

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00PM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN

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

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer
City Attorney Jake Mertes
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Director of Communications Caitlin Flora
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Interim Parks & Recreation Director Dan McMinn
Public Safety Lt. Jordan Kobernick
Emergency Manager Jack Blanchard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve the Agenda as amended moving communications to follow item four and changing the wording of the closed session to include “consider subsequent Council action” at the end of item five.

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Absent: Baker

Motion Approved.

MAYOR-LED MOMENT OF REFLECTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Ward, Berkley, spoke regarding communication with the Department of Public Works.

Audriana Allen, Berkley, spoke regarding Berkley Municipal Code Sec. 22-42b Limitation on Number of Animals. She suggested that the ordinance be amended to allow a total of five animals with no more than three of either type.

Carolyn Locke, Berkley, spoke regarding parking near the ballfield.

Ed Gohl, Berkley, spoke regarding water in his yard due to a grading issue with the home next door.

Kevin McNaulty, Berkley, spoke regarding a housing development in Royal Oak that could affect the 12-town drain.

Eric Wheeler, Berkley, spoke regarding light pollution due to the LaSalette redevelopment.

Joel Ulferts, Berkley, spoke regarding the staff retreat.

Jay Sanders, Berkley, spoke regarding light pollution on Oxford.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve the following Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Black:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, July 22, 2024; Joint City Council meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2024; and City Council Work Session on Monday, July 22, 2024.

WARRANT: Matter of approving Warrant No.1401.

RESOLUTION NO. R-19-24: Matter of approving participation in the “Tie Michigan Teal” campaign to promote awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms.

MOTION NO. M-67-24: Matter of Considering Participation in the National Opioid Settlement and Authorize the Interim City Manager to Sign Participation Agreements on the City's Behalf.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-14-24: Matter of proclaiming September 2024 as National Suicide Prevention Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-15-24: Matter of proclaiming September 2024 as National Recovery Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-16-24: Matter of proclaiming September 2024 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-17-24: Matter of proclaiming September 2024 as National Preparedness Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-18-24: Matter of recognizing Mark Coon for his years of CruiseFest service.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Baker

Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

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

Councilmember Patterson read P-16-24 in its entirety.

Mayor Dean read P-18-24 honoring Mr. Coon in its entirety. Mark Coon was present to accept the proclamation.

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation from Communications Director Caitlin Flora regarding the City's new website.

Director Flora presented regarding the launch of the City's new website.

- With the new website, we will move to a new .gov domain.

- She stated there have been no safety concerns.
- She said also the community development department is launching BS&A online and online temporary parking permits.

She said she looks forward to the vision becoming a reality.

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-24: Matter of designating Saturday, December 7, 2024 for the Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony in Berkley and require the Committee to pay 40 percent of the event costs. The approval is conditional upon the submission of required items and documents prior to event dates.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Resolution No. R-20-24

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Absent: Baker

Resolution No. R-20-24 Approved.

Cindy Coon, Berkley, spoke on behalf of the Holiday Lights Parade planning committee.

Jack Blanchard, City of Berkley Emergency Manager, stated he plans most of the events. He said he worries that if you charge these groups then you are making less safe. He said the City bases its planning on activities; he said we have to be careful.

Roseanne Nicolai, Berkley, said there is new blood in the community, a lot of fun and excitement but that they need community support. She said it will be great this year; the website is Berkleyholidayparade.com.

MOTION NO. M-68-24: Matter of adopting the City of Berkley Annual Overnight Parking Policy.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-68-24

Seconded by Councilmember Black

Ayes: Vilani, Black, Gavin, Hennen and Dean

Nays: Patterson

Absent: Baker

Motion No. M-68-24 Approved.

Joel, Berkley, spoke regarding permit limits and parking use patterns.

Lisa Herrera, Berkley, spoke regarding the increase in applications and how accumulated data would be reviewed.

COMMUNICATIONS

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- From the Environmental Advisory Committee, get your garden shovels ready for the Fall Plant Sale coming up on September 15th from 10am -2pm on Robina outside the Community Center. The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 22nd at 6:30pm in the second-floor conference room of the Public Safety building.
- For the Berkley Area Chamber of Commerce, this Friday morning is the Chamber Chat at Vibe Credit Union. Get a supercool, bright orange CruiseFest t-shirt ahead of everyone else; they are on sale for \$20 at Ullman's and Be Well Lifestyle Center. They will also be available in front of the theater the night of CruiseFest for \$20.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- The next Library Board meeting will be on August 21st at 6:30pm at the Library.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's will meet next on October 10th at 7pm at the Community Center.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Tree Board is still on its summer hiatus, meetings will resume on September 23rd.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals meets tomorrow, August 13th to hear two cases on dimensional variances at residential homes.
- He and Councilmember Patterson were able to attend a tour of regional water and waste facilities with staff. Two facts he said he wanted to share: Berkley uses 1 million gallons of water a day and our water is tested for water quality every week. They also saw the composting facility. He mentioned he saw some compost bags with bag tags. He said that got him to thinking that he would love to reevaluate that process at the end of the season.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- No updates.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- The Planning Commission will next meet on August 27th in Council Chambers at City Hall.
- The Beautification Advisory Committee will meet on August 28th in the second-floor conference room of the Public Safety building.
- He thanked Mr. Young and Mr. McMinn for the great regional water and waste facilities tour. He said they were able to meet and have a really robust conversation with our new SOCCRA manager, Mr. Griffin, who is a Berkley resident. He said he had great discussions with him and the staff as they toured the facilities. His tip of advice: do not put plastic bags in recycle bins (they destroy the machines), take them to a local grocery store for recycling instead.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER NATE GEINZER

- Shouted out Mr. Blanchard, the election security plan he helped author has become the Oakland County standard. City Clerk Mitchell has been receiving calls from all over the state for a copy of that plan.
- The Michigan Municipal League has a program called 16/50; this project is about bringing more gender balance to top municipal management positions. He read the mission: with a focus on the unique skills and challenges that women bring to and face in the profession the 16/50 project will work to deliver impactful education and awareness to remove barriers for women seeking the highest level of the profession, provide exclusive professional development opportunities, and Foster key opportunities for a new generation of female leaders. The three focus areas are: 1) elected officials' impact; 2) professional development for advancing women, women executives and those who seek to become them face unique challenges; by providing women with content tools and opportunities that can help serve their specific needs 16/50 will develop strong local managers and strong local communities; 3) developing tomorrow's women managers, in order to achieve greater equality and local government executive offices we must attract a new generation of women graduates to the profession.
- He said he is very proud to announce that Assistant to the City Manager Charlaine Stevenson was selected as one of 35 participants this year out of a total of 80 applicants.

CITY ATTORNEY JAKE MERTES

- No updates

MAYOR DEAN

- Said that Councilmember Baker asked her to read his communications:
 - The Historical Committee meets tomorrow, Tuesday at 7pm in the second-floor conference room of the Public Safety building.
 - The DDA board meets the next morning, Wednesday at 8:15 am also in the second-floor conference room of the Public Safety building.
 - His quote is from Jim Rohn, "Take care of your body, it is the only place you have to live."

- She gave a shoutout to Mr. Blanchard, she said in her estimation he is truly a public servant. When there is a need he responds, he asks for no recognition, he gets no pay. She said the City is fortunate to have someone as dedicated as he is with the skill set that he has and we are eternally grateful.
- Attended the Michigan Association of Mayors in Big Rapids with mayors from across the state of Michigan. She said they enjoyed some great sessions, in particular How Mayors Can Positively Impact Economic Development; one of the speakers on that panel was Maryann McLellan from Oak Park. Economic development is a 20 plus year process. She said she got a lot of ideas. She feels very invigorated from spending time in that environment.

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

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

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Baker

THE CLOSED SESSION OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:02 PM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Clarence Black
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Jessica Vilani

Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Mayor Bridget Dean

ABSENT: Councilmember Baker

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
City Attorney Jake Mertes
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Public Safety Lieutenant Jordan Kobernick
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Building Official Emily Loomis

Members of Council considered material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h).

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:49 pm

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Absent: Baker

Nays: None.

Motion Approved.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED BACK TO ORDER AT 9:52PM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Clarence Black
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Dennis Hennen

Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Councilmember Jessica Vilani
Mayor Bridget Dean

ABSENT: Councilmember Steve Baker

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Nate Geinzer
City Attorney Jake Mertes
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young

MOTION NO. M-69-24: Matter of directing staff to bring back recommendations to amend the city's rental ordinance to include new definitions and regulations for short-term rentals pursuant to communications held in closed session to discuss the attorney's confidential and privileged letter.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-69-24

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

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

Nays: None

Absent: Baker

Motion No. M-69-24 Approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Baker

Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk