

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRTY-NINTH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 BY MAYOR DEAN**

PRESENT: Councilmember Mike Dooley Councilmember Gregory Patterson
 Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin Councilmember Jessica Vilani
 Councilmember Dennis Hennen Mayor Bridget Dean

ABSENT: Councilmember Steve Baker

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Matt Baumgarten
City Attorney John Staran
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Department of Public Works Director Shawn Young
DDA Executive Director Mike McGuinness
Director of Communications Caitlin Flora

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve the Agenda
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin
Ayes: Dooley, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Caitlin Flora, Director of Communications, introduced herself. She is a resident and looks forward to serving the community in her new role.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Vilani moved to approve the Consent Agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Hennen:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 39th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023.

WARRANT: Matter of approving Warrant No. 1390.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-32-23: Matter of proclaiming October 9, 2023 as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Dooley, and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS: Matter of any recognitions or presentations from the Consent Agenda.

None.

MOTION NO. M-69-23: Matter of awarding the contract for the Coolidge Highway Crosswalk Improvement Project to the lowest qualified bidder, Rauhorn Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$126,905.14. In addition, allocate an additional 10% construction contingency (\$12,690.51) and a not-to-exceed Construction Engineering amount of \$14,862.27 for a total not-to-exceed project cost of \$154,457.92. The projected costs of this project will be split with the Berkley Downtown Development Authority covering \$103,486.32 of the cost and the City of Berkley covering the remaining \$50,971.60.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-69-23

Seconded by Councilmember Dooley

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Dooley, Gavin, and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Baker

Motion No. M-69-23 Approved.

Richard Basher, Berkley, asked what the plan is to educate the drivers about the changes being made. He said someone passed him in the parking lane on his way to the meeting; we still have drivers who don't understand what the rules are in the City. He said we're down to one lane and if we make further changes drivers will need to be educated.

City Manager Baumgarten stated that safety has been a continual concern; the new design will come further into the view of drivers as well as activate the rapid flashing beacons. He said the plan is to keep upright signage in place as well. He said the long-term plan is concrete barriers with bump-outs to prevent vehicles from entering the parking lanes; also part of the striping plan is to add perpendicular stripes to the parking areas to make them more visible. He wants all individuals to exercise caution, both drivers and pedestrians.

Councilmember Hennen said this is being paid for from the Major Road Fund and that must be spent on road projects. Department of Public Works Director Shawn Young stated this is all road funding.

City Manager Baumgarten said there is a requirement that comes with the Public Act that requires a certain percentage dedicated to non-motorized pathways which amounts to about 10% over 10 years.

Councilmember Patterson said he looked at the plans and it looks like it improves the safety that was lacking with previous crosswalks and it also includes what we focused on in the Master Plan, making downtown more walkable.

MOTION NO. M-70-23: Matter of approving a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) event, "BOO!kley Monster Mash Block Party" on Coolidge between 12 Mile and Catalpa on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from noon to 5 p.m. and authorizing the road closure of Coolidge on that date. Approval is conditional upon the submission of required items and documents prior to the event date.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-70-23

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

Ayes: Patterson, Vilani, Dooley, Gavin, Hennen, and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Baker

Motion M-70-23 Approved.

MOTION NO. M-71-23: Matter of approving the appointment to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-71-23

Seconded by Councilmember Dooley

Ayes: Vilani, Dooley, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion M-71-23 Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

COUNCILMEMBER DOOLEY

- On September 10th the Beautification Committee spent the day cleaning up Friends Park and planting hostas and other things that will grow in the spring. Thanked all of them and said that our volunteers do great things in the city.
- Over the past few months, the Library Board has been going through the bylaws word by word and rewriting them. Thanked Library Director Matt Church and the members of the Library Board for their dedication and hard work.
- The next meeting is on October 18th at the Library; come one come all.

