

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7 PM ON MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black
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 Attorney Dan Christ
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Communication Director Caitlin Flora
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Department of Public Works Superintendent Adam Wozniak

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Taylor Mckenna Dean, Huntington Woods, spoke regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Jordan Dean, Huntington Woods, spoke regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Paul Baldes, Berkley, spoke regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Justin Simpson, Berkley, spoke regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Katelyn Miller, Berkley, spoke regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Abby Kieltyka, Berkley, spoke regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Christine DelPizzo, owner of Little Seedlings, read an email from Councilmember Hennen and spoke regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Chad Linton, Berkley, spoke regarding Little Seedlings and asked if Mayor Dean would recuse herself if it came back for reconsideration.

City Clerk Mitchell read citizen comments submitted via email:

- Aaron Kieltyka, Berkley, emailed regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.
- Jordan Dean, Huntington Woods, emailed regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

- Justin Simpson, Berkley, emailed regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.
- Katelyn Miller, Berkley, emailed regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.
- Taylor McKenna, Berkley, emailed regarding Little Seedlings and other daycare providers in Berkley.

Dan Christ, City Attorney, said that he reviewed the City's ethics ordinance and stated there was no ethics violation. He said that he does not view the Mayor as having a personal interest in the matter that came before the Council last meeting, considering whether or not to issue a special land use approval. He said Mayor Dean did not have a personal interest, and he does not see an ethics violation with respect to her participation in the vote.

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, March 3, 2025 and the Special City Council meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025.

WARRANT: Matter of approving Warrant No. 1408.

MOTION NO. M-10-25: Matter of authorizing the City Manager to sign the Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase for Shawn Knight approving 24 months of additional service credit. This purchase is allowed by the MAP - Berkley Police Service Aide Association Contract Agreement dated 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2027 and the MERS Plan Document for active members. The total cost calculated by MERS included on the Application for Additional Service Credit is \$28,866 and the City of Berkley's share of that cost is \$22,977.86.

MOTION NO. M-11-25: Matter of approving the 2025 Summer Maintenance Agreement between the Road Commission for Oakland County and the City of Berkley. The City will be reimbursed a total of \$1,848 which will be paid in two installments, \$1,201.20 due in September 2025 and \$646.80 due upon completion of last maintenance activity.

MOTION NO. M-12-25: Matter of approving an agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County for the use of Tri-Party funds for the Greenfield Road Repaving Project.

MOTION NO. M-13-25: Matter of approving a budgeted purchase of a new Skid Steer from AIS Construction Equipment Co., New Hudson MI, in the amount of \$105,145.93. This purchase is budgeted under the account number 226-528-982-000 (Public Services — Equipment).

MOTION NO. M-14-25: Matter of approving an agreement with DTE Energy for LED Street-lighting Upgrades in the amount of \$115,488.77.

MOTION NO. M-15-25: Matter of approving the DNR IRA Grant application. The grant would award \$149,731 with a no-match requirement for the City of Berkley.

MOTION NO. M-16-25: Matter of approving the appointments of Joshua Church to the Environmental Advisory Committee and Andrea Ozanich to the Historical Committee.

ORDINANCE NO. O-04-25: Matter of approving the second reading and adoption 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.

ORDINANCE NO. O-05-25: Matter of approving the second reading and adoption 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.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-04-25: Matter of proclaiming March as Reading Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-05-25: Matter of proclaiming March 2025 as Women's History Month.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-06-25: Matter of proclaiming March 2025 as Severe Weather Month.

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.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin read P-04-25 in entirety.

Councilmember Vilani read P-05-25 in its entirety.

ORDINANCE NO. O-02-25: Matter of approving the second reading and adoption 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. Councilmember Baker moved to approve Ordinance No. O-02-25

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: Patterson

Motion Approved.

ORDINANCE NO. O-03-25: Matter of approving the second reading and adoption 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.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Ordinance No.O-03-25

Seconded by Councilmember Black

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-17-25: Matter of receiving updates to the City of Berkley Fee Schedule.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-17-25

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-18-25: Matter of approving a lease agreement for the use of the marquee.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Motion No. M-18-25

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- The Committee for Engagement and Transparency did not have a quorum this month. He said that they are hoping to coordinate everyone's schedules next month.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Zoning Board of Appeals had no cases in March and none are scheduled for April.
- He attended a meeting at SEMCOG; it was a great session on developing main streets, focusing on building leadership, organization, and funding. There was a lot of great content that he will share.
- For the city staff, he asked them to prepare additional details on some of the regular grant opportunities available, helping to fine-tune their asks and identify which ones make sense while avoiding the ones that may not work out. He said they are also working with other partners in the community to collaborate on these efforts.
- The Tree Board's next meeting is March 24th at 7 PM in the Public Safety Conference Room.
 - The Tree Board is looking to add more trees in Oxford Park. Tonight, Council approved a grant application that the Tree Board and DPW have been working on for 100 new trees, which would be both street trees and trees at some schools. The project includes education, outreach, and funds to complete our tree inventory to help manage and plan for the future. If awarded, it would be a no-match grant of \$150,000. However, it's currently in limbo as the federal government has frozen these funds, and the future remains uncertain.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Historical Committee met last Tuesday, March 11th; they continue to refresh the exhibits in the Museum and are partnering with the Berkley First United Methodist Church on a display currently at the church, which will move to the Museum at the end of April.
- A new "Museum's Corner" newsletter is out. If you haven't seen it, it's on the website and available at the Museum for free. This edition features an article about a special teacher.
- The Historical Committee is also in talks with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) about collaborating on activities in October, including a cemetery tour at Roseland Park. There are also rumors about Berkley Days moving to October as a fall event.
- The DDA met the next day, Wednesday, March 12th. They are planning great activities and need volunteers; whether for a couple of hours or in a larger role, anyone can get involved by reaching out through the Authority's website. The search for a permanent executive director continues, with progress being made. Members are also focusing on the Robina placemaking project and developments at the Dorotha Pocket Park.
- He shared a quote from anonymous, "Never iron a four-leaf clover because you never want to press your luck." He then read a limerick that he wrote: "On St. Patrick's, we revel and cheer, with friends and family we all hold dear. Raise a toast, dance with flair, but stay safe and aware, for good luck and health all the year."
- Please be safe, take it easy, and hug someone you love.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- For the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:
 - Space is still available for Spring Break Camp from March 24th to the 27th. Summer specialty camps are open for registration, including boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and cheer camp. More details are available on the website.
 - The next Advisory Board meeting is April 10th at 7 PM at the Community Center.

- The Library Board will next meet on March 19th at 7 PM at the Library.
 - He said that an executive order at the federal level aims to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which could impact grants, Michigan's Activity Pass program, and MelCat lending services. Berkley cardholders borrow about 600 items annually through MelCat, so this would significantly affect our community.
 - March is Friends of the Library membership month. You can join or renew online.
 - The Phil Hale Jazz Quartet will perform on April 9th at 6:30 PM. Phil Hale is a Detroit-area keyboard player and composer with over 50 years of experience. You can register for the event online.

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- The Environmental Advisory Committee meets next on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 PM at the Public Safety Building.
- From the Berkley Area Chamber:
 - Sponsorships for the Street Art Festival on July 12th are available for businesses.
 - Chalk Art Fest registrations will open soon.
 - The "Berkley Has Heart" photography contest ends May 11th. It's open to all ages and abilities, showcasing what you love about the community.
- March is Reading Month, and she encouraged everyone to put down their devices and pick up a book! The Library offers books for all ages, as well as book clubs. Local businesses like Mongers and Dog & Pony Show also host book clubs. The Library even has two dogs that children can read to. Take advantage of these opportunities!

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- Said that as a teacher, he agrees—students should be reading more and spending less time online.
- The Planning Commission meets tomorrow at 7 PM here to discuss an amendment to the PUD on Columbia.
- Welcomed back Councilmember Black and said it was good to see him in person.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- The informal working group for the Dorothea pilot pocket park closure met for the first time, full of energy and ideas. The next meeting is being scheduled; if interested, email Recreation or cmo@berkley.gov.
- Said that budget work sessions will be April 28-29th from 6-10 PM in the Public Safety Conference Room, open to the public.
- The City is hiring right now; check the city website for job listings.
- Lastly, a tornado test is scheduled for March 19th at 1 PM. Follow us on Facebook for updates.

CITY ATTORNEY DAN CHRIST

- No update.

MAYOR DEAN

- Homestratosphere.com listed the 25 best suburbs to live in in the Detroit area, and Berkley came in at number seven. She said her reasons Berkley should be number one include:
 - The Fish Fry at the Legion, which kicked off on March 7th, with many in attendance and an energizing atmosphere;
 - The Off to the Races event with Friends of Berkley Public Schools, which had lots of good energy and goodwill;
 - The ribbon cutting at Council Resale, which has been in Berkley for 30 years and recently expanded into the space next door, solidifying its mission to continue doing what they do but also recommitting in a deeper way to the City of Berkley;
 - The pocket park meeting at Coffee & Bark, where councilmembers, members of staff, business owners, and others including, a high school student, were in attendance. She thanked City Manager VanVleck for walking them through the potential possibilities and

- gathering feedback from residents and visitors who are using it so that when the plan really takes shape, it is based on metrics and use that has been identified. She said the City received a planning grant from SEMCOG to do the preliminaries on the pocket park and had renderings from Carlisle Wortman as a great starting point;
- Reading to fifth graders at Angell Elementary School; the students were incredible, and the visit was invigorating and encouraging;
 - The next stop of the Mayor's Road Show is March 29th at ToadVine Books from 1–3 PM. She said she is looking forward to it and thanked the owner Luke for hosting; and
 - Councilmembers heading to Lansing for the Michigan Municipal League Capital conference to learn and come back with ideas.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:06 PM

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk