

March 23, 2026

Mayor Sharrard opened the regular meeting of the Gaylord City Council with a prayer by Councilmember Techel at 7:00PM on Monday, March 23, 2026. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed the invocation. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 305 East Main Street, Gaylord, Michigan.

Members Present: Sharrard, Awrey, Ouellette, Jaques, Techel and Kennedy  
Members Absent: Wilson

Motion by Awrey, supported by Jaques to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March 09, 2026 meeting and accept them as presented.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Corell offered support for the zoning resolution.

Mr. Corell offered support for the zoning and grant resolutions.

New Business:

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Techel to approve the formation of a Special "Ethics" Committee regarding the investigation and removal of council member, Bob Wilson. Council voted to appoint councilmembers Awrey, Ouellette and Sharrard to the committee. City Manager Awrey and Attorney Slough will also be a part of the committee.

A roll call vote was taken:

Kennedy – Aye

Ouellette – Aye

Techel – Aye

Sharrard – Aye

Jaques – Aye

Awrey – Aye

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Kennedy to approve the following resolution of support to apply for the Adapt Grant offered by Otsego Community Foundation:

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord encourages the training and education of all employees, committee members and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord has the desire to provide training for Otsego County's elected officials, committee members, and municipality employees on Parliamentary Procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Municipal League (MML) can provide that training in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord, Otsego County and surrounding townships have limited funds to provide for this training; and

WHEREAS, the Otsego Community Foundation has Adapt Grants of up to \$2500 that are available to help cover these types of costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord is willing to apply for the grant and work with the MML to bring the training to Otsego County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Gaylord, Michigan is supportive of applying for the Adapt Grant through the Otsego Community Foundation to help cover the costs of bringing MML Parliamentary Procedures training to Otsego County.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Awrey to approve the following resolution in opposition of House Bills 5520 through 5532 and 5581 through 5585:

WHEREAS, the Michigan House of Representatives has introduced zoning preemption legislation through House Bills 5529 through 5532, and House Bills 5581 through 5585 that are currently before the Government Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS these bills will strip locally elected officials of their decision-making authority, dismiss years of community work, and amount to a clear override from Lansing on local voices and voter-backed decisions; and

WHEREAS State policies should uphold resident priorities, provide flexibility that considers the diversity of Michigan's communities, and support zoning decisions consistent with infrastructure needs, robust economic growth, and public safety; and

WHEREAS Local governance rewards participation and encourages problem-solving. It creates space for communities to wrestle with complex issues, adapt to changing conditions, and take ownership of the solutions they implement. Durable outcomes emerge when people have a voice, a stake, and a responsibility in shaping the decisions that affect their communities and their families; and

WHEREAS state legislature must not preempt local decision-making. Citizens and their elected local leaders engaging in vigorous debate on matters that impact them every day is a transparent and participatory process. State preemption lacks the same accountability; and

WHEREAS this legislation creates sweeping mandates, oversimplifies the problem, and ignores the importance of local decision-making.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Gaylord, Michigan opposes approval of this zoning preemption legislation and asks that our representatives in Lansing do the same.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

No other business was presented, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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Jennifer Molski, City Clerk

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Todd Sharrard, Mayor