amend the Council Regular Meeting Dates – May 7 to May 14

Motion by Higgins, supported by Baranski to amend the City Council Regular Meeting Schedule to reflect a May 14th meeting date instead of May 7th

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

e. Election Commission Appointment of a Council Member

Motion by Lesich, supported by Baranski to appoint Councilwoman Crystal Fletcher to the Election Commission

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

Motion Passes

FRASER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 - 6:30 P.M

- f. RFP for Steffens Park Improvements
Council asked Superintendent Barrett what could be done, and for a list of improvements that we could make short of a full overhaul.
No council action was taken, but DPW will attend to a list that will be presented at the January 14th Council Strategic Planning Session.

9. RETURNING BUSINESS

- a. Library Subcommittee Report
Jim Sutherland spoke on behalf of the Fraser Public Library. Bond meeting is coming up in the next two weeks. Library will come to the Building Department for their permit.

10. REPORT OF CITY ADMINISTRATION

City Manager Levin met with the new Comcast representative, and otherwise busy with general inquiries.

11. REPORT OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Each member of Council wished everyone a Happy New Year

Baranski – nothing more

Fletcher – nothing more

O'Dell – absent

Schornak – Parks & Rec has a family fun night on Feb 14th. Fraser Goodfellows Meat Raffle is coming up March 7th, thanks all the service organizations that presented and we should all look out for our neighbors.

Perry – nothing more

Lesich – don't get sick

Higgins – met with CARE of SE Michigan and their herbal substance awareness program concerned with kratom and 7OH. City should institute age requirements. Councilman Higgins addressed the December 7th traffic stop and deportation incident, the current political divide and killing in Minnesota.

12. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Omar – advocate for December 7th subject Santiago Perez, read a letter from Santiago to the Fraser Court. Described details of Santiago's case and alleged abuse of process. Local officers should not be doing immigration enforcement.

7

FRASER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 - 6:30 P.M

13. Kristin Schutte – teacher of December 7th subject Santiago Perez, described his personality.

Luxio Onyx – black and brown people do not feel safe, city needs to cut ties with ICE, ICE is bad.

Dwayne Foster – nonpartisan Councilmembers should not be discussing federal enforcement issues. Discussed the Dec 7th incident.

Laura Lesich – Beautification Club meets Jan 12th, Fraser 1st Booster Clube Jan 21st, Blue Jean Ball is February 7th,

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Schornak, supported by Higgins to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm

Ayes: Baranski, Fletcher, Higgins, Lesich, Perry, Schornak

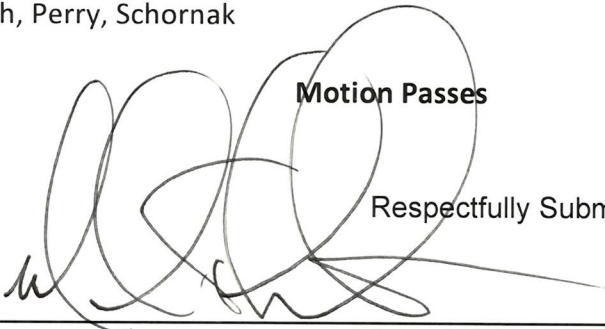
Nays:

Absent: O'Dell

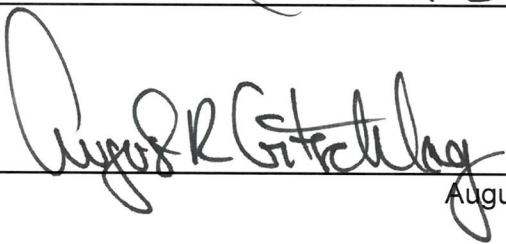
Motion Passes

Respectfully Submitted:





Michael T. Lesich, Mayor
City of Fraser



August R. Gitschlag, City Clerk
City of Fraser

This day 8 January, 2026