

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7 PM ON MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Steve Baker  
Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely from military duty)  
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin  
Councilmember Dennis Hennen  
Councilmember Gregory Patterson  
Mayor Bridget Dean  
**ABSENT:** Councilmember Jessica Vilani

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Crystal VanVleck  
City Attorney Ann Christ  
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell  
Director of Public Safety Matt Koehn  
Public Safety Lt. Cory Miller  
Human Resources Director Jessica Stover  
Director of Communications Caitlin Flora

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cinda Coon, Berkley, spoke regarding event permits and costs.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, July 7, 2025 and the Special City Council meeting on Monday, July 7, 2025.

**WARRANT LIST:** Matter of approving Warrant List No. 1412.

**MOTION NO. M-55-25:** Matter of approving the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for Lockup Services, Animal Control Services, Use of the Berkley DPS Range, and Dispatch Services between the City of Berkley and the City of Huntington Woods for a \$6,500 fixed yearly fee for each full-time equivalent (FTE) reflected in the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Fall Semi-Annual Law Enforcement Distribution Report for the Huntington Woods Department of Public Safety. This Agreement shall be effective for a term commencing on July 1, 2025 continuing until June 30, 2029.

**MOTION NO. M-56-25:** Motion to approve the purchase of a Polaris Emergency Utility Task Vehicle to include emergency lights and siren for \$39,653.80 for the Department of Public Safety from Polaris Sales Inc., Medina, MN 55340, from the Vehicles Account 101-345-985-000. This purchase will utilize the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract 091024-PSI.

**MOTION NO. M-57-25:** Matter of approving the purchase of a 2025 Ford F150 Super Crew 4x4 Police Responder Pickup for \$49,273 for the Department of Public Safety from Lunghamer Ford, 1960 East Main Street, Owosso, MI 48867 from the Vehicles Account 101-345-985-000. This purchase will utilize the State of Michigan (240000001208) cooperative purchasing agreement.

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.

**MOTION NO. M-58-25:** Matter of approving the purchase of a Rosenbauer Commander Chassis with a Pumper Body with included Dealer Supplied Items for the Department of Public Safety from Front Line Services, Inc., 8588 Carter Rd., Freeland, MI 48623 at a cost of \$1,170,000, per the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract 113021-RSD, from the Public Improvements Fund 445-901-985-000. Of this \$1,170,000, \$540,000 is to be paid upon delivery of the chassis to the Rosenbauer Plant (FY 26/27) and the balance of \$630,000 to be paid upon delivery (FY 27/28).

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-58-25

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion Approved.

**MOTION NO. M-59-25:** Matter of approving an application for transfer of a Class C liquor license for Slows Berkley LLC, 3087 12 Mile Road, Berkley, MI.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-59-25

Seconded by Councilmember Black

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion Approved.

**MOTION NO. M-60-25:** Matter of approving the employment contract for the Downtown Development Authority director Nate Mack.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Motion No. M-60-25

Seconded by Councilmember Gavin

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion Approved.

**MOTION NO. M-61-25:** Matter of approving the BPSOA tentative agreement.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-61-25

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion Approved.

**MOTION NO. M-62-25:** Matter of approving the MAPE tentative agreement and continuing the past practice of carrying the wage and healthcare terms of the MAPE contract to MERIT employees.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Motion No. M-61-25

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

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

Nays: None

Absent: Vilani

Motion Approved.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN**

- The Tree Board is on their summer hiatus. Meanwhile, you can sign up at no cost for street trees. 100 of the 200 have been claimed but they won't last long. Contact DPW or you can sign up at [berkleymi.gov/forestry](http://berkleymi.gov/forestry).
- The Zoning Board of Appeals finally met. Their first case was a property on Coolidge between Earlmont and Edgewood that has no parking spaces. There was a request for small retail store and upstairs office. The variance was granted with the condition that the employees park either in the municipal lot here by the building, the City Hall building or at Bagger Dave's where they have a shared parking agreement. Then the Mug and Jug gas station also had their variance requests. Both were approved, one for a trash enclosure and one keeping the second existing driveway on the 12 Mile. The board held elections for officers. Sue McAlpine was reelected as chair and Andrew Creal was elected as Vice Chair and then they will have one case to hear next month.
- On Thursday last week, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights held a summit on artificial intelligence use and policy in local government. He said that he was invited as a panelist for one

of the discussions and besides being able to share his knowledge, he learned a great deal that will be of practical use for us here in Berkley.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER BAKER**

- For the Historical Committee:
  - They last met on Tuesday, July 8th.
  - Preparations continue for a historic cemetery tour at Roseland coming up on October 18th.
  - Holiday ornaments sales are brisk and especially at only \$5 each. They are going fast. If you'd like to get another one for yourself or to share with friends and family, please do so.
  - Thanked the committee volunteers who put in a lot of sweat and labor during the Art Bash, the Pride Block Party, And the Street Art Fest.
  - They have no meeting in August, but our city history lives on. Please visit the museum or their website which is [berkeleyhistory.com](http://berkeleyhistory.com).
- Our Downtown Development Authority met on Wednesday, July 9th.
  - Congratulated the incoming Director and said his experience and energy and leadership to this team are welcomed.
  - Thanked Jennifer Finney for all that she did in her first tenure as a DDA director for us and then coming back in an interim basis to help keep things moving forward and positioning us well for further success. Thanked her and the whole team there. Hooray for the amazing Dorothea Pocket Park pilot!
  - He said that your feedback on how we can make that place even more exciting and fun in the weeks and months and hopefully years and years and years to come is welcome.
  - They also had discussions about the Robina placemaking initiatives and lighting up the marquee for the Berkley Cruise Fest. For that and more information, please visit [downtownberkeley.com](http://downtownberkeley.com).
- It was Joseph Joubert who once said, "Children are great imitators. So, give them something great to imitate." Today happens to be National Be Someone Day. National Be Someone Day challenges each of us to take even just 10 seconds to positively impact a child's life. Whether you're a parent or a mentor or a neighbor or a colleague, your actions really matter.
  - Consider how you can help a child or someone caring for a child. Offer to babysit for a stressed parent, donate school supplies, volunteer with a youth organization, or simply listen to what they have to say. Every small act of kindness really matters.
  - It's important that together we can build a place, and Berkley certainly exemplifies this, where every child knows that they matter, feel safer, and feel supported. We all have the power to be someone who makes a difference.
- Please make sure you hug somebody you love.

#### **MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN**

- The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is on August 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.
  - The Bacon Jamboree is July 24th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bacon Park.
  - If you have any questions, you can call 248-658-3470 or email [parks@berkleymi.gov](mailto:parks@berkleymi.gov).
- For the Library Board:
  - Echoed his colleagues' comments and thanked everyone who came out and attended programming and events at the Dorothea Pocket Park where both Library and Parks and Rec had great programming and everybody that helped to make it such a smashing success.
  - The next meeting of the Library Advisory Board will be the 20th of August at 7 p.m. at the Library.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON**

- The Planning Commission canceled their meeting this month as they didn't have quorum.
- The Beautification Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the second-floor conference room in the Public Safety building.
- Thanked the Mayor for her invitation to her Mayor's Roadshow stop at The Rind. He said that it was great to meet with some Berkley residents and new business owners.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER BLACK**

- No significant updates for the Committee for Engagement and Transparency.
- Thanked the City Manager and City Clerk and everyone behind the scenes who works hard to make it possible for him to participate. He said that he cannot tell where he is, but he guaranteed that it is no place one would want to be. These are long days and they are obviously even longer when he has these meetings.

#### **CITY MANAGER VANVLECK**

- Expanded a little bit on the Dorothea Pocket Park:
  - She said that there is a survey out there and it will continue to be available and may be tweaked a little bit to ask what you'd like to see there in the future, etc.
  - She said that they are looking at different ways to share that, including keeping the sandwich board there.
  - A presentation will be shared at an upcoming meeting about what happened, what we did, and how it was received.

- She said that they have some great footage too that she thinks will be fun to share with the public.
- Some things that she said she found interesting of the responses to the survey:
  - 53% of the respondents to the survey were people who attended a specific event, but 46% were people who did not necessarily go to a specific event; they just found themselves there one day.
  - She said that they were hoping and assuming that that's how people would really like to interact with that space; somewhere as they are downtown they find a place to sit and relax and hopefully navigate around some of the businesses that they would not have originally visited. Overwhelmingly there was great feedback; people were very satisfied and they responded that they were likely to come again.
  - Questions were also asked about things like parking and whether visitors would like to see it as a permanent space. We were really trying to receive information that would help us in giving this all back to you when the decisions are being made about what we do with this in the future and how we can do it the best. So, we do anticipate seeing this again. All in all, we had a lot of wonderful events. It is outside so there were quite a few where the weather did not want to cooperate with us but alas we're in Michigan in summertime so that just kind of happens.
- Overall, she said she thinks it was a lot of fun. She said she thinks it was a great project in partnership with community members and the different departments. There were so many people and so many city staff that came together to make this happen and also so many people from the outside.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY ANN CHRIST**

- No updates.

#### **MAYOR DEAN**

- To continue the Dorothea Pocket Park activation conversation, she just wanted to thank some people:
  - First of all, our community development director, Kristen Kapelanski who applied for the grant from SEMCOG. It was a planning grant, and that's how this came to be. But it wasn't by accident. This space on Dorothea was identified in our Master Plan, which has robust engagement from residents and community members. So, the space was identified and then this planning grant came in and Director Kapelanski not only applied for it but she also was responsible for the reporting requirements. If anyone has applied for a grant or had to administer a grant, there's no such thing as free money. There are always things that if you're receiving the money that you have to do and we are grateful to do it; you don't just go, "Okay, we have the check. We're good."
  - Thanked our Parks and Recreation Department, our Downtown Development Authority, Department of Public Services, the businesses and residents who came to meetings and who gave their input about how the space should be activated.
  - She said she's sure she left someone out, so she apologized if she didn't mention you and you were there.
  - She said she truly believes that this was a collaborative effort and it brought joy to her to attend the meetings and to just see, truly see the community working together with each other, businesses, residents and city departments.
  - She said she thinks that the space was activated thoughtfully and what she liked to see is that there were programs for all ages and all different interests. She also liked seeing the space being utilized even when there was no programming and she said she thinks that that really speaks to how the space is now becoming identified.
  - She said she does look forward to having a BOSS District on Coolidge because, you know, leave it to the Mayor to be like, wouldn't it be great if we could walk across the street with our margaritas. So maybe that's in our future as well.
  - As City Manager VanVleck mentioned, we will be having a presentation with some drone footage of the events.
- Thanked Senator Gary Peters for including \$385,000 toward our new firetruck in the proposed Senate budget. She said that we can't get too excited because the budget hasn't passed yet, but she is hopeful and grateful that it was recognized as a need in Berkley that they could help us with.
- As Councilmember Patterson said, she was at the Monger's and The Rind for Meet Your Mayor last Wednesday night. The best thing about Meet Your Mayor is really interacting with residents and visitors to Berkley because these are very informal; people know where she's going to be and what time. She said she about fell over when someone said, 'We made dinner reservations because you were going to be here tonight. Mostly that doesn't happen, but she said she is always available whether you come to one of these or just pick up the phone and call her.
  - She said she had great conversations with people that live here; there's a lot to love.
  - From people that come to visit Berkley she consistently hears, 'We love shopping and dining in Berkley. We wanted to buy a house in Berkley, but we couldn't. We looked high and low and we just couldn't get a house in Berkley.' So even people that don't live here secretly want to and they come to Berkley and they enjoy all the things that we have to offer. She said that if you're ever in doubt, we have a great community and we have much to be proud of.

- She said she will let everyone know when her next stop on the Mayor's Roadshow is via Instagram and Facebook.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:57 p.m.  
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin  
Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Black, Gavin, and Dean  
Nays: None  
Absent: Vilani  
Motion Approved.

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Bridget Dean, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk