



Genesee County
Community & Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

5:30 PM

**324 S.Saginaw St., Bryant "BB"
Nolden Auditorium**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Beverly Brown, Shaun Shumaker, Delrico J. Loyd, Charles Winfrey, Gary L. Goetzinger, James Avery, Martin L. Cousineau, Dale K. Weighill and Brian K. Flewelling

Commissioners Loyd, Cousineau, and Flewelling entered the meeting at 5:31 PM.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[RES-2026-0556](#) Approval of Meeting Minutes - April 8, 2026

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Dale K. Weighill

SECONDER: James Avery

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Vice Chair Shumaker, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery and Commissioner Weighill

Absent: Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Cousineau and Commissioner Flewelling

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT TO COMMITTEE

V. COMMUNICATIONS

[26-310](#) Broadband Initiative

Commissioner Dr. Brown stated: – As a reminder, the NextGenesee Network is an effort by the county to realize one of our priorities to bring high-speed, affordable, reliable Internet Access to every corner of the County. Toward that end, dollars were allocated in the 2024 budget as seed capital, a research study was conducted by MSU and was formally shared during the 2024 Impact Genesee Summit, and this year, an RFP was developed along with a scoring rubric to solicit vendors who can help us achieve this goal. The due date for RFPs is today, May 6. The Broadband Strategy Group will convene on May 11 to score the proposals. Another update will be provided in June.

26-311

Chief Strategic Growth Office Update

Commissioner Dr. Brown stated: In order to broaden our search for candidates we are looking at contracting with a headhunter firm that will conduct a full-scale national search during the next few months. We will keep you informed as developments occur.

26-312

Innovation District Follow-Up

Commissioner Dr. Brown stated: Last month you heard a presentation from Ed Kim who invited the county to partner with his L3C nonprofit. His goal is to seek additional investment to add to the MEDC and Michigan Strategic Fund contributions to foster the development of a problem-solving hub for high-tech businesses who would have offices located next door inside the Huntington Bank building. While we believe this venture has promise, a few questions remain regarding tangible outcomes and long-term benefits for the county. More to come.

26-313

Sports Commission

Commissioner Dr. Brown stated: During our June, 2025 Impact Genesee Summit, a breakout session on finding our competitive edge in recreational tourism attracted a full house of interested parties. This provided a strong indicator that sports could serve as a durable economic strategy in Genesee County. The PLAY Genesee breakout session was facilitated by Commissioner Shumaker and featured two presenters including the executive director of the CVB, Amari Steward and Jashell Mitchell-Cross, Development Director at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. Coupled with this information was a feasibility study commissioned by our board with the help of Explore Genesee. The results of that study were shared with us two weeks ago and will be used to help inform future decisions. Even deeper research occurred during a recent visit to Grand Rapids where Commissioners Shumaker, Goetzinger, Avery and I met with a team leaders who took us on an exciting tour of sports and entertainment facilities created by the Grand Rapids Sports Commission. I'd like to now invite my fellow commissioners to share their observations of our visit to Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Avery suggested: "Field of Dreams" with soccer fields, pickle ball courts and BMX trails and leverage with FireStix, Canusa Games and Gus Macker.

Commissioner Goetzinger suggested: Waterfront Conference Center connected to hotels w/naming rights.

Commissioner Shumaker suggested: Public Private Partnership and Family/Youth Vision.

Commissioner Dr. Brown stated: Now that we have gathered this information and data, our recommendation to the full board is to form a committee to explore the creation of a Genesee County Sports Commission. Such a commission would allow us to capitalize on the rich history of athletics in our community including the production of great athletes like Jim Abbott, Carl Banks, Wayman Britt, Terry Crews, Mark Ingram II, Andre Rison, Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson, Charlie Bell, Glen Rice, Kyle Kuzma, Linelle McKenney, JaVale McGee, Deanna Nolan, Chris Byrd, Andre and Anthony Dirrell, Tim Thomas, Ken Morrow, Brian Rolston and Claressa Shields. And even the great ones on deck like Trey McKenney.

RES-2026-0595 Approval to form a committee to create a sports & entertainment commission

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Dale K. Weighill

SECONDER: Beverly Brown

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Vice Chair Shumaker, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau, Commissioner Weighill and Commissioner Flewelling

Commissioner Weighill appointed Commissioners Brown, Avery, Shumaker and Goetzinger to the committee.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **RES-2026-0458** Approval of an agreement between Genesee County and Chronicle Heritage, in an amount not to exceed \$88,000.00, to provide for Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Section 106 Review Services; this is a federally funded agreement

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Brian K. Flewelling

SECONDER: Shaun Shumaker

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Vice Chair Shumaker, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau, Commissioner Weighill and Commissioner Flewelling

2. **RES-2026-0460** Approval of Genesee County's 2026 Action Plan for the Community Development Program

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Brian K. Flewelling

SECONDER: James Avery

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Vice Chair Shumaker, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau, Commissioner Weighill and Commissioner Flewelling

3. [RES-2026-0568](#) Approval of various events to receive accommodation tax support

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Gary L. Goetzinger

SECONDER: James Avery

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Vice Chair Shumaker, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau, Commissioner Weighill and Commissioner Flewelling

- [RES-2026-0596](#) Approval of a request to enter into a funding agreement and memorandum of understanding between Genesee County and Flint Premier Soccer, LLC, and appropriating a lump sum of \$15,000.00 from the Accommodation Tax fund balance for the fiscal year ending 2026

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Gary L. Goetzinger

SECONDER: James Avery

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau and Commissioner Weighill

Nay: Vice Chair Shumaker and Commissioner Flewelling

- [RES-2026-0597](#) Approval of a request to enter into a (2) two-year funding agreement and memorandum of understanding between Genesee County and Midwest Invitational Rodeo, LLC, and appropriating a lump sum of \$20,000.00, from the Accommodation Tax fund balance for the fiscal year ending 2026 and for the fiscal year ending 2027

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Charles Winfrey

SECONDER: James Avery

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau, Commissioner Weighill and Commissioner Flewelling

Nay: Vice Chair Shumaker

RES-2026-0598 Approval of a request to use accommodation tax funding for the Midwest Invitational Rodeo event for one (1) year

RESULT: DENIED

MOVER: Shaun Shumaker

SECONDER: Delrico J. Loyd

Aye: Commissioner Weighill

Nay: Chairperson Brown, Vice Chair Shumaker, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau and Commissioner Flewelling

RES-2026-0599 Approval of a request to enter into a (2) two-year funding agreement and memorandum of understanding between Genesee County and The Salvation Army - Life Center, for the Gus Macker-Flint Basketball Tournament, and appropriating a lump sum of \$20,000.00 from the Accommodation Tax fund balance for the fiscal year ending 2026 and for the fiscal year ending 2027

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Delrico J. Loyd

SECONDER: James Avery

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Weighill and Commissioner Flewelling

Nay: Vice Chair Shumaker and Commissioner Cousineau

RES-2026-0600 Approval of a request to enter into a funding agreement and memorandum of understanding between Genesee County and the Genesee County Agricultural Society, and appropriating a lump sum of \$40,000.00 from the Accommodation Tax fund balance for the fiscal year ending 2026

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Brian K. Flewelling

SECONDER: Delrico J. Loyd

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Commissioner Loyd, Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger, Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Cousineau, Commissioner Weighill and Commissioner Flewelling

Nay: Vice Chair Shumaker

RES-2026-0601 Approval of a request to enter into a funding agreement and memorandum of understanding related to the Firestix College Exposure Tournament, and appropriating a lump sum of \$8,000.00 from the Accommodation Tax fund balance for the fiscal year ending 2026

RESULT: REFERRED

MOVER: Delrico J. Loyd

SECONDER: James Avery

Aye: Chairperson Brown, Commissioner Loyd,
Commissioner Winfrey, Commissioner Goetzinger,
Commissioner Avery, Commissioner Weighill and
Commissioner Flewelling

Nay: Vice Chair Shumaker and Commissioner Cousineau

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.