**THE SPECIAL BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

***PRESENT:*** Councilmember Steve Baker

Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely from military duty)

Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin

CouncilmemberDennis Hennen

Councilmember Gregory Patterson

Councilmember Jessica Vilani

Mayor Bridget Dean

***OTHER STAFF PRESENT:***

City Manager Crystal VanVleck

City Clerk Victoria Mitchell

Human Resources Director Jessica Stover

Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dan McMinn

Director of Communications Caitlin Flora

Library Director Matt Church

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve the Agenda

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None.

***REGULAR AGENDA***

**DISCUSSION:** Matter of a receiving a presentation regarding the MiLife consortium.

City Manager VanVleck opened the Work Session with an introduction of the MiLife consortium.

City Manager VanVleck introduced the presenters for the evening:

* City of Madison Heights Manager Melissa Marsh
* Manquen Vance Founder Mark Manquen
* Marathon Health Senior Vice President JP Miller

City Manager VanVleck said Berkley has been in discussions with the current MiLife consortium. She said the cities of Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Hazel Park, Ferndale, and Oak Park invited Berkley to participate. She said she is in the process of finalizing costs. She said participation in a direct contract clinic like this allows the City an opportunity to better control our healthcare costs long term.

City Manager Marsh provided her perspective on why utilizing the MiLife consortium is advantageous for a community, including the overall cost savings and soft benefits provided to employees and the city’s budget. Madison Heights is a founding member and began participation in the Clinic in 2012. She said she has a reputation for being fiscally responsible and would not recommend joining the consortium if it were not a benefit and cost-savings for Madison Heights.

City Manager Marsh provided examples of the cost of health services provided by BC/BS versus what the MiLife clinic charges the city for the same services when employees utilize it for health care. She stated that clinic utilization is about 66 percent in Madison Heights. She said along with the cost savings it provides to the city, it also provides preventative health care to employees to prevent larger health events from happening.

City Manager VanVleck discussed the City of Oak Park’s participation and concurred with the positive experience.

City Manager VanVleck explained the City of Berkley is a self-pay community for health insurance, along with asking employees to pay some of the costs. She stated there aren’t a lot of ways to cut health care costs. She said joining the consortium is one way.

Mr. Miller explained all of the services the MiLife clinic provides and went into greater detail on the healthcare model. He said the Clinic takes a value-based approach to health care, where larger institutions are bottom-line based.

Mr. Miller explained the difference in care includes:

Traditional Fee-for-Service Healthcare:

* Low-quality outcomes
* Overuse of high-priced specialists, Rx, and diagnostics
* Ever-increasing health spending
* Bad experience for plan sponsors, providers, and patients

Advanced Primary Care from Marathon Health:

* Improved health outcomes
* Less reliance on medications and specialists
* Reduced health spending
* Great experience for plan sponsors, providers, and patients

What Advanced Primary Care Offers:

* Structural Change
  + Paid for value vs. fee-for-service
  + On hook for health of population
  + Outcomes driven by continuous data and relationships
* A New Model for Care
  + Easy destination for 90 percent of health needs
  + Proactive and positive pathway to better, earlier help
  + The clinician’s original draw to medicine made real
* The Sponsor and Consumer Win
  + More access, more convenient
  + A personal experience and relationship
  + Less pocketbook pain
* By the Numbers
  + 33 percent lower cost
  + 19 percent lower odds of dying prematurely
  + $13 in savings for every $1 spent
  + $67 billion savings each year
  + 90 percent of medical needs can be met in our health centers

Services Provided include:

* Primary Care
* Acute Care
* Pediatric Care for 2+
* Chronic Condition Management
* Onsite testing and labs
* Onsite Rx dispensing
* Mental/Behavioral health
* Assistance in navigating specialty care

Savings Opportunities for employees:

* 0-5 min waiting times
* 30-90 minutes average time with provider on a visit
* No office visit copay
* No cost for certain generic prescriptions

The makeup of the clinic would include:

* 1 nurse practitioner
* 1 medical assistant
* Open 40 hours a week
* MiLife buy-in amount:$7,500
* City of Berkley would represent about 12percent of total MiLife population
* Unlimited visits

The year one total estimated health center cost is $88,803 with an estimated monthly flat rate of $7,400. The clinic is located inside Madison Heights City Hall.

Councilmember Vilani, utilizing her expertise as a health care provider executive, asked questions and discussed the consortium with the presenters.

City Manager VanVleck said it would take a majority vote by the Council to participate in the MiLife consortium and would take about 150 days to implement.

Councilmember Baker asked if mental health care is provided through the clinic.

Mr. Miller said the clinic would provide screenings and has a program called Live Better. He stated that patients would have access to staff psychologists and therapists. He said the virtual offering is highly utilized. He stated that each entity can opt into a virtual mental health program, and more complex cases would be given a referral.

Councilmember Patterson asked about pre-diagnosis and/or pre-screenings. He asked if partnering municipalities have seen a decrease in catastrophic costs.

A discussion took place regarding what stats are maintained by partnering communities.

Director Stover said the clinic would be available to covered employees and their dependents.

City Manager Marsh said it is a low-cost way to attract part-time help when the benefit is also offered to part-time staff.

City Manager VanVleck said the City is looking at spending $1.7 million in health care costs if the Council approves employees paying for health care. She stated that participating in the consortium and providing health care through the MiLife Clinic is one of the few ways to cut those costs.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:55 PM

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

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Bridget Dean, Mayor

***ATTEST:***

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Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk