

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00PM ON MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Mayor Bridget Dean
Councilmember Clarence Black
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Jessica Vilani

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer
City Attorney Dan Christ
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Department of Public Works Director Shawn Young
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Public Safety Director Matt Koehn
Facilities Manager Alex Brown

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MAYOR-LED MOMENT OF REFLECTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandra Porter, Berkley, spoke regarding the City's short-term rental ordinance.

Joel Ulferts, Berkley, spoke regarding the changes to on-street parking permits.

Steve Tomkowiak, Oak Park, Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit, spoke in opposition to M-64-24.

Jerry Naumann, Berkley, spoke in opposition to the proposed on-street parking permit changes.

Michael Turner, Berkley, thanked Officer Palmer for his help with an adolescent hawk that was stuck in the fence. He thanked Palmer for his devotion to our city.

Lisa Pereira, Berkley, asked questions regarding the proposed changes to the on-street parking permit process.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve the following Consent Agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024.

WARRANT: Matter of approving Warrant No.1400.

MOTION NO. M-62-24: Matter of approving the Flagstar Government Banking Public Unit Resolution and Master Signature Authorization Agreement changing the authorized signers on the bank account to the clerk, treasurer, and finance director.

MOTION NO. M-63-24: Matter of approving a proposal from Hubbel, Roth, and Clark for fiscal year 2024-2025 GIS Support Services in the not-to-exceed amount of \$28,000. 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.

MOTION NO. M-64-24: Matter of approving a Planned Unit Development Agreement for a multiple-family development on the east side of Coolidge Highway, south of Cambridge Road and north and south of Columbia Road. The applicant, Designhaus Architecture on behalf of WJ Ventures LLC, 2465 Columbia, 2468 Columbia and 2476 Columbia and 2475 Cambridge, is requesting the approval.

MOTION NO. M-65-24: Matter of receiving and filing an Advisory Opinion in response to alleged ethics violation under Section 2-40 of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances.

MOTION NO. M-66-24: Matter of approving the appointment to boards and commissions.

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

Nays: Vilani

Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

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

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation on the Revolving Energy Fund and sustainability efforts.

Facilities Manager Alex Brown presented regarding the Revolving Energy Fund and sustainability efforts. He defined the revolving energy fund and presented a graphic showing what will happen when this initiative is off the ground. He explained how it will work including funding, reinvestment, and energy savings. He explained the City's energy efficiency accomplishments to date: 1) installed 3 EV charging stations, with 6 total charging ports; 2) Converted the remaining facility lights and baseball fields to LED; 3) Updated wiring between City Hall and Public Safety, including installing submeter to accurately track usage; 4) HVAC improvement: new systems will be installed at Public Safety and the Library; 5) Achieved Gold Status in the Michigan Green Communities challenge for the last 3 years.

ORDINANCE NO. O-07-24: Matter of considering the Second Reading and Adoption of an ordinance to amend Section 106-36 Damage and Obstruction Prohibited Generally, Section 122-92 Established Use of Off-Street Parking Spaces, and Section 122-94 Parking in Residential Districts Between Certain Hours and add Section 122-96 Presumption from Ownership, Section 122-97 Vehicle Abandonment, and Section 122-98 On-Street Parking Prohibitions of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to update the policies and procedures for on-street parking and parking in municipal lots.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Ordinance No. O-07-24

Seconded by Councilmember Black

Ayes: Hennen, Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin and Dean
Nays: Patterson
Ordinance No. O-07-24 Approved.

Lisa Pereira, Berkley, asked questions regarding signage.

Thomas Stathopoulos, Berkley, spoke in opposition to O-07-24.

CLOSED SESSION: Matter of considering convening in closed session at the conclusion of the regular meeting to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h).

Councilmember Patterson moved to convene in Closed Session at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen.

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

Nays: None

COMMUNICATIONS

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- Environmental Advisory Committee will have no July meeting; they will next meet on August 15th on the second-floor of the Public Safety building.
- For the Berkley Area Chamber of Commerce, thank you to all of the participants and volunteers for Street Art Fest. She said it was a super fun event; her dog really enjoyed the Yappy Hour addition there. It's great to see all the creativity of our residents; a lot of hard work went into planning, including our own Department of Public Works and Public Safety Department who worked hard to make it a safe and fun event for everybody. CruiseFest is coming up soon; there are still T-shirt sponsorship opportunities available. If you're interested head to the Berkley Chamber website. She congratulated all the Berkley Has Heart contest winners; there will be another photography contest coming up this Fall in conjunction with the Bookley! events. She highlighted some beauty in our community: the Berkley has heart book is available for \$5. The book is the work of many of our residents and Chamber members; it includes listings of how to get to the murals in town. It makes a great gift for those that live nearby; all proceeds go to support the schools. Buy the books at Chamber events or reach out to her at jvilani@berkleymich.net.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's next meeting will be on August 8th at 7pm at the Community Center.
- The next Library Board meeting will be on August 21st at 7pm at the Library.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Downtown Development Authority met July 10th. Congrats to Ullman's who received a \$10,000 small business grant from American Express. Visit downtownberkley.com for more.
- The Historical Committee met on July 9th; they debriefed on their engagement and participation with residents at Art Bash and the Pride Block Party. Please come to the Museum, they're open from 2-4pm on Sundays and 10am-1pm on Wednesdays. You can learn more at berkleyhistory.com.
- Matthew McConaughey once said, "The person who invented the hamburger was smart; the person that invented the cheeseburger was a genius". For all of you who celebrate, happy hamburger week! Please hug somebody you love.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- Tree Board is on summer break but has a vacancy for a student position.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals heard five cases in July: they approved three variances for additions to homes and approved two new downtown murals. Their next meeting is Tuesday, August 13th at 7 pm with two cases for dimensional variances; they also have two vacancies for alternate positions.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- The Committee for Technology and Engagement had their first official meeting; he thanked Director Flora and Chief Innovation Officer Stan Lisica for their attendance. Their next meeting is tentatively set for September 11th. He said it's a great group and they're very excited. He gave a shout out to Karina Campbell and the Berkley Burn on their phenomenal softball tournament; the tournament took place all across the city, what was great about it was it brought people in from other towns. He said it got him thinking that along with Moms' and Dads' Clubs, the Cubs, the Burn, etc. that these are really cool events in our community that bring people here and gives us a chance to showcase. He said he lives 30 feet from the splash pad and it was fun to see the teams take a dip in the splash pad. He said he was out throwing with his daughter and he decided that since they live so close and it was hot he would take advantage of the splash pad for once. He said all Berkley residents should go to the splash pad and not be ashamed or surprised if they see him there.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- The Planning Commission will meet on July 22nd at 7 pm.
- The Beautification Advisory Committee met and will meet again on the 31st; at their last meeting they awarded Landscapes of The Year, you can look for nine signs popping up throughout the city.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER NATE GEINZER

- Last week he went to the summer Michigan Municipal Executives Conference. He said that as everyone knows, we are looking for a City Manager and that he wanted to let everyone know there is interest. He said he's had a chance to talk with a number of candidates, and did have a few people approach him specifically about the position.
- He said he had the opportunity to lead a session with a good friend of his called Whole Wellness that really looked at the meaning of life and whole wellness, encompassing physical, emotional and social wellbeing. Pay attention to your friends and family. He learned things through that group that he was not aware of and you don't know when someone is struggling with balancing those areas of life.

CITY ATTORNEY DAN CHRIST

- No updates.

MAYOR DEAN

- She thanked Mr. Otto for stepping up and serving on the Parks & Recreation Committee.
- She said it was brought to her attention that the Berkley Cares Pantry has lost some major funding. She said she is looking into how to be impactful in supporting not only the sustainability of this important community asset but also to raise awareness. She would like to recognize Berkley First Methodist Church because they have graciously allowed the food pantry to operate out of their lower level, shout out to Zach and Rachel Dunlap for being so involved in our community and to have met a need where they saw one. Our focus is time, talent, and treasure with emphasis on the treasure, because it really does take finances to make this pantry go. She proposes that the month of October will be Berkley Cares Month; we'll kick off fundraising with a pancake breakfast (date to be determined). She said she is looking for input from residents on how they would like to be involved. As a city it's Berkley We Care, right? There's a lot of things to care about, she said she is just shining a light on this one because the food pantry does such a phenomenal job. It's not just people in Berkley who are hungry but the surrounding communities.

