

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin  
Councilmember Gregory Patterson  
Councilmember Jessica Vilani  
Mayor Bridget Dean

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Steve Baker  
Councilmember Clarence Black  
Councilmember Dennis Hennen

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Crystal VanVleck  
City Attorney Ann Christ  
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell  
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young  
Public Safety Director Matt Koehn  
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski  
Facilities Manager Alex Brown  
Interim Parks & Recreation Director Dan McMinn  
Director of Communications Caitlin Flora  
Library Director Matt Church  
Assistant to the City Manager Charlene Stevenson  
Parks & Recreation Program Manager Bobby Green

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Matthew Gross, owner of MHG Jewelry Studio, submitted a petition and spoke regarding the partial closure of Dorothea.

Jill Kastle, owner of Bombshell Treat Bar, spoke regarding spoke regarding the partial closure of Dorothea.

Margaret Dobrowitsky, Waterford, spoke on behalf of a Berkley resident regarding lead line replacement documentation.

**Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Vilani moved to approve the following Consent Agenda with the addition of item 4a. M-108-24.  
Seconded by Councilmember Patterson:

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-09-24:** Matter of approving the second reading and adoption 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.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-10-24:** Matter of approving the second reading and adoption 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.

**MOTION NO. M-107-24:** Matter of approving the Flagstar Government Banking Public Unit Resolution and Master Signature Authorization Agreement.

**MOTION NO. M-108-24:** Matter of approving updated plan contacts for the City's Mission Square Retirement Plans.

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY:** Newly appointed City Manager Crystal VanVleck receives Oath of Office from the City Clerk.

Ayes: Gavin, Patterson, Vilani and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Baker, Black and Hennen

Motion Approved.

### ***Regular Agenda***

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

The Oath of Office was administered to City Manager Crystal VanVleck by City Clerk Mitchell.

**PRESENTATION:** Matter of receiving a presentation from the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office on the All of Us Foundation.

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald presented regarding the All of Us Foundation:

- Building upon the findings of the Commission Against Gun Violence, the All of Us Foundation will:
  - Share best practices
  - Create user-friendly training materials
  - Launch public education initiatives
- Initiative 1: The Commission to Address Gun Violence
  - The Commission examined data and five key areas including:
    1. What can we do long before a person is in crisis
    2. Identifying when a person is in crisis
    3. Addressing who to notify and what to do when someone is in crisis
    4. Preparing for a shooting scenario
    5. What to do in the aftermath of a shooting
- Initiative 2: Training to End Gun Violence: The 3 Ls
  - As a means to ending gun violence, Michiganders will adopt this method: Look, Learn + Love
    1. Learn how to intervene long before someone picks up a gun

2. Look for the signs of someone in crisis
  3. Love those who feel left out
- Initiative 3: Public Education for All of Us
    - All of Us will also conduct a broad scale public education campaign that involves:
      - Issuing + Harnessing the Protocol for Action
      - Statewide Tours to Engage Leaders
      - Public Education Campaigns
    - Training materials and informational videos will be distributed via events, email, the AllOfUsCan.org website and social media channels.
  - All of Us Partners will help us train members of their organization to Learn, Look + Love. They first complete the AUF Partner curriculum that equips them to train others as AUF friends.
  - All of Us Friends may receive training from AUF partners, or go through an automated online training journey.
  - We will recruit individuals from six main areas:
    - Law Enforcement
    - K-12 Schools
    - Universities
    - Businesses
    - Nonprofits + Faith-Based Organizations
    - Individuals in the Community
  - Key Supporters
    - Nicole Hockley, Founder of Sandy Hook Promise
    - Deleah Sharp, Founder, Identify Your Dream
    - Molly Darnell, Teacher at Oxford Schools and Survivor of Oxford School Shooting
    - Rev Derrick McDonald, Pastor of Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac
    - Chief Elvin Barren, Chief of Police for the City of Southfield
    - Dr. Marc A. Zimmerman, Ph.D., Marshall H. Becker Collegiate Professor Co-Director, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, University of Michigan
    - Ken Guttman, Superintendent of Oxford Public Schools
    - Birmingham Public Schools
    - Waterford Public Schools
    - Bridget Dean, Mayor of Berkley

**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 approve R-23-24

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

Ayes: Patterson, Vilani, Gavin and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Baker, Black and Hennen

Motion Approved.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **COUNCILMEMBER VILANI:**

- Environmental Advisory Committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum. Meetings will resume in the new year.
- Holiday shopping has begun and the BerkPerk card is a great gift. For only \$35 you can give the gift that keeps on giving all year long and support many local businesses within our community. For all of your friends and family members that live locally or even in our surrounding neighborhoods the BerkPerk card is a steal and something they can use all year long. Stick that in some stockings this year and support the community.
- Thanked everyone who came out to support Small Business Saturday. When we shop small it has such an impact on our community. It's supporting many of our community businesses,

many of which are owned by local community members. It creates jobs for our community, keeps tax dollars in the community, creates a sense of place and purpose among our downtown shopping areas and can even reduce the carbon footprint. Small Business Saturday shouldn't be a day, it should be our lifestyle. Our small businesses are the life and blood of our community.

**COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON:**

- Planning Commission met last week; Commissioners held a public hearing on the zoning ordinance rewrite. It will come before the Commission again in January. The next meeting will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Beautification Advisory Committee will meet December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Wished Mayor Dean a Happy Birthday.

**MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN**

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.
- The Library Board will not have a December meeting.
- Welcomed Ms. VanVleck and thanked Mr. Geinzer for all of his work in Berkley over the last few months. He said Mr. Geinzer is a consummate professional who cares about the community and has left the City on a good trajectory as they prepare to seize the opportunities presented to us as a City. He said that he enjoyed working with Mr. Geinzer and that Berkley has been made better by the time he has spent here.

**CITY MANAGER CRYSTAL VANVLECK:**

- Wished Mayor Dean a Happy Birthday.
- Echoed the sentiments regarding Mr. Geinzer, she said he didn't just come in and keep a seat warm, he put his heart into it while he was here. She thanked him for leaving here with a wonderful transition.
- She said the team at the City has been great and she is getting to know them all.
- Councilmember Hennen was absent due to a minor surgery and he regretted not being able to make it.

**CITY ATTORNEY ANN CHRIST:**

- Wished Mayor Dean a Happy Birthday.

**MAYOR DEAN:**

- This Saturday is the Berkley Holiday Parade. She thanked the organizing committee including Cinda Coon and Marcia Swayze. She thanked the DPW crews for their effort and said it's truly a community effort with all hands on deck. We will have the annual tree lighting with Santa as well as many festivities throughout the day. Come to Berkley to shop, eat, drink and stay for the parade.
- She and Ms. VanVleck will be riding the trolley this Saturday from 1-3 p.m.; she said they will be a captive audience for anyone who wants to come and chat.
- On Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. she will be at Sum Girls Boutique and on a future date at The Chop Shop. She said she feels it is a way to engage with the community and to be visible and accessible. She said a lot of times people won't email or call so this is a more casual opportunity to share what's on your mind. She will put the details on her socials.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

Ayes: Gavin, Patterson, Vilani and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Baker, Black and Hennen

Motion Approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bridget Dean, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk