

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTIETH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7 PM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely from 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 Attorney Dan Christ
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy Finance Director Amy Zurawski
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Facilities Director Alex Brown
Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dan McMinn
Director of Communications Caitlin Flora
Director of Human Resources Jessica Stover
Assistant to the City Manager Charlene Stevenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve the Agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Baker
Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani, Baker and Dean
Nays: None
Councilmember Black was unable to vote due to technical difficulties.
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, August 4, 2025 and Special City Council meeting on Monday, August 4, 2025.

WARRANT LIST: Matter of approving Warrant List No. 1413.

RESOLUTION NO. R-15-25: Matter of considering a resolution to approve and authorize the execution of the Metro Act Right of Way Permit between the City and Ezee Fiber Texas, LLC.

MOTION NO. M-67-25: Matter of authorizing the purchases of 96-gallon wheeled trash compactors and other related parts utilizing Sourcewell contract 041521-REH from Rehrg Pacific Company for fiscal year 2025/26.

MOTION NO. M-68-25: Matter of approving the proposal from Allied Building Service, a MiDeal-approved vendor, for \$32,040 for waterproofing and concrete work at the Public Safety building. Also include \$3,200 in construction contingencies. This budgeted purchase is being paid from account 101-267-976-345.

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

Nays: None

Councilmember Black was unable to vote due to technical difficulties.

Motion Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

None.

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation of the Strategic Framework Second Quarter report.

City Manager VanVleck and Assistant to the City Manager Charlaine Stevenson presented a report on the second quarter of the Strategic Framework.

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation on the month-long closure of Dorothea for the Dorothea Pilot Pocket Park.

City Manager VanVleck and Communications Director Caitlin Flora explained the month-long closure of Dorothea Pocket Park and described the events held there.

MOTION NO. M-69-25: Matter of approving the grant-funded project to improve the Community Center restrooms and renovations to the concession stand at Community 1 from Allied Building Services, 1081 Howard St., Detroit, MI 48216, for \$159,515. This project is being funded by the State of Michigan FY 24 Community Enhancement Grant. This proposal is being submitted through MiDeal Contract 01044.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-69-25

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-70-25: Matter of authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan update, upon final review of the City Attorney, with Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. This is a budgeted item from account 208-751-818-000.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-70-25

Seconded by Councilmember Baker

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-16-25: Matter of approving a resolution to set alternative meeting dates for the July and December Board of Review meetings.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Resolution No. R-16-25

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

MOTION NO. M-71-25: Matter of approving the Police Officer Labor Council Command tentative agreement.

Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-71-25
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin
Ayes: Baker, Black, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Vilani and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- No updates.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNER

- The Tree Board is on their summer hiatus and will resume meetings in September.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a case for a house on Buckingham; it was approved to rebuild within the confines of the existing non-conformity.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Historical Committee's August meeting has been cancelled. In the meanwhile, please visit them and learn more at berkeleyhistory.com for the latest information about new displays and fun things going on at the museum.
- The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board met on Wednesday, August 14th. They discussed, among many topics, the Robina placemaking project, the upcoming Berkley theater venue at the old RiteAid, wrapping up the Farmers' Market situation and preparations for Boo!kley coming up soon.
 - Today our new DDA director Nate Mack formally joined the team. Thanked and welcomed him aboard. He said that they look forward to his experience and leadership.
 - Thanked Jennifer Finney for her tremendous stewardship of the DDA in the interim transition. She's a former DDA Director and so it was great to have her back and helping out.
 - To see more about what's going on there, visit downtownberkeley.com.
- And finally, it was the Sweet Dream Ice Cream Company that once posted, "I don't need a motivational quote, I need ice cream." So, the next time you have a scoop of ice cream, take a moment to remember Augustus Jackson, whose creativity and innovation helped shape one of the world's most popular desserts. Augustus Jackson was an African-American chef from a Philadelphia who was a former cook at the White House; he is widely recognized as the father of ice cream. In the 1830s, Jackson revolutionized ice cream production by developing new flavors and pioneering techniques that made my ice cream more affordable and accessible to the public. So, whether you shop any of our spots here to get some ice cream or you hit the local market and grab some and enjoy it, please keep Augustus in mind and celebrate all the great things that happened back in 1830s.
- Please hug somebody you love.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- Briefly for the Parks and Rec Advisory Board:
 - Movie Night and Ice Cream Social is this Thursday, August 21st at Oxford Park. The ice cream starts at 5:30 p.m. while supplies last; the movie starts at 6 p.m. and will be Minecraft.

- The next meeting for the Parks and Rec Advisory Board will be September 11th at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.
- For the Library Board:
 - The next meeting will be August 20th at 7 p.m. at the Library.

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.
 - Planters get ready! The Native Plant Sale will be on Sunday, September 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our public Library.
- From the Berkley Area Chamber, lots of fun stuff happening with our local businesses:
 - Berk Perk Cards still available for just \$35. You can get 10% off at Jewel's Pet Cuisine, Mongers and the Rind.
- Thanked all of the staff, Public Safety and our surrounding communities as well for a successful Friday night cruise. Tip of the chef's hat to the Berkley barbecue crew who were up at the Legion, the food was delicious.
- Said that she hopes Councilmember Black gets some ice cream too.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday August 26th.
- The Beautification Advisory Committee meets next on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m.
- He said that it was amazing to see the dedication of our staff at the Woodward Dream Cruise. He added that he was once again fortunate to be able to volunteer for the first responder's dinner that's held at our Community Center and that it was an honor to be able to help volunteer at that event with Emergency Manager Blanchard.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- Echoed the sentiments of Council and said that this was her first Cruise Fest on this side of the table. She said that it was just a joy and very impressive to see how much work is put in by most of our teams; it really is an all hands event. She said that she thinks it was a wonderful one and will only improve and that it was just really impressive to see how everybody comes together to make that that happen.

CITY ATTORNEY DAN CHRIST

- No updates.

MAYOR DEAN

- Said that she and the City Manager had the opportunity to tour summer camp last Monday. Bobby Green, Camp Director, took them through what a typical day at camp was like; there were so many activities going on to keep the kids busy and as well as field trips in the mix to break things up. The camp staff that they met were enthusiastic, prepared, organized, and engaged with the kids. She said that it was really great to see because they may or may not have known they were going to be there, but they were able to observe. She added that she felt like if she had a child there, she would feel good about them being in that space.
 - Recognized the growth of Mr. Green, Bobby, who truly stepped into his role as director of summer camp. She said that it's funny because when Bobby came, he was always for the longest time the new guy. And then it was like, oh, okay, you do have a name. He did face some challenges with scheduling of some activities and he figured things out and he made it work and he found creative solutions and that's really a quality that you want in in somebody in your organization because they don't just say oh this didn't work.
 - Then when she was leaving camp, she said she just wanted to give a shout out to Levi Lambertson. She said she ran into Levi and those of you who know him, he's got a smile on his face all the time and you can't help but feel good when you when you're around

him. She said that she just wanted to tell Levi, you made my day when I saw you. She thanked him for his enthusiasm and his smile and kind words.

- She attended the Michigan Association of Mayors summer workshop in Portage a couple of weeks ago where she spent a few productive days with her counterparts from across the state. She said that they started with the welcome reception at the Kazoo Air Zoo in Portage; if you've never been she said that it's really an incredible place and it's all airplanes and air modes of transportation.
 - Most of their time was spent in the Zang Senior Center and the theme of the workshop was Building Age Friendly Affordable and Alert Communities.
 - They also heard from AARP and the Michigan Municipal League about legislative updates as well as grant opportunities. And then our own Jack Blanchard, Emergency Manager, presented a session on emergency management for the chief elected official. Berkley was well represented; thanked Emergency Manager Jack Blanchard for that.
- She said that she wanted to add some context to CruiseFest.
 - In addition to Councilmember Patterson, Councilmember Hennen and she were at the first responder dinner with Mike Dooley, former Councilmember, and 150 first responders who were fed and briefed before heading out to their various posts on Cruise Fest. Recognized the following businesses for donating or providing food at a reduced cost for this meal; it's just really important to see the support that the community gave back to the community:
 - Green Lantern, Slows Barbecue, Uncle Andy's Pizza, Edible Arrangements, Sweet Essentials, Crispellies, Vinsetta Garage, Cottage Inn Pizza, Subway, and Universal Ambulance.
 - The following businesses provided water or Gatorade: 7-Eleven, Westborne Market, Berkley Fine Wines, Bankey Law, and The Neighbor Shop.
 - Monetary donations came in from Sawyer Fuller Funeral Home and Certified Restoration Dry Cleaning.
 - She said that she included their names because she wants you to please support these businesses when you can. Go out to dinner there, buy what they're selling. She said that she thinks it's important that we acknowledge and that we support them in any way that we can.
- Reminder, Public Safety will be conducting a car seat check August 19th at the Community Center from 4 to 7 p.m.
- It was this day in 1920 that the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was officially adopted after Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:06 p.m.

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