

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS
CALLED TO ORDER AT 7 PM ON MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

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

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Dan Christ
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dan McMinn
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Deputy Finance Director Amy Zurawski
Department of Public Services Superintendent Adam Wozniak
Emergency Manager Jack Blanchard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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, April 21, 2025 and the Special City Council meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025.

MOTION NO. M-26-25: Matter of awarding the contract to the lowest qualified bidder, BT's Construction Inc., 3234 Auburn Road, Shelby Twp., 48317, to complete wall repairs at Community Center Senior Annex for \$11,175 and to allocate \$2,500 in construction contingencies. This project is being funded by a FY 2024 special grant from the State of Michigan.

MOTION NO. M-27-25: Matter of awarding a contract for Community Park sidewalk and path improvements to Hartwell Cement Company of Oak Park, Michigan.

MOTION NO. M-28-25: Matter of approving The Local Road Improvement Program provided by Oakland County.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-17-25: Matter of proclaiming May 11-17, 2025 as National Police Week.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-18-25: Matter of proclaiming May 18-24, 2025 as National Public Works Week.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Councilmember Hennen read P-18-25 in its entirety.
Mayor Dean read P-17-25 in its entirety.

MOTION NO. M-29-25: Matter of approving the “Corporate Cup Relays” event on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at Anderson Middle School for the MidWest Corporate Athletic Association. Approval is conditional upon the submission of required items and documents prior to event dates. Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-29-25
Seconded by Councilmember Hennen
Ayes: Baker, Gavin, Hennen and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Black, Patterson and Vilani
Motion Approved.

Jack Blanchard, Berkley Emergency Manager, said he met with Chief Koehn and he has an emergency plan for the event.

RESOLUTION NO. R-05-25: Matter of tabling until the May 19, 2025 City Council meeting a resolution of the Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan authorizing the Decertification/Vacation of Local Roadways. Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Resolution No. R-05-25
Seconded by Councilmember Baker
Ayes: Baker, Gavin, Hennen and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Black, Patterson and Vilani
Motion Approved.

ORDINANCE NO. O-06-25: Matter of approving the First Reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to add Article III, Workforce Housing PILOT to Chapter 114 Taxation, of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to provide for approval of an exemption from ad valorem property taxes for housing being developed or rehabilitated for workforce housing for persons and families whose household income is not greater than 120% of area median income, as authorized by provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, Public Act 346 of 1966. MCL 125.1401, et seq. Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Ordinance No. O-06-25
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin
Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Baker and Dean
Absent: Black, Patterson and Vilani
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-30-25: Matter of authorizing the amendment of the 2024/25 budget as presented. Councilmember Baker moved to approve Motion No. M-30-25
Seconded by Councilmember Hennen
Ayes: Hennen, Baker, Gavin and Dean
Absent: Black, Patterson and Vilani

Nays: None
Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-31-25: Matter of accepting the quarter ended March 31, 2025 budget-to-actual report.
Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-31-25
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin
Ayes: Baker, Gavin, Hennen and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Black, Patterson and Vilani
Motion Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- For Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:
 - The next meeting of the Parks & Rec Advisory Board will be May 8th at 7:00 PM at the Community Center.
 - Dog Man reading challenge brought to you by Parks & Rec and the Berkley Library. Pick up your reading log at Parks & Rec or the library, read 13 Dog Man books, have a parent sign the form, turn it into Parks & Rec or the Library for a prize ticket. Then bring that ticket to the showing of Dog Man on Friday, June 13th at Bacon Park to claim your prize; the movie starts at 6:00 p.m.
- For the Library Board:
 - The next meeting will be May 21st at 7 PM at the Library.
 - Reminder that the Friends of Berkley Library book sale will be on Friday, May 16th, 1 PM to 6 PM, and Saturday, May 17th, 10:00 AM to 3 PM. The spring sale will take place at the Berkley Library and proceeds from the sale will help support the library's programs and services throughout the year.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- For the Historical Committee:
 - Happy Berkley History Month! Berkley became a city in May of 1932, which is great.
 - Their next meeting is on Tuesday, May 13th at 7 PM.
 - Please visit the museum to see the display on Berkley's First Methodist Church here on 12 Mile. Over 100 items are being presented; for more information visit berkleyhistory.com.
- The Downtown Development Authority will meet on Wednesday, May 14th at 8:15 AM.
- Congratulations to all participants and organizers of the Leia's Day Out last Saturday in honoring May the 4th be with you, which was awesome.
- Memorial Day events are coming up on Monday, May 26th. Farmers markets start up on Thursdays in June. For more information on that and to check out the DDA's brand new website, go to downtownberkley.com.
- It was Jimmy Kimmel who once said, "Cinco de Mayo, proof that Americans will celebrate anything with tacos and beer." As it turns out, today is not actually Mexico's independence day—that's September 16th. Cinco de Mayo is specific to the military victory over the more powerful French army. That battle represented a broader struggle against foreign domination, making it a historical touchstone for resistance to oppression. Cinco de Mayo is actually more widely celebrated here in the U.S. than in most parts of Mexico, evolving into a celebration of Latino culture and contributions to American society. Without quoting any specific commercial, I'll just say: stay safe, my friend, and please hug somebody you love.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- For the Tree Board:

- Met last week and already planning Arbor Day and they're already starting to make plans for next year to try and make it a bigger draw. They're also looking at getting a booth at the farmers market to help with outreach.
 - The City learned that we were awarded a grant for 30 trees from DTE.
- For the Zoning Board of Appeals, they've had no recent cases and I don't know yet if we're meeting in May.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- Thanked everyone for a collaborative, thoughtful approach to this year's budget—from all of our Councilmembers to all of staff. There was a lot of work that went in; there were a lot of meetings. We started early on internally with staff and we've had quite a bit of transition in the last year; there was a lot of catching up to do and everyone just jumped right in eagerly. It was a very collaborative approach, people were very thoughtful about their budgets and passionate about what they're doing for the community.
- The meetings on Monday and Tuesday with City Council were also very collaborative and productive. I think we're lucky to have a passionate, innovative team dedicated to serving the community. I want to thank everybody for their hard work and dedication—especially Ms. Zurowski and our finance director Carl Johnson. They've been doing quite a bit of work on the back end. Also, our Communications Director did a lot of work on the budget document this year.
- We talked a bit about that at the meetings on Monday and Tuesday, but a lot of work went into how we are delivering the budget this year in a way that people can digest and understand. We'll continue to work on that as the years go on, but I'm really proud of what they produced this year.

CITY ATTORNEY DAN CHRIST

- No update.

MAYOR DEAN

- Slows Barbecue is coming to Berkley, she welcomed them. She said that she believes that Slows is a perfect fit for our downtown and she looks forward to enjoying a meal as soon as they open.
- She congratulated PSO William Donnelly for graduating from the Oakland Fire Academy last Monday and having already completed the Oakland Police Academy. Now all that's left is his medical first responder training.
- She thanked the City Manager, department directors and staff, and specifically the finance department. She said that what we got this year looked so much different and felt different. She said she is speaking for all of Council and said that it was a pleasure to read that document and certainly to have the supporting documents there.
- Said that she is pleased that Berkley had a facilities assessment this year because it was completed in time for budgeting. She said that it gave Council that additional information about the condition of our buildings and where to direct our resources.
- She guesses that her favorite thing about budget work sessions is not just seeing the work from all departments but also seeing the priorities, the things that are important. She said that that is exciting to her because it all dovetails into the City's strategic framework. Unfunded mandates aside, the creative part of the budget to her is looking at direction and where you want to take things; it's an exciting thing to see.
- She said that she feels a renewed energy in this process and it really came through in the budget document. She appreciates the thoughtfulness, diligence, and professionalism shown.
- Her next stop on the Mayor's Road Show will be this Friday, May 9th at June and December, 2670 Coolidge, from 4 to 6 PM. If you haven't visited that beautiful store, Friday is a great time to go.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Hennen moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:45 PM
Seconded by Councilmember Baker
Ayes: Baker, Gavin, Hennen and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Black, Patterson and Vilani
Motion Approved.

ATTEST:

Bridget Dean, Mayor

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk