

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00PM ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Councilmember Jessica Vilani
Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer
City Attorney Dan Christ
Labor Attorney Brandon Fournier
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Interim Parks & Recreation Director Dan McMinn
Public Safety Director Matt Koehn
Assistant to the City Manager Charlaune Stevenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve the amended agenda to remove item two from the consent agenda, add a motion to approve temporary HR Services, and change the motion regarding the Boards & Commissions policy and procedures to a discussion item.

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

Ayes: Black, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker, and Dean

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joshua Hunter, via email, wrote regarding his concerns about Community One Baseball Field.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve the following Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Vilani:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, October 7, 2024 and City Council Special meetings on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 and Monday, October 7, 2024.

MOTION NO. M-92-24: Matter of approving the appointments to various boards and commissions.

MOTION NO. M-93-24: Matter of approving the quote from CDW-G to purchase the renewal of Google Workspace for three years at a cost of \$26,374.50 annually. Funding for the purchase would come from account 101-228-760-000 (Computer Software).

MOTION NO. M-94-24: Matter of authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a contract for Senior Home Chore Snow Removal Service with Yard Guyz, 46036 Michigan Ave., Ste 146, Canton, Michigan, 48188 for the 2024-25 winter season. This is a budgeted item that is paid for using Community Development Block Grant funds.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-26-24: Matter of proclaiming November 2024 as Native American Heritage Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-27-24: Matter of proclaiming November 2024 as Men's Health Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-28-24: Matter of proclaiming October 28, 2024 as National First Responders Day.

Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black, and Dean

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

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

Councilmember Black read P-28-24 in its entirety.

MOTION NO. M-95-24: Matter of approving the City Manager Employment Agreement and authorizing the Mayor to execute the document.

Councilmember Vilani moved to approve Motion No. M-95-24

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin, and Dean

Nays: None

Motion No. M-95-24 Approved.

MOTION NO. M-96-24: Matter of approving a proposal from Hubbell, Roth, and Clark "HRC" for Design Engineering Services as it relates to the Bacon Avenue Water Main and Road Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$282,421.72 as approved in the 2024-25 budget.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-96-24

Seconded by Councilmember Black

Ayes: Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin, Hennen, and Dean

Nays: None

Motion No. M-96-24 Approved.

MOTION NO. M-97-24: Matter of approving the proposal from Hubbell, Roth, and Clark "HRC" for assistance with items related to the EGLE Technical, Managerial, and Financial "TMF" Grant in the amount of \$242,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-97-24

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

Ayes: Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, and Dean

Nays: None

Motion No. M-97-24 Approved.

MOTION NO. M-98-24: Matter of approving temporary HR services.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-98-24

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

Ayes: Baker, Black, Gavin, Hennen, Vilani, and Dean
Nays: Patterson
Motion No. M-98-24 Approved.

MOTION NO. M-99-24: Matter of forming an ad hoc committee to review board and commission policies and procedures.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Motion No. M-99-24
Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

Charlaine Stevenson spoke and described the changes that have happened with Boards and Commissions in the past.

She described the current process:

- When someone is interested in any board or commission, they apply on the City website.
- The application goes to the boards email, and she is one of the people who receives it. She then reviews it and gives it to the chair of that board.
- The chair then discusses the application with their board, returns to her with recommendations, and she passes those to our city manager, who then presents it to the City Council.
- They give feedback and then it goes on the council agenda.

She explained recommended changes to the current process:

- Staff recommendations – staff will help support vetting process
- Consolidation of groups with similar goals to serve the community more effectively
- Purchase Policy (not currently an issue but not fleshed out enough). The aim is to the current process fully—the City's in-person process doesn't always match what's on paper due to various updates.

She said she wanted to discuss some of the expectations we already have for appointees and applicants. She said they have also discussed forming an ad hoc committee to gather feedback from residents and board members. She asked Council to consider forming that committee to help document and solidify the City's policies and procedures. Mayor Pro Tem Gavin, Councilmember Patterson and Councilmember Baker volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee.

Issues for the Ad Hoc Committee to Discuss:

- resignations
- attendance requirements
- additional guidance for new appointees

Ayes: Black, Gavin, Hennen, Vilani, Baker, Patterson and Dean

Nays: None

Motion No. M-99-24 Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet on December 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.
- The Library Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20th.

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- The Berkley Area Chamber's State of the Cities and Best of Berkley is this Wednesday at the American Legion from 9 to 11 a.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance, they are \$30.

- Big congratulations to our Business Person of the Year, Katie Forte of June and December, and also our Business of the Year, Gabrielle Macowski Realty. Both of them will be honored at the celebration on Wednesday, so be there and support our wonderful community members.
- The Environmental Advisory Committee has no updates; their last meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum. Their next meeting will be on November 21st.
- Lastly, looking forward to seeing everyone at the Boo!kley events this weekend. She said to come visit her and Council Member Black at the Monster Mash in the game area.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON:

- The Planning Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, where they'll be reviewing the final draft of the zoning rewrite. They've been working on that for quite a while and are trying to finish it up.
- On Wednesday, the Beautification Committee will meet in the Public Safety building's second floor conference room at 6:30 p.m.
- On Sunday, October 27th at 9:00 a.m. the Beautification Committee will meet at Friends Park on Harvard to help with fall cleanup. If anyone wants to come, bring your shovel and work gloves.
- Wrapping up our month of supporting the food pantry, Berkley Cares, he and his students donated about 650 non-perishable and hygiene products to the pantry. He said they made the drop-off on Friday, and it was quite a haul, but all for a great cause. Thanked his students at Madonna University School of Nursing for their efforts.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- The Community Committee for Technology and Engagement is working to finalize their next meeting, hopefully by the end of this month or early November, as they continue to define their mission statement.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Tree Board will meet on Monday, October 21st.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals heard three cases: two for larger signs for multi-tenant buildings on Greenfield, which were approved, and one parking variance for a former tattoo shop on Coolidge, which passed to allow a photography studio. We're still looking for one more alternate for the ZBA, and there will be no cases heard in November.
- He also put out his annual Halloween map for anyone wanting to share decoration or treat plans. You can find it at bit.ly/BerkleyHalloween2024.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Historical Committee didn't meet due to a lack of quorum, but they'll meet again on Tuesday, November 12th, at 7 p.m. Please visit the museum during the trick-or-treat stroll on Saturday October 26th. If you can't wait, you can visit online at berkeleyhistory.com.
- The DDA met on Wednesday the 9th, discussing options for refreshing the downtown strategic plan, last documented for 2017-2022. He said that he and Director Mike McGuinness want to affirm the main goals while refining specific intentions for the next planning cycle. He asked everyone to please keep Director McGuinness and his family in your thoughts, as they've had two recent family losses.
- Also, he said he is pleased to welcome Anna Grace as a new board member of the DDA. She's already a great addition to our community.
- Remember that Boo!kley is coming up with the trick-or-treat stroll on Saturday from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., followed by Monster Mash from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Coolidge.

- For Halloween safety, please be cautious with kids around and homeowners, ensure your houses are safe for trick-or-treaters.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER NATE GEINZER

- On a personal note, we get caught up with Halloween. There are a lot of kids that can't have what is out there. He gave a shout out to the Teal pumpkin project. He said they give candies free of major allergens or little toys.
- It's official you have a new city manager. He said what they can expect is:
 - Crystal's first day is December 2nd, but she has wasted zero time. He includes Crystal in every decision made from here on out. He said that is a process but she's already engaged in key decision-making and upcoming meetings.
 - If you have any questions as we go through the transition process do not hesitate to reach out.

CITY ATTORNEY DAN CHRIST

- No updates

MAYOR DEAN

- Shout out to PSO Andrew Boring who was selected as the Royal Oak Optimist Club's 2024 Berkley Public Safety Officer of the Year.
- After eight months of power and equipment challenges she is happy to tell you that Nawab British Indian Cuisine is now open again.
- As we wind down Berkley Cares month, she highlighted Councilmember Patterson and his students for not only gathering the food, but also putting it all away. She thanked him for his efforts and for setting the bar so high on involvement and engagement as well as setting a fine example for his students.
- She acknowledged the creative thinking of Berkley Dads Club President Dave Schmidt, Dads Club, and Mr. Geinzer; she said it is a collaboration between municipal government, a very active and engaged community group and the school district. Working together sets the example for everyone to see that we're absolutely willing to think outside the box and we are open to new ideas so if you have those ideas or a proposal for something please don't hesitate because we are open.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Black

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin, and Dean

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk