

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7 PM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Clarence Black

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Dan Christ
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy Finance Director Amy Zurawski

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of item No. 3 to authorize the City Manager to invite the following law firms to be interviewed by City Council: Rosati et al., Garan et al., Foster Swift, and Hayfelli et al.

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

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

Nays: None

Absent: Black

Motion Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Miles Handy, Redford, Owner & CEO of Puppygram, offered to donate a German Shepherd puppy to replace the retiring canine officer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve the following Consent Agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 40th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. R-14-25: Matter of considering a resolution to add Slows Berkley LLC dba Slow's Bar BQ Berkley located at 3087 12 Mile Rd. to the Berkley Outdoor Social Scene (BOSS) Social District.

MOTION NO. M-63-25: Matter of nominating Councilmember Steve Baker as the delegate and Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin as alternate to serve as the City of Berkley representative to cast the vote of the municipality at the Michigan Municipal League annual meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Black

Motion Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

None.

MOTION NO. M-64-25: Matter of approving the BS&A Proposal for on-site training and process/system enhancements department wide.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-64-25

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Absent: Black

Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-65-25: Matter of authorizing the City Manager to invite the following law firms to be interviewed by City Council: Rosati et al, Garan et al, Foster Swift, and Haefeli et al.
Councilmember Baker to approve Motion No. M-65-25
Seconded by Councilmember Patterson
Ayes: Patterson, Vilani, Baker, Gavin, Hennen and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Black
Motion Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCILMEMBER VILANI

- Updates from the Environmental Advisory Committee:
 - There was no July meeting. Their next meeting will be August 21st at 6:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Public Safety building.
 - Gardeners beware! The Native Plant Sale will be on Sunday, September 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our public Library.
- From the Berkley Area Chamber, we have lots of fun stuff happening with our local businesses:
 - We're welcoming the Berkley Arts Academy on Friday, August 22nd at 4:00 p.m. They're going to have an instrument petting zoo. And you can also enter to win a free year of lessons. So be there or don't learn how to play.
 - On Saturday, August 9th, Reware Vintage is celebrating their 20th anniversary with extended hours, deals all day, and live music in the evening. Check them out.
 - If you are thinking, "What on earth could I wear to Cruise Fest?" Your problem is solved. The Chamber will be selling their annual Cruise Fest t-shirts at the Classic Car Parade on Friday, August 15th on 12 Mile Road. So, get in line early and get one of those; they're always a collector's item.
 - And most importantly, save the date for the Berkley Pub Crawl. It returns this year as part of Boolkley. It is a little bit early, right before all the official Boolkley stuff kicks off, on Thursday, September 25th. Get your sitters because registration is going to be open soon!

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- The Beautification Committee met on the 23rd of July.
 - They talked about Adopt A Garden, an upcoming program that will be looking for spaces; so, all those gardeners that buy your plants at the Native Plant Sale, think about putting them in an adopted garden. More details will be coming soon; the program will probably start in the spring since the season's kind of late.
 - Landscapes of the Year votes are being tallied, so look forward to those.
 - There's an outreach and volunteer program to help some of our seniors and disabled with landscape assistance throughout our community. So, if you're interested or if you need hours for your football team, please sign up.
 - If you're interested in a street tree, there's still some available.
 - More discussion was had about the holiday luminary project. They're thinking they're going to do it a little bit differently this year and take over Bacon Park for a lighting ceremony.
- The Planning Commission did not meet.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNER

- The Tree Board is on their summer hiatus and will resume meetings in September.
 - Highlighted the spotted lantern fly that has arrived in Michigan in full force. It's an invasive insect that can be quite devastating to trees. They particularly like tree of heaven, which is an invasive species; it can often be the catalyst that brings in the moth and then it spreads onto other trees. Google 'spotted lantern fly tree of heaven' and you'll be able to find a load of resources.
 - The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on August 11th. They have a request for a dimensional variance for a household on Buckingham between 12 and Edwards.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Historical Committee meets next week's Tuesday, August 12th at 7:00 p.m. He said that he heard it's going to be a historic event.
- Our Downtown Development Authority meets on Wednesday, August 13th at 8:15 a.m. Stay tuned for developing news on that.
- For both of those, you can go to berkleyhistory.com and downtownberkley.com.
- It was Norman Vincent Pelee who once said, "To be successful is to be helpful, caring, and constructive to make everything and everyone you touch a little better."
 - August is National Wellness Month. An important part of being well of wellness is caring for others and caring about yourself as well. Being caring helps bridge divides and encourages empathy. This makes it easier to find common ground and reduce polarization when you find yourself in a climate of fear and intolerance. Let's just say acts

of kindness and compassion create supportive environments, helping individuals feel valued and less isolated. This is crucial when negativity and hostility are widespread. And finally, demonstrating care inspires others to act with kindness, gradually shifting our culture away from denial and greed towards cooperation and respect.

- As always, please hug somebody you love.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- Briefly for the Parks and Rec Advisory Board:
 - The final Berkley Beats of the Year will be Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Oxford Park.
 - The next meeting of Parks and Rec will be August 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.
- For the Library Board,
 - Great programming event upcoming: come learn about Detroit's dramatic journey from bankruptcy to rebirth with Gerald Rosen, author of The Grand Bargain, tomorrow, August 5th, at 6:30 p.m. No registration is necessary.
 - The next meeting of the Library Board will be August 20th at 7 p.m. at the Library.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- No updates.

CITY ATTORNEY ANN CHRIST

- No updates.

MAYOR DEAN

- Welcomed PSO Hugh Williams; he's a recent graduate of the Livingston County Firefighter Training Academy and will start the Oakland Police Academy in a couple days and then he'll do his 3-week medical. Lots of hoops to jump through, but that's why we have the best in Berkley. She said that our PSOs are well-trained and professional. She reiterated the fact that we have a combined police and fire department; not only is that cost-saving, but each of the members of our Public Safety department have a ridiculous amount of training, which should make residents feel secure anyway. She said that she does.
- To the Public Services Department, she said that she just had to say nice job outside of City Hall. She said that she was here the day they were doing all the drainage stuff and it was 100° out and they were all smiling. Now to see it all finished and have those planters, it's just it's nice to drive up and see that we have that pride of place. This is a focal point in our community and she said that she thinks we're doing the best that we can.
- The next stop on the Mayor's Road Show will be at Naka Local on 12 Mile in August. Stay tuned on social media for the date for that; she said that she looks forward to visiting there.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Absent: Black

Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk