

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTY-FIRST COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN  
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 BY MAYOR DEAN**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Steve Baker  
Councilmember Gary Elrod  
Councilmember Dennis Hennen  
Councilmember Gregory Patterson  
Mayor Bridget Dean

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Clarence Black  
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Crystal VanVleck  
City Attorney Matthew Zalewski  
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young  
Parks & Recreation Director Dan McMinn  
Deputy City Clerk Rachel Patterson  
Lieutenant Andrew Hadfield

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andrew McIndoo, Berkley, spoke regarding the updated Five-Year Recreation Master Plan.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Warrant List No. 1418.

Design services proposal from Spalding DeDecker for the Library Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project.

Resolution establishing the policy and guidelines for granting an exemption from payment of property taxes.

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

***Regular Agenda***

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

None.

### **Presentation: 2025 Board & Commission Achievements.**

Deputy City Clerk Rachel Patterson presented the 2025 achievements of city boards and commissions:

- **Beautification Advisory Committee**
  - Cleaned up garden beds outside the Public Safety building, Friends Park and the Community Center.
  - Walked in the Holiday Lights Parade and orchestrated a beautiful luminary display at Bacon Park.
- **Environmental Advisory Committee**
  - Very active at community events, operating their popular bike corral to promote clean air in Berkley and use of alternative transportation.
  - Organized several opportunities for residents to recycle and reduce waste.
- **Historical Committee**
  - Continued to attract visitors, with an average of 11/week plus large numbers during events (many of these were new visitors coming to purchase our immensely popular 3D Santa ornaments, designed and 3D printed by a committee member).
  - Provided informational historical displays, newsletters, answers to resident questions and research requests as well as popular social media posts all devoted to Berkley history.
- **Library Board**
  - Reviewed and updated several policies as well as their bylaws.
  - Created opportunities for members to engage with local groups that provide support and professional development for board members.
- **P&R Advisory Board**
  - Amplified P&R programming and accomplishments.
  - Diligently worked on the 5-year plan including multiple community engagement meetings.
- **Tree Board**
  - Planted thirty 2024 DTE grant awarded trees in the spring of 2025 as well as two Sweetgum trees at Oxford Park in celebration of Arbor Day.
  - Participated in many community events, including Street Art Fest, Touch-a-Truck, Boo!kley Monster Mash and the Holiday Lights Parade.

### **Presentation: 2025 Strategic Framework Annual Report.**

City Manager VanVleck presented regarding the report:

- **Vision, Mission, Values**
  - Mission: Berkley will strive to enhance economic vitality, preserve neighborhoods, and foster progress to implement the City's vision and values.
  - Vision: Berkley will be a thriving 21st-century municipality, rooted in strong neighborhoods and a walkable design, supported by a caring community that helps every resident, business, and visitor to flourish.
  - Values: Caring, Innovative, Welcoming, Active
- **Priority Area 1: Organizational Effectiveness**
  - Objective: Cultivate a strong organizational culture
    - The Human Resources Director has created and implemented a robust performance appraisal process, and provided a thorough training to all supervisors to assist them in completing effective evaluations.
    - The City Manager and Human Resources Director completed a citywide tour, meeting with every department/employee to discuss the Strategic Framework, the functions and future of HR, and open enrollment (including the introduction of a Flexible Spending Account benefit).
    - We have held three all-staff trainings this year, one with a focus on fostering a resilient, growth mindset, one on the Freedom of Information Act, and one on Emergency Management
    - Professional development has been a high priority this year. In addition to the all-staff training, the Human Resources Director implemented several leadership training

- opportunities and resources, and staff have attended a wide range of training, certification programs, and continued education.
- Leadership Staff: Getting Comfortable with Conflict Training
  - Leadership Staff: LinkedIn Learning pilot program with assigned Leadership curriculum
  - Leadership Staff: Michigan Municipal League risk management met with leadership to conduct Workers Compensation training and a Q&A session
  - Matt Wells and Adam Wozniak, both from DPW, attended a NASSCO recertification class and successfully completed and passed the PACP, LACP, and MACP. These certifications allow us to camera and rate our sewer system internally.
  - Two BDPS staff attended training to become Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technicians. Five BDPS PSOs attended OakTac High Risk Unified Command training.
  - Facilities Manager, Alex Brown, earned the Certified Facility Manager (CFM) credential.
  - All 40 Summer Camp Counselors were provided in-depth training before the start of camp.
  - The City Clerk attended the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks conference and the State of Michigan Bureau of Elections training in Lansing.
  - City Manager and Deputy City Manager attended the ICMA (International City County Manager's Association) annual conference.
  - The Human Resources Director attended the MPELRA (Michigan Public Employer Labor Relations Association) Conference
  - Community Development staff (Kristen and Kim) both attended the Michigan Association of Planning conference.
  - The Community Development Director attended the Michigan Economic Development Association Basic Course.
  - The IT Director attended the GrrCON Michigan Cybersecurity Conference and the annual BS&A conference.
  - The Deputy City Treasurer attended the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association Conference.
  - Public Safety employees continue to complete mandatory and voluntary training and professional development in law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical service and dispatch.
  - Objective: Optimize organization, structure, staffing, policies/procedures, and level of service
    - The Treasury and Finance Departments consolidated shared responsibilities and created greater efficiency.
    - Parks and Recreation, Facilities, and Public Works were consolidated under Berkley Public Services. This has created shared resources and responsibilities of multiple departments that consistently work together to deliver various services.
    - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed citywide.
    - Clerk's office staff and Community Development staff have completed cross-training with Treasury.
    - The Clerk's office spearheaded the transformation of the Board and Commissions appointment process and Boards and Commissions handbook. The first phase has been completed, and they are now gearing up to work with the Ad Hoc Committee on Phase 2.
    - Human Resources has seen a transformation this year under the leadership of our HR Director. She has successfully engineered a comprehensive recruitment and onboarding infrastructure. This effort focused on three key areas: standardizing hiring procedures (from job postings to interviewing), updating essential compliance paperwork (including background checks and registration forms), and creating formal workflows for personnel management.
    - An audit of personnel files was completed by the Human Resources Department to ensure all forms have been properly documented.

- Successfully transitioning to new providers for several key services—including the city attorney, engineering firm, assessing firm, and healthcare benefits administrator—was achieved through the release of RFPs, and a thorough interview and onboarding process. These changes are already helping to significantly enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the organization.
- Cross department collaborations:
  - Community Development and DPW have been meeting weekly with the new Engineering consultant, Spalding DeDecker to establish and update processes for performance guarantees, private site inspections, pre-construction, engineering construction plan review, site plan review, and residential grading and as-built review. With the help of the IT Director, Stan Lisica, they have been working on GIS services set-up and expansion.
  - The staff Parking Committee (CD, DPW, City Manager's Office, Public Safety) is working towards implementation of the recently updated and approved Overnight Parking Policy, including the issuance of overnight parking passes for municipal lots.
  - Community Development, the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager of Public Services recently met to address short and long-term plans for snow removal in commercial districts.
  - Community Development, DPW and Public Safety have been working on a revamp of the code process, including nuisance abatement updates.
- City Administration, led by the Clerk's office, have processed 159 general FOIA requests this year. In addition, the City Manager processed ten FOIA appeals. While the Freedom of Information Act is a fundamental right that upholds accountability and trust, we also have a responsibility to ensure that the City's limited resources are serving the entire community. I'm incredibly proud of our team for accomplishing so many of our key objectives this year, even under the strain that the frequent FOIA requests and appeals can have on our most finite resource - time.
- Objective: Foster stronger relationships with community and regional partners
  - The Human Resources Director attended the OAKMAC-SHRM/PSHRA roundtable discussion with other HR professionals.
  - The Clerk's office entered into a partnership with Oakland County and other neighboring communities to create a regional Early Voting Center, staff attended the City of Ferndale's all-day FOIA training, and the City Clerk worked the Clawson May election gaining strategies to help strengthen the City's election process.
  - The Communications Director has attended several SEMCOG Communicators Network meetings, and several SOCRRA networking events, including a tour of the SOCRRA Material Recovery Facility. She recently worked with community engagement/communications representatives from Royal Oak, Clawson, Berkley Schools, Clawson Schools, and Royal Oak Schools to plan the annual MLK Day of Service. Additionally, she worked with Berkley Cares Food Pantry leadership to create a partnership between the pantry and the City as well as fostering engagement with Vibe Credit Union in Downtown Berkley. This partnership means that donation boxes for the pantry will be available year-round at City Hall, the Library, the Community Center, the Public Safety building, and the Vibe Credit Union lobby to create easy opportunities for residents to donate to the pantry.
  - The Communications Department and Community Development represented Berkley at the Southeast Oakland Safety Plan Communications Training to strategize how to promote safe streets in our community and neighboring communities.
  - The Community Development Director and the City Manager each attended M-1 Corridor Plan Meetings led by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). These meetings are attended by communities along the Woodward Corridor, MDOT, and a consultant to refine specific design options for each segment of the corridor.
  - The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Director attended several Michigan Downtown Association's (MDA) workshops, all Main Street Oakland County Manager meetings, and the Main Street Oakland County Main event

- Berkley DPS personnel continue to lead regional cooperation in training, preparation, response, and recovery to major incidents. Several City departments planned and successfully implemented several major events, including CruiseFest and the Woodward Dream Cruise. Under the leadership of Berkley DPS personnel, there was unprecedented interagency cooperation during these events. Additionally, BDPS assisted several other municipalities throughout the region with their events.
- Members of the City Council and the City Manager attended quarterly meetings with representatives from the Berkley School District. These meetings ensure communication and collaboration between the two organizations.
- Objective: Identify and implement innovative operational solutions
  - We are near completion with BS&A system enhancements, including the automation of the accounts payable process, bond/escrow payments and equipment rental streamlining.
  - We have almost completed the CivicPlus migration for agenda management and Boards and Commission Program
  - Finance Department made large strides in innovating processes this year:
    - The Finance Department created a master miscellaneous receivables tracker and a monthly billing checklist.
    - The Treasury Department updated its processes by uploading supporting documentation for miscellaneous cash receipts, which has eliminated paper copies.
  - The City has made large strides in digitizing processes and documents.
    - The Community Development Department has made all permitting, except those that require a detailed plan review, available online.
    - The Public Safety Department has implemented the parking permit portal and is almost a paperless department.
    - The Clerk's Office and the IT Department have been working diligently to scan all documents within the retention schedule
    - The Clerk's office has digitized its peddler application process and digitizing contracts.
    - Community Development has created QR codes for common permits so residents can access them on the BS&A online or fillable PDFs of permit applications.
    - Library staff are continuing to tag and program the Library's Collection with Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID) to help with checking out and returning materials.
- Priority Area 2: Economic Sustainability
  - Objective: Identify, prioritize, and deploy economic development tools
    - The Community Development Director and the City Manager introduced the PILOT Workforce Housing ordinance to City Council, which was ultimately adopted. The City has received the first application, with the Community Development Department reviewed and brought to City Council.
    - After the release of an RFP, a consultant (Better City) was chosen, and an agreement was approved for the Economic Development Strategy. The Community Development Director, City Manager, and DDA Director have bi-monthly meetings scheduled with the Better City team throughout the six-month process.
    - The Community Development Director and the City Manager met with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for project-specific questions, and to identify tools available for current and potential development projects in the City. The City Manager submitted a letter of support to the MEDC for a low-interest loan opportunity for The Columbia.
    - Community Development has received and reviewed policy write-ups for payment in lieu of parking and leasing of municipal parking spaces from Carlisle Wortman.
    - The updated overnight parking policy includes opportunities for leased municipal passes for properties adjacent to municipal parking.

- Objective: Expand economic recruitment and retention efforts strengthening the City's economic portfolio
  - The Community Development Director and Communications Director have met to identify the needs of the Marketing Plan, which will be completed once the City's Economic Development Strategy is finalized, with priority sites identified. This is one of the last pieces of the City's Redevelopment Ready Community certification.
- Objective: Implement Master Plan updates and development process improvements
  - A complete rewrite of the City's Zoning Ordinance was implemented this year, a cover-to-cover reexamination of all zoning regulations.
  - Community Development has created a webpage on our website to connect homeowners to Oakland County home improvement resources and resources on universal design and energy-efficient opportunities.
  - Community Development worked with Finance to update the City's escrow policy.
- Objective: Improve City/DDA strategic alignment
  - In collaboration with the DDA, the Dorothea Pocket Park was activated for the BOO!kley season, with many of the DDA's Halloween events taking place there as well as a Parks & Recreation program and a community picnic spearheaded by the Communications Director.
  - The DDA, Community Development and DPW worked with the Berkley Theater owners on several aspects of the theater renovation, including a municipal parking agreement for their parking lot, and coordination with Berkley First Church on a potential agreement for their adjacent lot.
- Priority Area 3: Community Assets
  - Objective: Complete comprehensive asset needs inventory and management plan
    - Led by the Facilities Manager, an assessment of all municipal buildings was completed in the first quarter of this year. The assessment provides an analysis of our long-term maintenance needs and lifecycles of our facilities, and will guide us in a proactive approach to strategically invest in our assets.
    - Led by the Facilities Manager, a Space Utilization study of City Hall was completed to better understand our future needs.
    - The Parks and Recreation Superintendent led the process, with the assistance of Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio to update the City's 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan will guide the expansion and development of the City's parks and programs.
    - The City was awarded a grant to fund Lead Service Line verifications and a contract has been approved by City Council. Field work started in the fourth quarter.
    - The City contracted with Coldwell Banker, Richard Ellis (CBRE), to acquire an appraisal of City Hall and associated properties.
  - Objective: Develop sustainable asset investment strategy that supports funding for the City's capital improvement plan
    - The Finance Department implemented an overhaul of the City's Capital Improvement Plan process to ensure a thorough, well-thought-out, long-term plan to address our capital needs.
    - The Public Improvement Fund was created to strategically invest in and fund the City's capital needs.
    - We re-outfitted our sewer camera inspection truck with an emphasis on cost savings and replacing the equipment on an existing chassis.
  - Objective: Improve community resiliency
    - The Community Development Department completed the engineering Design Standards, which includes a comprehensive guide to developing and redeveloping property. This focuses on non-residential and large-scale residential projects and includes current and future standards from Oakland County, MDOT, and other regulatory agencies. With the transition to a new engineering firm, these standards are being reviewed with small adjustments recommended based on best practices.
  - Objective: Improve facility/staff security and safety

- A full scope of the camera and access security upgrades budgeted for this year has been solidified, and will be presented to Council in the new year.
- The Clerk's Office is working with Jack Blanchard to update and revise the Elections Security Plan for the upcoming November election.
  - The City Clerk is also working with the school district to ensure safety and compliance at all precincts amidst the school district construction.
  - The Clerk's Office has created a comprehensive election security plan with Jack Blanchard and the Berkley School District.
- Priority Area 4: Open Communications
  - Objective: Identify community audiences and most effective City "voice(s)"
    - The Communications Director released a community survey regarding communication preferences, which provided helpful insight into the best ways to engage our residents.
    - The Clerk's office worked with the Communications Director to communicate their election communications plan, which helps to instill knowledge and confidence in the election process. This information is shared in the Election Worker Training Program, instilling these important messages in election workers so they can also share the message. The Clerk's office collaborated with the Communications Director to develop and distribute an election communications plan. This initiative is designed to build public knowledge and confidence in the election process. Key messages from this plan are integrated into the Election Worker Training Program, empowering election workers to effectively convey this essential information to the public.
    - The Clerk's Office organized a City Council candidate forum with the League of Women Voters.
  - Objective: Identify and implement priority communication strategies within human and financial resources
    - In a collaboration between the Communications Director, the Library and Parks and Recreation, the City produced updated program guides via postcard sent to all households with direct link to digital guide.
    - In response to feedback received from the communications community survey, and in an effort to identify and utilize the most effective communication channels, the Communications Director launched a bi-weekly e-newsletter, which includes important and timely information.
    - The Communications Director spearheaded the launch of the updated City website, and has spent the year working with the website company and the IT Department to work through any bugs, and make the site more user-friendly based on feedback from residents, staff, and City Council.
    - The Communications Director has sent eleven press releases to the media for many events and initiatives this year and coordinated media coverage of CruiseFest and the retirement of K9 Bear/PSO Anderson.
    - The Communications Director has worked diligently to provide community members robust information including important updates, Council meeting recaps, election information, important public services information, engagement opportunities, and city-hosted events and programs via social media, email, and specialized mailers.
  - Objective: Foster meaningful community engagement and genuine relationships
    - The Clerk's office and the City Manager's office facilitated two Ad Hoc Committee meetings and one meeting with Board and Commission chairs to discuss the Board and Commission policy updates and appointment process.
    - The Dorothea Pilot Pocket Park planning was led in large part by a volunteer group of residents and business owners who met numerous times to plan its implementation. It was launched in June, with various events throughout a month-long period. Events were well attended, and the park was well throughout that period. A survey was available during implementation, and the Communications Director reported on the feedback provided during the August 18 Council Meeting. Survey results showed that many people utilized the space passively, and would like to see it permanently

- converted into a public space. This feedback informed the Boo!kley activation of the space during the month of October.
- Volunteers for the 2024-2025 Fiscal year were recognized by the City Council at the annual Berkley Board and Commission Appreciation Luncheon. Jack Blanchard was awarded the 'Handling Berkley Business' award for his service to the City. Lisa Kempner was awarded with '2025 Volunteer of the Year' award by her fellow volunteers for her service to the City.
  - The Library hosted Rogers Elementary while school was in session as a part of the Berkley Community Walk. The Library annual Summer Reading Kickoff partnered with Clark's Ice Cream and was a well-attended success.
  - The Clerk's office attended the Berkley Pride Block party and provided education to teens on their right to vote and pre-register to vote.
  - The Berkley City Council attended several new business ribbon cuttings throughout the year.
  - The Department of Public Works and Public Safety Department held the annual Touch-A-Truck event at the Community Center.
  - The gazebo outside City Hall was dedicated to former Mayor Maybelle Fraser in recognition of her efforts in building it. A dedication ceremony was held along with a special exhibit on Mayor Fraser's life at the Historical Museum.
  - With the help of Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio, Parks and Recreation Superintendent hosted two stakeholder meetings, and a public hearing as part of the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
  - Parks and Recreation has spent the year building on our existing programs, to provide the community with a variety of classes, camps, trips, and programs for all ages within the confines of our Community Center space.
    - 68 Youth Classes and Trips - 566 attendance
    - 70 Adult Classes and Trips - 579 attendance
    - 12 Senior Classes - 303 attendance
    - 61 Senior Trips- 1,052 attendance
    - 20 Specialty Camps - 203 attendance
    - Summer Camp for 4 age groups - 164 attendance
  - The Library continues to be a vital community asset that provides shared resources, inclusive spaces and opportunities for engagement with and between community members. Programs continue to evolve and expand, and circulation has stayed strong, and library visits and use of Library resources remains high.
    - 222,686 items borrowed
    - 47,876 digital downloads
    - 134 Youth Programs - 4,854 attendance
    - 32 Teen Programs - 223 attendance
    - 56 Adult Programs - 945 attendance
    - 222 Total programs - 6,022 total attendance
- Priority Area 5: Fiscal Stewardship
  - Objective: Clearly define and articulate the City's long-term fiscal realities
    - In May 2025, City Council approved a 3-year budget (Fiscal Year 2025/26 - Fiscal Year 2027/28), including the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan forecast for the city. The budget document was transformed into a more user-friendly version that tells the story of the City's budget forecast, through the hard work of the Communications Director and Finance Department. The FY 2026/27 budget process began in the fourth quarter.
  - Objective: Identify additional funding strategies and partnerships
    - The City Manager's Office submitted requests to federal and state agencies for four projects for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which resulted in \$385,000 in Federal funding for the City's new fire engine, and possibly \$1 million in Federal funding for lead service line replacement.

- While the City did not receive the award, the Facilities Manager and the Historical Museum submitted a grant application for the Community Museum Grant Program.
- The City Clerk's Office conducted an audit of the Fee Schedule and worked to create a new, efficient format.
- While the city did not receive either, grant applications were submitted for the SEMCOG planning grant for Coolidge and Safe Streets for all Southeast Oakland County communities.
- Parks and Recreation completed a sponsorship guide for 2026 events. The goal is to engage more businesses and encourage sponsorships for city events and programs.
- Objective: Investigate new shared services opportunities
  - The Clerk's Office attends quarterly meetings with the Oakland County Clerks Association, creating potential partnership opportunities.
  - The Community Development Director met with all other Eleven Mile communities to begin discussing joint grant applications for the streetscape concept plan.
- Objective: Update financial policies and procedures
  - The Finance Department has worked with our tax payment vendor to allow residents to pay via ACH and make partial payments.
  - The Finance Department has made large strides in updating internal financial policies and procedures.
  - BS&A will be on site Q1 of 2026 to implement a streamlined accounts payable process.

Resolution adopting the updated Five-Year Recreation Master Plan for the period of 2026-2030 as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the City of Berkley.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-08-26

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Elrod and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Gavin, Black

Motion Approved.

*Public Comment:*

Joshua Hunter, Berkley, spoke regarding the Plan.

Accept the memo and Ms. Mannarino's correspondence attached hereto as the formal advisory opinion as requested by City Code Ordinance, Section 2-40(f)(1).

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-09-26

Seconded by Councilmember Elrod

Ayes: Patterson, Baker, Elrod, Hennen and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black, Gavin

Motion Approved.

*Public Comment:*

Joshua Hunter, Berkley, spoke regarding his complaint.

Request City Council to deem it unnecessary for the administrative office of city attorney to take the City's Oath of Office.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-10-26

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

Ayes: Baker, Elrod, Hennen, Patterson and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black, Gavin

Motion Approved.

*Public Comment:*

Joshua Hunter, Berkley, spoke regarding the city attorney's oath.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **COUNCILMEMBER ELROD**

- The Environmental Advisory Committee met this month and the key takeaway was their goals for 2026. Highlighted for the two members newly appointed that their goals fall into four key categories: continued focus on green infrastructure, recycling, transportation, and energy efficiency. He said that this means feet-on-the-ground solutions, but also providing advisory opinions to Council and other departments based on ongoing projects and where improvements can be made in adopting green infrastructure or reducing energy use. There are a number of items the group is considering, but the meeting effectively served as their kickoff.
  - Their next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, at 6:30 PM in the second-floor conference room of the Public Safety building.
- The Beautification Advisory Committee's first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, February 25th, in the second-floor conference room of the Public Safety building.

### **COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN**

- The Tree Board met at the same time as Council, updates to come.
- The Planning Commission meeting this month was cancelled, so more to come in February.

### **COUNCILMEMBER BAKER**

- The Historical Committee met on Tuesday, January 13th; welcomed the new members who were appointed, Jim and Kevin. He said that they look forward to their energy, new thoughts, and efforts to continue capturing our city's history and sharing it so we can all learn and enjoy it.
  - Thanked the City of Berkley and residents beyond the city for helping them sell more than 350 holiday ornaments. People came into the museum saying, "I would like seven, please," and had them mailed them all over the country. They received orders from other states from people saying, "I grew up in Berkley and want one of these." It was a fantastic operation.
  - The committee is ramping up work on a history-filled lecture series and is preparing updated marketing materials, brochures, and bookmarks as part of the new year's plan. For more information on our city's history, visit [berkleyhistory.com](http://berkleyhistory.com).
- The Downtown Development Authority met the following day, Wednesday, January 14th.
  - They discussed upcoming statewide changes to TIF funding rules. They revisited their TIF plan about five years ago, which runs for twenty years, so they are in the fifteen-year window and have time to think about options. He said that he is pleased the board is reviewing this now as part of the budget process.
  - They also recognized that repairs are needed on Coolidge, which many residents may have noticed, and discussed placemaking opportunities. They are reaching out to Oakland County to partner on capital project funding ideas.
  - For updates, visit [downtownberkley.com](http://downtownberkley.com).
- Benjamin Franklin once said, "For every minute spent organizing, an hour is earned." January is National Get Organized Month. Getting organized helps bring a sense of calm, reduce background stress, reclaim time for family, hobbies, and rest, save money, and create space for new ideas to take root.
- Please stay warm, do not slip on the ice, and hug someone you love.

### **COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON**

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met and discussed the master plan. They had visitors present; he strongly encouraged residents to attend boards and commission meetings to share their voices. They will meet again on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals has no cases scheduled yet for February.
- Stated that he has been thinking about Councilmember Black and hopes he is safe and well.

**CITY MANAGER VANVLECK**

- Thanked all city staff, especially the Department of Public Works. She said that we have had a challenging winter, including salt supply issues, and crews have been out overnight multiple times responding to winter events. If you see them, please thank them.
- Gave kudos to Public Safety for bringing back the Citizens Academy. It is an incredible opportunity for residents to connect with staff and learn firsthand how departments operate.
- Please note Winterfest will be February 7th from 12 to 2 PM at the Community Center.

**CITY ATTORNEY ZALEWSKI**

- No updates.

**MAYOR DEAN**

- Stated that Mayor Pro Tem Gavin regrets he could not attend due to a burst pipe at his home.
- Acknowledged the Department of Public Works for their continued efforts during difficult winter weather.
- The Citizen's Academy has returned through Public Safety. She and City Manager Van Vleck attended the first night. The last time it ran was in 2018, before COVID. She said that it is exciting to see residents take part in learning firsthand about what our Public Safety does. She said that she appreciates the efforts, time and energy of those attending.
- Congratulated Deputy Clerk Rachel Patterson on celebrating her third year with the City of Berkley.
- Acknowledged Congresswoman Haley Stevens for securing more than one million dollars in funding for Berkley to be applied toward lead line replacement. She said that this is an unfunded mandate, and said that she appreciates her prioritizing our community.
- Her last Meet Your Mayor event was at Republica, where she had wonderful conversations with residents and visitors. Her next stop will be at Casa Amado on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:28 PM

Seconded by Councilmember Elrod

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Elrod and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Gavin, Black

Motion Approved.

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Bridget Dean, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk