

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTY-FIRST COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN  
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Steve Baker  
Councilmember Gary Elrod  
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin  
Councilmember Dennis Hennen  
Councilmember Gregory Patterson  
Mayor Bridget Dean

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Clarence Black

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Crystal VanVleck  
City Attorney Lisa Hamameh  
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell  
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeffrey Tong, Historical Committee and Museum Curator, showed a new poster the museum created consisting of all the famed Berkley restaurants of the past. They have 100 of the posters and the price is \$20 unframed and \$35 framed. Please visit the Museum to purchase.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025 and the 41st Regular City Council meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025.

Budgeted proposal from Spalding DeDecker for the completion of Design Engineering Services as it relates to the Bacon Avenue Water Main and Road Reconstruction Project.

Proposal for GIS Support Services from Spalding DeDecker in the not-to-exceed amount of \$55,000. Funding for this proposal would primarily come from accounts 592-536-821-000 (Water-Engineering) and 443-901-821-000 (Road Project-Engineering), but other accounts may be utilized based on actual usage.

Intergovernmental agreement with the Berkley School District as it relates to rapid flashing beacon installations on Catalpa Drive.

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

## ***Regular Agenda***

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

None.

Retainer Agreement for Legal Services re: review of City Manager's determination regarding ethics complaint and authorize the City Manager to sign.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-115-25

Seconded by Councilmember Baker

Ayes: Gavin, Patterson, Baker, Elrod and Dean

Nays: Hennen

Absent: Black

Motion Approved.

Public Comment:

Joshua Hunter, Berkley, spoke regarding the City Attorney's participation and the ethics complaint he submitted.

Revised Letter of Engagement with Shifman Fournier and authorize the City Manager to sign.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-116-25

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

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

Nays: None

Absent: Black

Motion Approved.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON**

- The Planning Commission met last week; they held a public hearing for the old Berkley Theater which is located at 2960 12 Mile Road. They had their special land use as well as their site plan. It was recommended for approval.

### **MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN**

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet on December 11th at 7 PM at the Community Center.
- The Library Board will meet on December 17th at 7 PM at the Library.

### **COUNCILMEMBER BAKER**

- The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) met on November 12th, and they will meet again on Wednesday, December 10th.
  - The holiday Hop And Shop on the Jolly Trolley is leaving the station December 4th, 6th, 11th, and 13th from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. There'll be a trolley that services the entire downtown; easy on, easy off, and you can do as much shopping and everything that you'd like to.
  - Santa Claus will be at the Library on December 7th from 10 AM to 12 PM.
  - For more information on that and other cool things in our downtown, visit [downtownberkley.com](http://downtownberkley.com).
- The Berkley Historical Committee met on November 18th and meets again on the 9th.
  - The Museum will be open during the Holiday Lights Parade coming up this Saturday. Come on in, warm up, and for more information, visit [berkleyhistory.com](http://berkleyhistory.com).

- They wanted to thank everybody again for their participation and support with the recent Roseland Park Cemetery tour.
  - Visit [berkeleyhistory.com](http://berkeleyhistory.com) if you'd like to see what they're up to.
- Chris Pirillo once said, "Passwords are like underwear. Don't let people see it. Change it very often, and you shouldn't share it with strangers." Today is Cyber Monday; password security is important. Holiday season is a prime target to go after folks that are looking for a quick buy or maybe aren't cyber savvy. The hackers will be looking for weaknesses in your devices or your connections and obviously trying to fool you into entering your passwords and things when you shouldn't be giving it to them. The best defense against these kinds of threats is to be aware of it. If you're not sure of a link, don't click on it. His final tip is be careful what you post on social media because anything you post can and will be used against you by an authoritarian regime.
- Please take care of yourselves and hug somebody you love.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN**

- The Zoning Board of Appeals will be meeting on December 8th. There are no cases, just some administrative matters that they have to take care of and setting next year's calendar.
- Attended a meeting in Hazel Park about drones where Amazon was showing their new drone delivery and it's going to be coming to Berkley. He said that this is mostly an awareness thing so if you start seeing drones overhead this is what's going on.
- The Tree Board met to review their upcoming outreach opportunities looking at their 2025 report and 2026 goals. Their next meeting will be on January 26th.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER ELROD**

- The Environmental Advisory Committee met on November 20th and began the process of compiling their agenda for next year and their accomplishments for the current year.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for January 16th at 6:30 PM in the Public Safety second floor conference room.
- Stated that he is now terrified from both Councilmember Hennen's and Baker's updates that Berkley is moving into a dystopian sci-fi novel.

#### **CITY MANAGER VANVLECK**

- No updates.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY HAMAMEH**

- No updates.

#### **MAYOR DEAN**

- Congratulated City Attorney Hamameh on being named the 91st president of the State Bar of Michigan. She said that this is a remarkable career achievement and speaks volumes about Ms. Hamameh. Not only as an attorney with a brilliant legal mind, but also as someone who upholds the highest standards of ethics. Berkley is very fortunate to have her.
- Congratulated Councilmember Hennen on being accepted as a 2026 fellow in Michigan State University's Michigan Political Leadership Program, otherwise known as MPLP. It is a 10-month public policy and leadership fellowship that brings together 24 emerging leaders from across the state of Michigan to build skills for effective solutions-focused governing.
- Gave a reminder that the Holiday Lights Parade is this Saturday at 5:30 PM. It'll start right around Cummings on 12 Mile and head down 12 Mile to Coolidge and at the gazebo where we will gather for Santa's arrival and the tree lighting. There will be hot chocolate there.
- She said that she had a Meet Your Mayor event at Mug and Jug on Friday, November 21st and it was a blast. Lots and lots of people were there from not only Berkley but Southfield, Lathrup Village and Huntington Woods as well and they're all pretty excited about the expansion that's going to happen there. For the next meet your mayor she'll be riding the jolly holiday trolley on Saturday, December 13th from 2 to 4 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:25 PM

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Absent: Black

Motion Approved.

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Bridget Dean, Mayor

***ATTEST:***

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Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk