

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025 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:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Ann Christ
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dan McMinn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, March 17, 2025 and the Special City Council meeting on Monday, March 17, 2025.

MOTION NO. M-19-25: Matter of approving a new Subsite UtiliGuard 2RTK line locator from Ditch Witch Sales of Michigan Co., Howell MI, in the amount of \$11,054.58.

MOTION NO. M-20-25: Matter of approving the purchase of trash carts from Rehrig Pacific Co. in the amount of \$14,075.

MOTION NO. M-21-25: Matter of approving HRC additional funds to continue GIS support for the 24/25 fiscal year in the amount of \$10,000.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-07-25: Matter of proclaiming April 20-26th as Volunteer Week.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-08-25: Matter of proclaiming April 21-26th as Arbor Week.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-09-25: Matter of proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-10-25: Matter of proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-11-25: Matter of proclaiming April as Autism Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-12-25: Matter of proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month.

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 Baker read P-7-25 in its entirety.

MOTION NO. M-22-25: Matter of authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between SMART and the City of Berkley for Fiscal Year 2025 for Municipal Credit and Community Credit funds in order to provide public transportation services for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-22-25

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- The Planning Commission met and reviewed changes to the Columbia PUD.

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- The Environmental Advisory Committee meets next on Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 PM at the Public Safety building.
- Chomp chomp Gators, go for the win tonight!

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- For Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:
 - The spring/summer program guide of Parks & Recreation and Library programs is now available online.
 - Parks & Recreation and the Library are working together on a Dog Man reading challenge; more information coming soon, so be on the lookout for that.
 - The next meeting for Parks and Rec will be April 10th at 7 PM at the Community Center.
- For the Library Board:
 - Donations are currently being accepted for the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Drop off your donated items at the Library anytime it's open. The sale will take place Friday, May 16th from 1 to 6 PM and Saturday, May 17th from 10 AM to 3 PM.
 - Just one programming note that may be of interest — there is a program on May 6th at 6:30 PM called Chasing Art: Works Stolen by the Nazis. Many Jewish collectors and dealers were forced to sell at greatly reduced prices or had their artwork stolen by the Nazis during World War II. An art historian and professor will talk more about that.
 - The next meeting will be April 16th at 7 PM at the Library.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- For the Historical Committee:
 - Thanked all the volunteers that make that such a historic group. They meet next on Tuesday, April 8th at 7:30 PM
 - They're working on new exhibits for the museum and planning Halloween-themed events in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit berkeleyhistory.com.
- The DDA board meets next on Wednesday, the 9th, at 8:15 AM. They'll be reviewing some recently received façade grant requests and preparing the DDA budget as part of the city budget process.
 - For more downtown event info, visit downtownberkeley.com.
- Thurgood Marshall once said, "To protest against injustice is the foundation of all our American democracy." He said that he wanted to celebrate the peaceful marches and protests over the weekend. The one here in Berkley, a march along 12 Mile, was fantastic. These are positive and powerful ways to bring about constructive change.
- Congratulations to Berkley's own Zack Mesplay for winning fourth place at the half marathon in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- Finally, please hug somebody you love.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Zoning Board of Appeals had no cases in April and has none coming up.
- The Tree Board is planning for the Arbor Day tree planting, which will be at 9 AM on Saturday, April 25th, at Oxford Park. Everyone is welcome to attend; little kids especially love coming and seeing a tree planted, they grow up with it and come back to visit "their" tree.
- He stated that several councilmembers attended the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference. He described two breakout sessions that stood out: the first was on financial tools to bring the types of developments we want to see, giving us more control while still making it worthwhile for developers, and the other session was about handling chaos from the federal government. He said he learned that every city in the state is getting screwed; Berkley is not alone. He said that if you're on Social Security and living check to check, make a plan; the way Musk and the Trump administration are interfering, including firing essential workers, it's only a matter of time before you can't access those payments easily.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- The Committee for Engagement and Transparency will meet next on Wednesday, April 16th, in the second-floor Public Safety conference room
- He said that this is his favorite time of year, not just because the weather's warm but because our young people are out and about. He encouraged all residents to get out and support our community groups, including Moms Club softball, Dads Club baseball, DCFC soccer, Berkley Burn fast pitch, Berkley Cup baseball, Berkley High baseball, boys' golf, girls' soccer, girls' tennis, boys' and girls' lacrosse.
- He said that Berkley High fast pitch softball had their intra-league scrimmage Friday; the weather wasn't great, someone hit a home run, and it hit his daughter's car, which he pays for. He said he's not happy about that, but if that's a sign of the season we're going to have, then let's go.
- He said he saw a pickleball injury the other day, so to all you pickleballers, be safe. Have fun, but be safe. Thanked Parks and Rec for the great courts and said maybe keep a doctor on speed dial for those pickleball injuries.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- Expanding on Councilmember Hennen's question about SMART funding, a majority is funded through the countywide transportation millage and statewide sources, and to a smaller extent, federal sources.
- The Spring/Summer programming guide is now available on the website as well as at the Library and the Community Center. A postcard that will be mailed out with a QR code to access it is in the works.

CITY ATTORNEY ANN CHRIST

- No update.

MAYOR DEAN

- Said that DPW received their newly re-outfitted sewer camera inspection truck this week and commended Superintendent Wozniak for being mindful of saving costs. They replaced the equipment on an existing chassis, no need to buy a whole new truck. It took a while to get here, but it's here now.
- As part of his assignment with Michigan Task Force One, Lieutenant Corey Miller was deployed to Gaylord on Tuesday to help with ice storm recovery. Thanked Lieutenant Miller for his service and for being willing to step up.
- As Councilmember Hennen mentioned, some of the Council members attended CapCon in Lansing. She said she is grateful for the opportunity to learn and to spend time with other elected officials and city managers.
- Recognized Councilmember Vilani for achieving Level One in the Elected Officials Academy.
- Said that she went into Heavenly Pound Cake, a new bakery on Coolidge. She said she loves to welcome new businesses. It's a family-owned shop, and the whole family was there; they sell whole, half, and sliced pound cakes and banana pudding. Welcome, Heavenly Pound Cakes! If you need dessert or a snack, stop in. You won't be sorry.
- Her next stop on the Mayor's Road Show will be Saturday, April 26th at Coffee and Bark on Coolidge from 10 AM to 12 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:23 PM

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk