

**CITY OF SWARTZ CREEK  
SWARTZ CREEK, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
DATE April 27, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Henry in the Swartz Creek City Council Chambers, 8083 Civic Drive.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmembers Present: Melen, Spillane, Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry.

Councilmembers Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager Adam Zettel, Treasurer Amy Nichols, Jacquie Forrest

Others Present: Metro PD Lieutenant Murphy, Dennis Cramer, Iana Harrington, Chris Harrington, Amy Lovely, Chelsea Thiell, Matt Thiell

Others Virtually Attended: Kristi Torsky

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Resolution No. 260427-01 (Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Spillane  
Second by Councilmember Gilbert

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday April 13, 2026 to be circulated and placed on file.

YES: Spillane, Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen.  
NO: None. Motion Declared Carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Resolution No. 260427-02 (Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Krueger  
Second by Councilmember Gilbert

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council approve the Agenda as printed for the Regular Council Meeting of April 27, 2026, to be circulated and placed on file.

YES: Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen, Spillane.  
NO: None. Motion Declared Carried.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **Resolution No. 260427-03**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Melen  
Second by Councilmember Gilbert

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council accept the City Manager's Report of April 27, 2026, including reports and communications to be circulated and placed on file.

YES: Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen, Spillane, Gilbert.  
NO: None. Motion Declared Carried.

## **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

Dennis Cramer -America 250 Concert

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

### **MASTER RESOLUTION TO APPROVE VARIOUS PERMITS RELATED TO THE 2026 HOMETOWN DAYS EVENTS**

#### **Resolution No. 260427-04**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Hicks  
Second by Councilmember Gilbert

**WHEREAS**, Swartz Creek Hometown Days organization is a recognized charitable entity that operates in Swartz Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, Hometown Days is seeking permits and approvals to operate an annual festival on private and public grounds within the city, including a parade, carnival, petting zoo, fireworks display, 'beer tent', food/drink vendors, a car show, and numerous other activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds the Hometown Days organization and the event to be beneficial to the public and in good standing; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 13.01.G of Appendix A of the City Code of Ordinances provides for conditions of approval for a festival within the city, provided that the duration is less than 10

days, the operator is a charitable entity, and city council approval is required.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Swartz Creek hereby approves

Resolutions/Motions 260427-8A2, 260427-8A3, 260427-8A5 through 260427-8A10, allowing for the various permits related to the annual Swartz Creek Hometown Days festival, to be held beginning Tuesday, May 26, 2026 and concluding on Monday, June 1, 2026, inclusive of all stipulations and conditions as specified and listed within, including the provision of valid insurance that lists the City of Swartz Creek as an additionally insured party for all events.

## **HOMETOWN DAYS, STREET USAGE PERMIT, MOTOR AND PEDESTRIAN PARADE**

### **Resolution No. 260427-4A2**

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council approve and authorize the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Committees' application for street closing / usage permit for Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for purposes of conducting a parade, streets to be used include the high school performing arts center entrance, Miller Rd, and Fredrick Street under the following stipulations:

1. Insurance certificate naming the City as an additional insured party in the amount not less than \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars).
2. No candy or other objects be thrown or handed from, to or at any vehicle, trailer, float, or similar, and further, that the Hometown Days Committee establish and maintain a list of all participants and/or entries in the parade that identifies a contact person, such contact to be informed by the Hometown Days Committee of the stipulation and motor vehicle code enforcement actions for violations thereof.
3. General approval, and under the direction and control of the Office of the Chief of Police.

## **HOMETOWN DAYS PERMIT, AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

### **Resolution No. 260427-4A3**

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council approve and authorize the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Committee's application for one fireworks aerial display to be held on Friday, May 29, 2026, at or shortly after dusk, with a cancellation date of Saturday, May 30, 2026, at or shortly after dusk, to be launched from properties directly west of the Swartz Creek Middle School Building, said properties owned by the Swartz Creek School District and Ms. Ashley, under the following stipulations and conditions

1. Insurance certificate naming the City as insured in an amount to be determined adequate by the City Manager.
2. Written permission from the aforementioned parcel owners along with acceptable insurance certificates naming said parcel owners as additional insured parties, in an amount to be determined adequate by the City Manager.
3. Traffic Control Plan and administration by the Offices of Chief of Police and Director of Community Services.

4. Detailed Plan submitted to and approved by the Fire Chief.
5. All decisions concerning the event and cancellation thereof, if needed, under the direction and control of the Fire Chief.

## **HOMETOWN DAYS PERMIT, CEREMONIAL DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM**

### **Resolution No. 260427-4A5**

**Move** the Swartz Creek City Council, pursuant to section 10-212(3) of the Code of Ordinances, approve and authorize the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Committee to discharge weapons as a part of a military concert and ceremonial military honor guard, to be held at the Swartz Creek High School's outdoor football stadium, on Friday, May 29, 2026, at approximately 9:00 p.m., in conjunction with a concert and aerial fireworks display, with a backup rain date of Saturday, May 30, 2026 at approximately 10:00 p.m. under the following stipulations and conditions:

1. Insurance certificate naming the City as an additional insured party in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars).
2. The party(ies) discharging the weapon(s) must be a practicing military honor guard trained and capable in the handling of firearms.

## **HOMETOWN DAYS PERMIT, CEREMONIAL DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM**

### **Resolution No. 260427-4A6**

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council, pursuant to section 10-212(3) of the Code of Ordinances, approve and authorize the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Committee to discharge weapons in conjunction with a Parade and as a ceremonial military honor guard, to be held along Miller Road on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at approximately 10:00 A.M., under the following stipulations and conditions:

1. Insurance certificate naming the City as an additional insured party in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars).
2. The party(ies) discharging the weapon(s) must be a practicing military honor guard trained and capable in the handling of firearms.

## **WAIVER OF INSPECTION FEE, HOMETOWN DAYS COMMITTEE**

### **Resolution No. 260427-4A7**

**I Move** the City of Swartz Creek waive the permit fees for the temporary structure (trailer) and electrical permit inspection fees for the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Committee

## **TRAFFIC CONTROL APPROPRIATION**

### **Resolution No. 260427-4A8**

**I Move** the City of Swartz Creek provide traffic control devices to ensure the safety of the public during the duration of the Swartz Creek Hometown Days event and hereby direct the Director of Public Works to order or supply barricades sufficient to do so at a cost not to exceed \$1,750, appropriated to the community promotions department of the general fund.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE POSSESSION OF ANIMALS OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY ORDINANCE**

**Resolution No. 260427-4A9**

**WHEREAS**, the festival activities include various animal events and attractions that include animals that are prohibited without approval as outlined in Ordinance Section 3-1.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hometown Days Chairperson requested the city council to affirm approval of certain animal events and activities as outlined in a letter dated February 3, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds these activities to be in line with prior events and approvals as part of the routine functions of the festival.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Swartz Creek City Council hereby authorizes the Whispering Pines Mobile Farm/Petting Zoo, the Agricultural tent, and related feature and animals to operate and be present within the city and for such operation to hereby be incorporated into the festival permit for Hometown Days.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENT CURFEW BY ORDINANCE**

**Resolution No. 260427-4A10**

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance Section 10-310 provides provisions for a temporary curfew to be enforced for special events as deemed necessary by the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hometown Days Committee is enforcing a curfew on the grounds of the festival and requests that public grounds adjacent to the festival also enforce such an ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that a curfew that mirrors the special event curfew will protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public as outlined in Ordinance Section 10-310.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Swartz Creek City Council hereby authorizes the enforcement of a temporary Special Event Curfew to commence on Thursday, May 28, 2026 through Sunday, May 31, 2026, said curfew to be in effect between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the area designated for the Special Event Curfew shall match that of the outer boundaries of the Swartz Creek Downtown Development Authority, as indicated in the 2022 Downtown Development Plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall post notice of this curfew, including a map at the city offices and in a newspaper of general circulation.

Discussion Ensued.

YES: Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen, Gilbert, Hicks.

NO: Spillane. Motion Declared Carried.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMMENDED HOMETOWN DAYS EVENT, CARNIVAL, PARADE GENERAL STREET & MUNICIPAL PROPERTY USE PERMITS**

**Resolution No. 260427-4A1-05**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Knickerbocker

Second by Councilmember Krueger

**I Move** the City of Swartz Creek approve and authorize the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Committees' application for street closing and City property use permits for the following locations:

1. Morrish between Miller and Ingalls-Wade, Car Show, Saturday, May 30th, 7:00am to 4:00pm.
2. City Lot located at the southwest corner of Miller and Morrish, Car Show, Saturday, May 30th.
3. Ingalls at Holland and Park Land located to the North and Northwest of the intersection of Morrish and Ingalls, Car Show, Saturday, May 30th.
4. City owned property, 4505 Fortino.
5. City owned property, Fortino (Branoff)
6. City owned property, 5012 Holland Drive (Holland Square)
7. City (DDA) owned property, 4484 Morrish Road, behind the church.
8. Fire Hall out lot properties.
9. Use of DPW Yard and Generator (access subject to department).

Street and City property use, unless otherwise indicated, begins Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. until Monday June 1, 2026 at 9:00 A.M., for the purpose of, and authorization to conduct a carnival, vendor/display areas, car show and or other similar events under the following stipulations:

1. Insurance certificate naming the City as insured in the amount not less than \$1,000,000.00 (One-Million Dollars)
2. Written permission from deed holders of any private properties to be used and appropriate insurance certificates naming such parties as additional insured: City of Swartz Creek 8083 Civic Drive; Atkinson Construction 12568 Lansing Hwy, Durand; W M Kincaid Trust 5086 South Morrish; St. Mary's Catholic Church 4413 Morrish Road; Mark O'Brien 5099 South Morrish; Kallas Heating

and Cooling 8077 Miller; Swartz Creek Schools 8354 Cappy (High School/Middle School); Ashley Hotchkiss 8280 Crapo; Swartz Creek Area Fire Department; Draft 9128 Miller Road.

3. Sufficient number of portable bathrooms placed and located, and litter control program in accordance and under the approval of Director of Community Services.

4. Carnival operations shall cease at 10:00pm on Thursday, May 28 and at 8:00pm on Friday, May 29th, Saturday, May 30th and 6:00pm on Sunday, May 31st.

5. Approval by the Chief of Police. Traffic control and pedestrian safety plan in accordance with and under the approval of office of Chief of Police.

6. Carnival times need to be posted and advertised to end at 8 pm on Friday and Saturday within the next 72 hours.

7. Applicant is to restore to any damage that interferes with mowing or the general use of the site at 4484 Morrish Rd, behind the church, as well as other vacant land used for parking of vehicles or equipment.

Discussion Ensued.

YES: Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen, Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger.

NO: Spillane. Motion Declared Carried.

## **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMMENDED HOMETOWN DAYS PERMIT, OPERATE ENTERTAINMENT TENT**

**Resolution No. 260427-4A406**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Melen

Second by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Hicks

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council approve and authorize the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Committee application to operate an entertainment tent with the sale of beer and wine for consumption on the premises, along with live entertainment, to be held on Parcel No. 58-02-200-014, owned by W M Kincaid Trust and located 5086 Morrish Road, south of Wade Street, beginning Thursday, May 28, 2026 11:59 PM through Sunday, May 31, 2026, 9:30PM, under the following stipulations:

1. Michigan Liquor Control Commission Approved Application with appropriate insurance in accordance with the rules of the L.C.C. and naming the City and all other property owners as additional insured parties, in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars).

2. Portable bathrooms appropriately located and litter control program in accordance and under the approval of Director of Community Services.

3. Traffic control and pedestrian safety plan in accordance with and under the

approval of Office of Chief of Police.

4. Adherence to all L.C.C. stipulations and regulations, state and local laws.

5. No music after 11:00 p.m. Thursday, May 28, 2026 and after 11:59 p.m. the night of Friday, May 29, 2026, and Saturday, May 30, 2026, and Sunday, May 31, 2026, 9:30 PM.

6. Adequate security as approved by the Chief of Police.

7. Adherence to and under the direction and control of the Office of the Chief of Police

Discussion Ensued.

YES: Henry, Melen, Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker.

NO: Spillane. Motion Declared Carried.

## **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MUNICIPAL PROPERTY RESERVATION AND STREET CLOSURE PERMIT FOR THE SUMMER BASH**

**Resolution No.260427-07**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Gilbert

Second by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Hicks

**WHEREAS**, Rebecca’s Reason is a recognized charitable entity that is in good standing and that operates in Swartz Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, said organization submitted an application to close Holland Drive and Holland Square for the purpose of hosting a single-day family event that his available to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the event includes vendors, food trucks, inflatables, music, and related offerings; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds the organization and the event to be beneficial to the public and in good standing.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Swartz Creek hereby approves the application for a street usage permit and municipal property reservation application to conduct “Summer Bash” event on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 10am to 3pm (closure from 7am to 6pm), applicant: Rebecca’s Reason, Inc., in accordance with the application submitted, under the direction and control of the Chief of Police.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Swartz Creek hereby approves the contribution of approximately 1,500 gallons of water to support one of the vendor attractions.

Discussion Ensued.

YES: Melen, Spillane, Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry.

NO: None. Motion Declared Carried.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TO OPPOSE STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL ZONING AUTHORITY THROUGH THE PROPOSED HOUSING READINESS PACKAGE**

**Resolution No. 260427-08**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Knickerbocker  
Second by Councilmember Melen

**WHEREAS**, the City of Swartz Creek is granted zoning and land use authority pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act; and

**WHEREAS**, land use and zoning regulations are matters of local concern best addressed by local officials who understand their community and ensure public participation and consistency;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed “Housing Readiness” legislative package preempts and limits local zoning authority and diminishes the ability of local governments to respond to specific needs and development decisions;

**WHEREAS**, preemption of local zoning authority circumvents the role of local officials and reduces the ability of local control to balance growth, infrastructure capacity, public safety services, environmental protections, fiscal responsibility, and long-term planning goals of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, preservation of local planning and zoning authority is essential and many municipalities are actively addressing housing supply and affordability through master planning, zoning updates, and other efforts which require local discretion;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Swartz Creek City Council formally opposes House Bills 5529 through 5532, as well as House Bills 5581 through 5585, and along with related proposed legislation, that preempts or limits local zoning and land use authority; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Swartz Creek City Council urges the Michigan Legislature to vote in opposition, to instead support local control and work collaboratively with municipalities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Michigan, the City’s State Senator and State Representatives, the Michigan Municipal League, and appropriate legislative committees considering this legislation.

YES: Spillane, Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen.

NO: None. Motion Declared Carried

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TO CHANGE THE TIME OF A REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Resolution No. 260427-09**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Spillane  
Second by Councilmember Melen

**WHEREAS**, the Swartz Creek City Council has established a regular meeting schedule;  
and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council finds it necessary to adjust the meeting time for the May 11, 2026 meeting in order to accommodate a budget workshop session.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the meeting time for May 11, 2026 is hereby changed from 7:00pm to 5:00pm.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that proper notice of this change shall be posted in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

YES: Gilbert, Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen, Spillane.

NO: None. Motion Declared Carried.

## **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CITY CLERK PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT**

**Resolution No. 260427-10**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Krueger  
Second by Councilmember Melen

**WHEREAS**, section 4.2 of the City Charter provides that the appointive office of Clerk shall be filled by the City Manager with approval of the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, section 7.3 of the City Charter provides for the fundamental duties of the Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, Amy Nichols is temporarily serving in the role of City Clerk, and City had concluded a search to permanently fill the office of City Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Forrest and the City have come to an agreement on specific terms and conditions regarding her appointment to the office of City Clerk.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Swartz Creek approve the Agreement between the City of Swartz Creek and Jacqueline Forrest as included herein, and further authorize the Mayor and acting City Clerk Mrs. Nichols to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Swartz Creek City Council authorizes and directs the City Manager to oversee the phased and official transfer of duties from Mrs. Nichols to Mrs. Forrest, as is practical and prudent, commencing April 28, 2026, with full transfer of duties expected by May 31, 2026.

Discussion Ensued.

YES: Hicks, Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen, Spillane, Gilbert.

NO: None. Motion Declared Carried

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONSENT TO CHANGE OF CONTROL -PRIORITY WASTE LLC**

**Resolution No. 260427-11**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Melen  
Second by Councilmember Gilbert

**WHEREAS**, the City of Swartz Creek (the “City”) is a party to a solid waste collection and disposal agreement (the “Agreement”) with Priority Waste LLC (“Priority”); and, **WHEREAS**, Priority has notified the City of a proposed transaction resulting in a change of control at the equity ownership level of Priority (the “Transaction”); and, **WHEREAS**, Priority has requested the City’s acknowledgment and consent to the Transaction pursuant to the terms of the Agreement; and, **WHEREAS**, the City understands that Priority Waste LLC will remain the contracting party under the Agreement, that no assignment of the Agreement is proposed, and that services are expected to continue without interruption; and, **WHEREAS**, the City desires to acknowledge the Transaction and provide the requested consent, subject to the reservations and conditions set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

1. Consent to Change of Control

The City hereby acknowledges and consents to the Transaction constituting a change of control of Priority Waste LLC, solely to the extent required under the Agreement.

2. No Assignment or Novation

This consent is expressly conditioned upon and limited to the understanding that:

- Priority Waste LLC shall remain the contracting party under the Agreement;

3. Reservation of Rights

The City expressly reserves all rights, remedies, and protections available under the Agreement and applicable law, including but not limited to rights related to performance, default, termination, and enforcement.

Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as:

- A waiver of any provision of the Agreement;
- A modification of the Agreement; or
- A determination that the Transaction does not otherwise implicate any provision of the Agreement, except as expressly stated herein.

4. No Expansion of Obligations

This consent does not create any new obligations, approvals, or waivers beyond those expressly required under the Agreement.

5. Authorization

The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute any documents necessary to effectuate this consent, consistent with the terms of this Resolution.

Discussion Ensued.

YES: Krueger, Knickerbocker, Henry, Melen, Gilbert, Hicks.  
NO: Spillane. Motion Declared Carried.

**MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

Dennis Cramer- Need a new cemetery

**REMARKS BY COUNCILMEMBERS:**

Councilmember Melen: Nothing.

Councilmember Spillane: No parking signs in bike lane. Summer bash should be endorsing city businesses first

Councilmember Gilbert: Meeting Rick at veterans memorial about trees.

Councilmember Knickerbocker: Chamber lunch at American Legion

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks: Crowd control and fights at Hometown days

Councilmember Krueger: Offered yodeling CD's to calm Hometown Days

Mayor Henry: Security inquiry to LT Murphy for Hometown Days.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution No. 260427-12**

**(Carried)**

Motion by Councilmember Gilbert  
Second by Councilmember Melen

**I Move** the Swartz Creek City Council adjourn the regular meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Unanimous Voice Vote.

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**Nate Henry, Mayor**

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**Jacque Forrest, City Clerk**