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- Technology Advisory Committee/ Citizen's Engagement Advisory Committee has not met and has no updates; meetings will resume now that the new Communications Director is in place.
- Get your stretch pants on because Restaurant Weekend is coming back on October 6th and 7th at participating restaurants in Berkley; more details to come. If you are so inclined please go out and support your local restaurateurs; we have lots of great places in Berkley to dine. She went through different businesses and the specials they will be offering over the weekend.
- Thank you to those who volunteered their homes for the successful Kit Home Tour last weekend; people were able to walk through a unique part of Berkley history.
- Best of Berkley award nominations are due by October 6th; winners will be announced at our State of the City held later this month. If you are interested in nominating a person of the year or a business of the year you can head to the Berkley Area Chamber page to submit your nominee.
- Unfortunately, we continue to see hate crimes on the rise. October is Trans Empowerment Month and October 10th is National Coming Out Day; said she is so proud of Berkley that we are an inclusive community that takes a stand on Pride. Reminded all of our residents to raise awareness that all of the different people in our diversity are our neighbors, our children, our brothers, our sisters, our friends. She urged everyone to be kind and supportive.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) will next meet on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30 pm on the second floor of the Public Safety building.
- Congratulated Rebekah Randle who was recently named chair as well as Tricia Losey, vice chair. Thanked Mark Richardson for his years of service as the chair of the EAC as well as the Planning Commission. He is a kind; smart man and the City is lucky to have him serve in both roles.
- Parks and Recreation updates: several senior lunches and casino trips are scheduled over the next couple of months. For more information call, stop in the office, or go online to recreation.berkleymich.org. Senior fitness is back on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:30 am at the Community Center for \$3 per class. Trivia Tuesday is running on October 31st and December 5th. Fall Fun Bingo is running on September 19th and November 14th; a lot for seniors to do this fall and early winter season.
- Tale on the Trail event will be held on Thursday, October 19th at Bacon Park. Youth and Adult programs are back in the Community Center this fall, check them out online.
- Join us on October 12th at 7 pm at the Community Center for the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
- He thanked DDA Executive Director Mike McGuinness for his Halloween spirit and dedication as a public servant.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- This season's trees are in the process of being planted, when they're finished there will be 250 new trees and everyone who wanted a tree and had room for it will be able to get one, except for in Wiltshire where the road project is ongoing. So far the trees east of Coolidge have been planted and the contractors are still working on those to the west of Coolidge. Tree Board, DPW, and Parks and Rec are currently working on a grant for more trees inside of Oxford Park. The Tree Board will next meet on October 23rd.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals had no cases in October.
- The Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Steering Committee is on Tuesday, October 3rd, and will be discussing parking and signs.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- The Planning Commission met on the 26th and had two public hearings: one for a parking lot expansion on Greenfield and one for a multi-family housing project on Coolidge. The Planning Commission will meet next on October 24th at 7 pm here in Council chambers.
- This Saturday the American Legion is holding its annual Ribfest. Tickets are available online; proceeds go to the Berkley/Huntington Woods Youth Assistance Program. The ribs are delicious.
- Met today with State Representative Weiss at the Library, which was open to everyone. She spoke about what they are doing at the state level for us here in Berkley; they are back in session and cleaning up some things to get back to business.
- Congratulated the Department of Public Safety on its accreditation. He said that having done that before, he knows it is a ton of work so thank you to all who contributed to that.
- Thanked Mike McGuinness for the décor in Council chambers; it looks spooktacular!

CITY MANAGER MATT BAUMGARTEN

- Fund balance updates: for those that don't know the City has an internal policy that sets a minimum fund balance, essentially an unassigned reserve so should something come up in the future, we have the ability to respond. We try to keep a target balance of 25–35% but we did set a minimum 20% balance for ourselves. Currently, the City is not meeting that standard; according to unaudited numbers, it is sitting at about 12%. He said that does trigger some changes as we try to move that number back to the healthy minimum standard; he read the steps to be taken which is the action plan if the city dips below the minimum standard. Other plans include upcoming cuts that we've been talking to the community about; also re-asking the question we asked in May of this year. It will be a longer-term policy; we are on the way there. We are not in violation of any rule or GASB guideline; this is a standard we have set.

CITY ATTORNEY JOHN STARAN

- Follow up on retail sales of animals: We are working on Part 2 which is a licensing ordinance. We hoped to have it available for this meeting, but some questions and further thoughts caused it to miss the deadline. We plan to have it imminently. Council members will have the chance to review, provide further input, etc. We should have something ready for the Council to consider at the next meeting. He said he'll make sure it gets into Councilmember Hennen's hands as soon as possible in consideration of his upcoming travel plans.

MAYOR DEAN

- Congratulated the Berkley Department of Public Safety for receiving a stamp of approval from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission; this has been a three-year process, there are 108 standards that must be met. Said that we are very proud of our department for not only striving to use best practices, but in hitting the mark. We are the 62nd department to receive this accreditation; it is a tremendous accomplishment. She gave a special shout-out to Lt. Hadfield who served as accreditation manager. We're proud of all the men and women across the parking lot and thankful for all they do every day.

- She congratulated her son and bonus daughter on the birth of their first child. She said the parents are doing very well and her heart is full. She is grateful for this blessing.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m.
Seconded by Councilmember Vilani
Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Dooley, and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk