

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:06 PM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely from Fort Bragg, NC on military duty)
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Councilmember Jessica Vilani
Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
City Attorney Dan Christ
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dan McMinn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve the Agenda with the removal of items two-four on the Regular Agenda.
Seconded by Councilmember Vilani
Ayes: Black, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Maslowsky, Berkley, spoke regarding her concerns over violations of the noise ordinance by an 11 Mile Road business.

Bob Sullivan, Berkley, spoke regarding his concerns over violations of the noise ordinance by an 11 Mile Road business.

Mary Stoia, Berkley, spoke regarding her concerns over vibrations and violations of the noise ordinance by an 11 Mile Road business.

Josh Hunter, Berkley, asked questions regarding the budget to actual report via email.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve the following Consent Agenda with the correction of changing the second Resolution WHEREAS from MCL 211.?u to MCL 211.7u. in R-01-25 and moving M-04-25 from the consent agenda to the regular 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, January 27, 2025 and Special Work Session on Monday, January 27, 2025.

WARRANT: Matter of approving Warrant No.1407.

MOTION NO. M-03-25: Matter of approving a motion deeming the attached vehicles and equipment as surplus to be sold via public auction or disposed of.

MOTION NO. M-05-25: Matter of authorizing the City Manager to sign the Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase for Donna Reid-Cronin approving 24 months of additional service credit. This purchase is allowed by the City of Berkley MERIT System of Human Resource Management Section 1001.08 and meets all of the requirements of the MERS Plan Document which would allow for this service credit purchase.

ORDINANCE NO. O-01-25: Matter of approving the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to Amend Article II, Collection and Disposal of Chapter 58, Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to clarify requirements for containers for garbage versus rubbish and to clarify pick-up times for emptied garbage and rubbish containers.

RESOLUTION NO. R-01-25: Matter of approving the Resolution for updated Poverty Exemption guidelines with the correction of changing the second Resolution WHEREAS from MCL 211.?u to MCL 211.7u.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

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

None.

MOTION NO. M-04-25: Matter of approving a budgeted purchase of a new Street Sweeper from Nescon LLC, of Mesa AZ, in the amount of \$360,645.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-04-25

Seconded by Councilmember Baker

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

Nays: Patterson

Motion Approved.

Bob Sullivan, Berkley, praised the DPW department.

MOTION NO. M-07-25: Matter of authorizing the Mayor to execute a third party Specialized Services Operating Assistance contract between SMART and the City of Berkley for public transportation services primarily designed for senior citizens and disabled persons. The contract period for this program is from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-07-25

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

ORDINANCE NO. O-02-25: Matter of approving the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to Repeal Chapter 94 Signs, Repeal and Replace Chapter 138 Zoning and Repeal and Replace the City of Berkley's Zoning Map in order to move sign regulations to the Zoning Ordinance, match the recommendations of the City's Master Plan, and modernize sign and zoning regulations. Approval of the first reading includes changes to signage requirements requiring a 3-foot setback instead of a 5-foot setback.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Ordinance No. O-02-25

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

Ayes: Baker, Gavin, Hennen and Dean

Nays: Vilani, Black, Patterson

Motion Approved.

Ms. Megan Masson-Minnock, HRC, presented regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

Public Comment:

Latrell Livingston, Berkley, spoke regarding O-02-25.

Bob Sullivan, Berkley, spoke regarding O-02-25.

ORDINANCE NO. O-03-25: Matter of approving the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to Amend Section 106-107, Restricted Area and Section 106-108, Shrubs and Bushes of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to address inconsistencies between the draft Zoning Ordinance and certain provisions of the City Code.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Ordinance No. O-03-25

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

ORDINANCE NO. O-04-25: Matter of approving the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to Amend Chapter 110, Subdivision and Combination of Land of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to clarify lot split and combination procedures consistent with current City procedures and to add Chapter 109 Subdivisions to provide regulations for subdivision development.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Ordinance No. O-04-25

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

ORDINANCE NO. O-05-25: Matter of approving the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to amend Chapter 26, Buildings and Building Regulations to adopt Article IX, Engineering Design Standards and to Repeal Section 126-71 through 126-75 and Article V of Chapter 126 of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Ordinance No. O-05-25

Seconded by Councilmember Baker
Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN:

- Tree Board met last month, they are continuing to look for grant opportunities, preparing a recap of its 2024 accomplishments and setting its goals for 2025. The Board's next meeting is tonight, February 24th.
- Zoning Board of Appeals had no cases in February and has no cases for March.
- He said that he will be holding office hours this Saturday, March 1st from 12-2 PM at the Library.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- Committee for Engagement and Transparency did not meet due to the snow emergency. The Committee will next meet on March 12th.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- Planning Commission's February 25th meeting is canceled.
- Beautification Advisory Committee does not meet in the winter.
- Heart Health Month is winding down, though you still have time to wear red to support those with heart and heart-related diseases.

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- Environmental Advisory Committee would like to remind residents of the Native Plant Sale which will take place on June 1st from 10 AM–2 PM at the Community Center. For all of those enjoying the recent warm weather and thinking about their gardens, they'll be able to help with that.
- No updates from Berkley Area Chamber of Commerce.
- She gave a big thanks to the DPW crew for taking care of all of the snow emergencies and keeping our roads clear. She said it is a very marked difference of how well maintained our roads are compared to other communities – clear and safe.
- She gave a huge thank you to our Public Safety Department. Recently in her neighborhood group chat, someone said that the fire inspector tested all of their smoke detectors. She said the Department has grant dollars that support this; she reminded everyone that Public Safety is there to help with non-emergencies as well. She commended Berkley detectives and our School Resource Officer for their great work keeping our children safe recently.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- Registration for Winter II Parks & Rec programs is ongoing and available on the new recreation registration site. The new website can be reached by visiting berkleymi.gov and clicking on Parks & Rec programs under the sign up on the main page.
- Registration for Spring Break vacation camp is open. The camp will run from Monday, March 24th through Thursday, March 27th; registration is available online.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will next meet on March 13th at 7 PM at the Community Center.
- For the Library Board, the February 12th meeting was canceled; the Board's next meeting will be on March 19th at the Library.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Historical Committee would like to spotlight a new exhibit in the Museum: Memories of 12 Mile. Composed of over 80 pictures of storefronts ranging from the 1920s to the early 2000s. The exhibit is available through mid-March.
- Downtown Development Authority met on February 12th; new Interim Director Jennifer Finney was at the helm keeping everything going. The DDA Board discussed the marquee on the building that used to be Rite Aid and members approved spending for interior maintenance to the structure of the building. They talked about place making activities on Robina at 12 Mile and Dorothea at Coolidge; there will be a working group coming together in March to explore ideas around a pilot to activate that space and see how to make the space enjoyable. For more information, visit downtownberkeley.com.
- Sarah Maclean once said, "The best partnerships are not dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equity, equality, desire and no small amount of passion." Recently, he had the great pleasure and opportunity to meet with representatives of the Berkley school district; it reflects a strong partnership between these two organizations. These are two different entities and it's great to collaborate and better understand the projects they have underway. He said that he shared with the District some of the City's projects, including Dorothea, and it was great to have interactions around the timing of construction. These are signs of good partnerships.
- Hug someone you love.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- The Dorothea working group will be meeting on March 13th at 5 PM at Coffee and Bark to talk about the Robina closure. Everyone is invited to participate in the conversation about the street closure

for a pilot period; she encouraged anyone with stake in the downtown to help think about how to activate that space.

CITY ATTORNEY CHRIST

- None

MAYOR DEAN

- Said her update was meant for the February 3rd meeting that was canceled. She said she was on two Teams meetings, one with Senator Slotkin, who had invited Mayors and City Managers. It was a non-participatory meeting but she said she got a lot of information. She talked about the federal funding freeze. She said Senator Slotkin communicated that she sees and hears the angst. She said Senator Slotkin asks for some grace as federal departments navigate these uncharted waters. They were given immigration resources and information as well on Congressionally-directed funding, which is an opportunity to get federal resources into our community. She said that they were encouraged to start thinking about projects in Berkley to submit for funding. And lastly, Senator Slotkin talked about the scarcity of work-housing. She said she also met with Congresswoman Stevens who talked about housing again. It is an issue that needs to be tackled.
- Winterfest – she thanked Superintendent McMinn for the work he and his team put in; they did a wonderful job and it was very cold. She thanked and listed all of the sponsors, she said that without them the event couldn't take place.
- Commended our DPW for their incredible work, she said she lost count of the incidents they responded to but she's sure they didn't. Weather, infrastructure, and aging pipe materials are all factors; she thanked them for doing their job tirelessly.
- Congratulated Rachel Patterson on her second year with the Clerk's Office and welcomed Jennifer Finney in her role as Interim DDA Director.
- Her latest stop on the Mayor's Road Show was at Ullman's on Saturday; she said she loved it. She said she had a great couple of hours talking to residents about their concerns and hearing all the things they love about Berkley. She said it feeds her soul but also helps her to know what people are thinking about and what's important to them. She said to check Instagram for the next stop on the Mayor's Road Show. She said she followed that up with a grand opening ribbon-cutting for Legato Salon and Spa; she said the salon looks beautiful and she wishes them success.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:52 PM
Seconded by Councilmember Vilani
Ayes: Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Black, Gavin, Hennen and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk