

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Steve Baker  
Councilmember Clarence Black (remote from Minnesota on military duty)  
Councilmember Dennis Hennen                      Councilmember Jessica Vilani  
Councilmember Gregory Patterson                      Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin

**ABSENT:** Mayor Bridget Dean

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Crystal VanVleck  
City Attorney Dan Christ  
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cinda Coon, Berkley, spoke regarding permit and rental fees and cleanliness of shared spaces.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Vilani moved to approve the following Consent Agenda  
Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024, Special City Council meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, and City Council Special Work Session on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

**PROCLAMATION NO. P-01-25:** Matter of receiving a Proclamation recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Berkley Junior Women's Club.

**PROCLAMATION NO. P-02-25:** Matter of proclaiming February 2025 as Black History Month.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**PRESENTATION:** Matter of receiving a presentation from State Rep. Natalie Price.

Representative Price presented regarding the 2024-25 state budget:

- Revenue sharing
  - We passed a budget that gets money into the hands of our local leaders to support our hometown need - from public safety to infrastructure
  - \$75 million increase in revenue sharing for Michigan's local governments
  - \$75 million for a Public Safety and Violence Prevention Fund to meet every hometown's unique public safety needs
- School Aid
  - Frees up about \$600 million for school districts by reducing their contribution rate into the state's retirement system, putting money back into teachers' classrooms and teachers' paychecks where it belongs
  - \$200 million to continue providing breakfast and lunch for all students
  - \$87 million to school districts to improve literacy learning, creating a Committee for Literacy Achievement
  - \$4 million to support school district partnerships with the Michigan Education Justice Coalition, implementing research and tools for addressing racial disparities in education
- Higher Education
  - Improves the successful Michigan Achievement Scholarship to allow funding to the cost of living separate from tuition
  - Community College Guarantee allows high school and incoming college students in our district who graduated high school after 2023 to attend community college tuition-free
  - \$20 million increase in funding for the Tuition Incentive program, opening doors to higher education, training and credentials to more students
  - \$52 million for the Michigan Reconnect Program, providing scholarships to individuals 25 or older
- Affordability
  - House Dems lowered everyday costs for families making our communities more affordable
  - \$100 million to increase the affordable housing supply
  - \$5 million in ongoing support for Double Up Food Bucks, an increase of \$3 million from FY 2023-24, and extra funding for Meals on Wheels
  - Expands the Great Start Readiness Program, offering free preschool to more eligible families and closing early gaps in educational opportunity
- Public Health
  - This budget empowers Michigan's local leaders to protect their communities, ensuring all Michiganders live in health and safety
  - Addresses the nursing shortage with funds for a nursing school student loan repayment program
  - \$1.8 million in grants to community based organizations that provide programming on new extreme risk protection orders and safe storage laws
  - \$275,000 for mental health training in schools
- Transportation
  - Southeast Michigan needs a public transit system that matches its continuous growth - and this budget delivers the funding for us to get there
  - \$226.7 million toward local bus operations, investing in essential transportation services that make every day commutes happen
  - \$101 million increase for distribution to local road agencies
- Environment
  - Keeping our environment healthy keeps our communities healthy, so we delivered a budget to protect our natural resources
  - \$40.3 million to access available federal funding for lead service line replacement projects
  - \$25 million for local water infrastructure projects to match federal funding
  - \$30 million for electric vehicle charging stations and hydrogen fueling facilities to grow clean energy systems

- Labor and Economic Opportunity
  - House Dems included key investments in Michigan's business sector and workforce development, setting Michigan up to be a leader in innovation and job development
  - \$60 million for the new Michigan Innovation Fund to launch startups
  - \$45.5 million for workforce development and growth program grants across the state
  - Additional support for small and minority-owned businesses
  - A board to create requirements for retirement plans for all employers who do not currently provide a retirement plan for their employees
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - Protecting Michigan's agriculture industry and natural resources is imperative for the health of our state - this budget reflects that priority
  - \$3 million for a new farm to family program, supporting regenerative farming, agriculture supply chains and the promotion of Michigan food products
  - \$5 million from USDA for animal disease prevention and response, specifically addressing high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cows and poultry
  - Creates the Land and Water Conservation Program to aid local governments in developing public recreation
- Health & Human/Veteran Services
  - From mental health care to child welfare, this budget helps support Michigan's most vulnerable communities
  - Expands Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics to more counties, providing mental health services to an estimated 35,000 additional individuals
  - Increase of \$30.1 million to support child welfare program supports, including adoption subsidies, foster care payments and the Child Care Fund
  - \$2.5 million to continue providing housing for homeless veterans and their families

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN**

- The Tree Board received a \$4,000 grant, which will allow for the planting of an additional 30 trees this year (a sizable increase from the usual 200 trees).
- The Tree Board's next meeting is Monday, January 27th at 7 PM.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on Monday, January 13th at 7 PM to discuss a case variance for a business on 12 Mile that wants a rear sign variance.
- He said that he hopes everyone had a happy and healthy holiday.

### **COUNCILMEMBER BAKER**

- The Historical Committee will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 7 PM. For more information on the Museum or Berkley history, visit [Berkleyhistory.com](http://Berkleyhistory.com).
- The Downtown Development Advisory Board meets Wednesday, January 8th at 8:15 AM. For more information on what the DDA is preparing for the upcoming year, visit [downtownberkley.com](http://downtownberkley.com).
- Shared a quote by Hillary DePiano: "*We all get the same 365 days; the only difference is what we do with them.*" He encouraged making each day something to be proud of and taking time for oneself.
- He said please hug someone you love. They need it more than you think they do.

### **COUNCILMEMBER VILANI**

- No updates from the Berkley Area Chamber given how recent the last meeting was.
- The Environmental Advisory Committee will meet January 16th at 6:30 PM on the second floor of the Public Safety Building.

### **COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON**

- The Beautification Committee does not meet in January.
- The Planning Commission will meet on January 28th.

### **COUNCILMEMBER BLACK**

- He said the Committee on Engagement and Technology is looking for participation. He said that he

knows a lot of residents are online and have strong, powerful voices which is what the committee is looking for.

- Director Flora will be putting out opportunities for people to apply.
- Thanked Representative Price for her presentation, he said it warms his heart to see what the state is doing for veterans.
- Encouraged people to resist negativity and violence during the upcoming inauguration and to go into the new era of leadership on a positive and productive note.

**CITY MANAGER VANVLECK**

- No updates.

**CITY ATTORNEY DAN CHRIST**

- No updates.

**MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN**

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will meet on February 13th at 7 PM in the Community Center.
- The Library Board will meet January 15th at 7 PM at the Library.
- Wished everyone a Happy New Year and said that he looks forward to a prosperous 2025.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:40 PM.

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Absent: Dean

Motion approved.

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Ross Gavin, Mayor Pro Tem

***ATTEST:***

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Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk