

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker Councilmember Gregory Patterson
 Councilmember Clarence Black - attending remotely due to military duty
 Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin Councilmember Dennis Hennen
 Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer
City Attorney Dan Christ
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Facilities Manager Alex Brown
Finance Director Carl Johnson
Deputy Finance Director Amy Zurawski
Interim Parks & Recreation Director Dan McMinn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Baker moved to approve the amended agenda by removing item three from the consent agenda to place it as item 2A on the regular agenda.

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion Approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joshua Hunter, via email, wrote regarding his concerns with one of his recent FOIA requests.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve the following Consent Agenda including a change to the regular minutes including Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin as a volunteer for the ad hoc committee to review board and commission policies and procedures.

Seconded by Councilmember Baker:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, October 21, 2024 and City Council Special Work Session on Monday, October 21, 2024.

WARRANT: Matter of approving Warrant Nos. 1403 and 1404.

MOTION NO. M-101-24: Matter of approving a budgeted upfitting of (4) four Ford F250 Pickup Trucks from Truck and Trailer Specialties of Howell, MI, utilizing the Bidnet/Rochester Hills Cooperative Contract RFP-RH-20-023 in the amount of \$55,895. The upfitting is budgeted under account numbers 592-536-

985-000 (Water and Sewer – Vehicle), 101-441-985-000 (General Fund – Vehicles), 226-528-985-000 (Sanitation – Vehicles), and 208-751-982-000 (Parks and Rec – Equipment).

MOTION NO. M-102-24: Matter of approving a budgeted purchase of a new Utility Vehicle from Weingartz Supply Co., of Utica, MI, utilizing the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract 031121-KBA, in the amount of \$18,431.88. The purchase is budgeted under account number 208-751-982-000 (Parks and Recreation – Equipment).

MOTION NO. M-103-24: Matter of appointing City Councilmember Dennis Hennen to serve as a delegate participant and City Manager Crystal VanVleck as alternate for SEMCOG.

RESOLUTION NO. R-22-24: Matter of adopting a resolution supporting Vision Zero, a public health-based traffic safety strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries.

MOTION NO. M-104-24: Matter of approving the amended Labor Attorney agreement.

ORDINANCE NO. O-09-24: Matter of approving the first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 26-326, Vacant Properties to be Registered of Article VI, Vacant and Neglected Properties of Chapter 26, Buildings and Building Regulations of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to remove a timeframe for registering vacant properties.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-29-24: Matter of receiving a proclamation recognizing election workers for their service.

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

Regular Agenda

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

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin read P-29-24 in its entirety.

Finance Director Carl Johnson introduced Amy Zurowski, the City's new Deputy Finance Director, who has more than 20 years of experience, both governmental and private. Mr. Johnson said he was very excited she started this morning.

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation from members of Oakland County Water Resources Commission regarding the HomeGuard backwater prevention pilot program.

Jen Cook, Oakland County Water Resource Commission, presented an opportunity for residents to do stormwater improvements directly at homes to prevent basement water issues:

- The HomeGuard pilot program is a subsidized initiative aimed at preventing wastewater and stormwater from entering homes during heavy rains, saving homeowners up to \$15,000.
- The HomeGuard program includes the installation of backwater valves and sump pumps by prequalified contractors, ensuring affordability and ease for homeowners.
- The pilot area includes 536 homes in Berkley.
- Marketing efforts include public meetings, door hangers, letters, farmers market outreach, and online FAQs linked through Berkley's website.
- Installations involve jackhammering and temporary disruption, but contractors ensure cleanliness and provide guidance for maintaining installed equipment.

- As of now, 128 homes (25 percent of the pilot area) have applied, with 30 homes having installations completed or scheduled.
- Applicants in the pilot area can easily apply online or by phone, with a simple process involving a \$100 participation fee if they qualify.
- Inspectors assess the home's plumbing, sewer line condition, and safety; sewer line issues may disqualify homes, though repair quotes are offered.
- Low-income homeowners can seek additional financial assistance through an Oakland County program, with some participants already benefiting.

MOTION NO. M-100-24: Matter of approving a budgeted purchase and installation of a new Sewer Camera Inspection System from Jack Doheny Companies of Northville, MI, utilizing the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Group Contract Number 120721-RVL in the amount of \$221,159.23. The purchase is budgeted under account numbers 592-536-985-000 (Water and Sewer – Vehicle). Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-100-24
Seconded by Councilmember Baker

Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young presented regarding the proposed system:

- The City of Berkley regularly cleans, inspects, and rates roughly 50 miles of public sewer main on an annual basis.
- These inspections and subsequent ratings are done using the globally standardized NASSCO PACP rating system and are used to identify areas of our sewer main that need additional maintenance, repairs, or lining.
- We currently have four staff members who have successfully completed the NASSCO Pipeline Assessment Certification Program for Mainline, Lateral, and Manhole Assessments.

Mr. Young showed slides demonstrating the upgraded camera quality.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion No. M-100-24 Approved.

MOTION NO. M-105-24: Matter of approving the proposal from Bureau Veritas to complete a facility condition assessment and approve a corresponding budget amendment for \$27,500. Bureau Veritas was pre-qualified through an Omnia Purchasing Group request for the qualifications process, contract # SV8105. This professional service is being funded from account 101-267-818-000.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-105-24

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion No. M-105-24 Approved.

ORDINANCE NO. O-10-24: First reading of an ordinance to amend Section 106-310, Requirements of Article VIII, Parklets of Chapter 106, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to permit parklets between November 1 and March 31 at the discretion of the Department of Public Works.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Ordinance No. O-10-24

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

Ayes: Baker, Black, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Vilani
Ordinance No. O-10-24 Approved.

MOTION NO. M-106-24: Matter of approving the requested first amendment to the vendor agreement with Double Haul Solutions to provide City Manager transition support.
Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-106-24
Seconded by Councilmember Hennen
Ayes: Black, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Baker, and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Vilani
Motion No. M-106-24 Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-23-24: Matter of designating the time and place of City Council Meetings and its Rules and Order of Procedure.
Councilmember Patterson moved to table Resolution No. R-23-24 until December 2, 2024.
Seconded by Councilmember Hennen
Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Baker, Patterson, Black and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Vilani
Resolution No. R-23-24 Approved to be tabled.

Direction for staff:

- Schedule Work sessions before every meeting at 5:30 p.m. and more than one meeting over the Summer (three months) as well as during the months that include holidays. When the first or third Monday is not available, move the meeting to the subsequent Monday.
- Read the items on the consent agenda with the names of the relevant account, not the account number. Record account numbers on the memo preceding the supporting material per motion.
- Three Councilmembers should participate in placing items on Work Session agendas.
- City Council agenda meetings should include rotating participation of Councilmembers.

COMMUNICATIONS

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Zoning Board of Appeals didn't have a meeting in November, and it has no cases for December.
- The Tree Board has put in an application with DTE for a grant, and he said we should hear the results in a couple of months.
 - There are some other grants that are being worked on as well. One hundred trees have been planted for the fall season, so any resident who was going to get a tree should have it by now, along with care instructions and so forth. It has been pretty dry, so please remember to water your tree to help it get started.
 - He said that as new trees have been put in and maintained, they have been entered into the City's GIS system. He said that Berkley has about 50 percent of the city completed so far, and that will help us in future planning projects, tree canopy studies, and so forth.
- The Tree Board's next meeting is on November 25th.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) met last week on Wednesday, November 13th. There were continued conversations around things like the DDA strategic plan, which hasn't

been refreshed in a while, Coolidge Streetscaping design elements, and how and in what ways the DDA can help influence the Berkley Theater marquee continuing to be a landmark in our community.

- He expressed incredible appreciation, gratitude, and celebration for the BOO!kley Month that just passed. He congratulated and thanked all the volunteers, businesses who participated, and the organization that went into a fantastic month of delightfully scary and fun events.
- Merry Month begins pretty soon!
 - November 30th is Small Business Saturday. Please remember to support your local businesses and help keep Berkley strong.
 - The Holiday Lights Parade will be on Saturday, December 7th.
 - Merry & Bright shopping nights will be on Thursdays: December 5th, 12th, and 19th.
 - On Saturday, December 14th the Jolly Shopping Trolley will be commuting up and down and across our downtown, which will be a lot of fun.
 - On Sunday, December 15th, Santa will be at the Library. Get in there, make your list, check it twice, and make sure you're on the nice list before you sit on his lap.
 - Visit downtownberkley.com for details on these events and more.
- The Historical Committee met on Tuesday, November 12th. They have a new holiday mug available! For those of you that collect these things, you'll want to get one; if you haven't started, this is a great piece to start with. It features a local artist named Steven Patterson, who designed this. It shows Santa and our historic fire hall with a nice "Season's Greetings" message. This mug, along with several prior holiday mugs, is available for only \$10 each at the museum, clerk's office, and the library. Please enjoy your holiday cheer with some Berkley historical swag!
- On Sunday Our Lady of La Salette celebrated its 100th year of serving our community. An extra-large display has been placed at the church and will be coming to the museum in the middle of December. If you don't get a chance to see it at the church, please come see it at the museum.
- Finally, it was Anne Hood who once said, "There is more power in a good, strong hug than a thousand meaningful words." Let's Hug Day is coming up. Hugs are important, right? Hug somebody; it's powerful. When we want to share our happiness, when we see someone feeling low or down, or when we want to make up after saying something we shouldn't have, hugs release good hormones in our bodies and even help with blood pressure. So, please hug somebody you love; it's good for all sorts of reasons. Find a way to express your gratitude, appreciation, and sincerity with a hug; that's what makes this place great.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet on December 12th at 7 PM at the Community Center.
- The Library Board will meet at 7 PM this Wednesday, November 20th.
- Thanked the Clerk's Office and all election volunteers. He said that they are the front line of democracy, and they make it possible for every Berkley resident to share their voice and have a say in the political process.
- Thanked Representatives Price and Weiss and Secretary of State Benson for an incredibly informative session about election integrity and processes.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON:

- The Beautification Committee met on November 6th. They discussed the Holiday Lights Parade, and they're putting a float together in collaboration with the Tree Board. He said he is sworn to secrecy, but come to the parade and you'll see it; It'll be the one with lights on it.
- The Planning Commission will meet next Tuesday at 7 PM here in Council chambers.
- The Ad Hoc Committee met; he said that he attended the session facilitated by Assistant to the City Manager Charlaime Stevenson with Councilmember Baker and Mayor Pro Tem Gavin. He said they started to discuss some opportunities for City boards and commissions, how to make them more efficient, and improvements that could be made. He said that they will be meeting again in December.
- He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He said that he challenges us all to reflect on something we're thankful for.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- He said that the Committee for Engagement has a name change, they will now be called the Committee for Engagement and Transparency, and they are recruiting! That's right—they want you. He said that for all those who love to engage and preach about transparency, well, this is an opportunity for them to step away from the keyboard and join the committee. He said that they want residents to engage and show transparency with the Council through the Committee for Engagement and Transparency. If interested, residents can email communications@berkeleymi.gov.
- Thanked City Clerk Mitchell and everyone who made his attendance possible tonight. He said it is not lost on him that it's inconvenient, but he appreciates everyone making it possible for him to attend virtually.
- Thanked Karen Saltsman and the sixth graders at Anderson Middle School, who hosted him and his wife for Veterans Day. He said that he and his wife (who has 25 years in the military) had a phenomenal time talking to the sixth graders about their service. He said the kids were very attentive and that he and his wife got a chance to show them what soldiers eat when they can't get ahold of the cafeteria. He said that luckily they didn't eat it, because insurance won't cover that liability!
- He said he also had the opportunity to be a guest emcee at the Detroit VA Veterans Day presentation. Congresswoman Dingell, Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, and Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Brian Love were all present. He said it was a phenomenal event, and he was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate.
- Finally, he thanked the American Legion. He said he knows Madam Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem were at their Veterans Day event, and they did an outstanding job with the kids from Royal Oak Shrine. He gave a huge thank you to everyone who honored our veterans this past Veterans Day.
- Veterans Day should be every day. Continue to honor and support our veterans—not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER NATE GEINZER

- Thanked Councilmember Patterson for reminding him about Thanksgiving.
- He said that every year the City staff does something for the holidays—something for the greater good. He said that Director Flora, our Communications Director, brought to the staff meeting the idea of doing a food and other needs drive for Berkley Care's Food Pantry that is open to anybody. The list of items the Berkley Cares Food Pantry needs is on their website, but you're always pretty safe with boxed goods, canned goods, and similar items. Each of our city facilities has a box inside—inside the main door—for collecting items; the drive is running from November 12th through December 12th.

CITY ATTORNEY DAN CHRIST

- As Councilmember Black noted, his participation remotely tonight is expressly permitted under the Michigan Open Meetings Act. It allows him to participate remotely when he is in military service. He noted for the Clerk that it should be included in the minutes of the meeting.

MAYOR DEAN

- The Veterans Day ceremonies that we had here in Berkley included two events. The first was at the gazebo here at City Hall, and Mayor Pro Tem Gavin was there. She said her youngest brother, who is a Marine and Army veteran, happened to be here for the weekend and attended the ceremony. She said that his wife, her sister-in-law, served in the Marine Corps. Her niece, their daughter, is a graduate of West Point. Her nephew, their son, served in the Coast Guard. Her oldest brother served in the Army. Her next oldest brother served in the Marines, and his son served in the Navy. She said that she has an uncle who served in the Army and an aunt who was in the Navy. The next ceremony was at the Berkley American Legion. She said that Mayor Pro Tem Gavin and she had the opportunity to stand with Council Member Black and his lovely wife, Lorrena, for that event.
- She said that the military gene obviously skipped her, but that she is abundantly proud of and grateful to all of those—not just in her family—who have served, are actively serving, or will serve our country. She thanked Council Member Black and Lorena, and everyone else she mentioned in that long family tree, for their service.
- On Thursday, November 7th, a sub-quorum of Council met with a sub-quorum of the School Board to exchange information and discuss collaborations moving forward. The biggest thing is Community Field #1, which she is very proud of.
- She said she happened to stop by on Election Day and got a look at the field—it just looks beautiful. She thanked everyone involved. She said it was a true group effort. She said it makes her optimistic for further collaborations in the future.
- She said they also discussed the School Board election results and congratulated Keith Logsdon on his reelection and newly elected School Board Member Jon Heger. She said the Council looks forward to working with them on future projects. At the end of the day, she said they all just want to do what's best for Berkley—for the residents, the kids in the schools, and the community at large as well as how that spills out into surrounding communities. She said their intent is to set up a standing meeting on a quarterly basis, rotating Council Members into those discussions. Stay tuned for further details.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk