

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

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely due to 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 Lisa Hamameh
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Communications Director Caitlin Flora
Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dan McMinn
Finance Director Carl Johnson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Patterson 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, October 20, 2025.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-29-25: Matter of Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Election Inspectors.

PROCLAMATION NO. P-30-25: Matter of Honoring the Dedication and Service of City Councilmember Jessica Vilani.

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.

Councilmember Baker read P-29-25 in its entirety.

Mayor Dean read P-30-25 in its entirety.

Ms. Vilani thanked the council members for their kind words.

- She started off by congratulating her colleagues, Steve Baker and Dennis Hennen, and Mayor Dean on their reelections. She said they may not have always seen eye to eye on every issue, but she was 100% confident that everyone truly wants what is best for the city and is working hard to make sure that happens. She said she learned from all of them over the past four years, and it had been an honor to serve alongside them.
- She congratulated Gary Elrod as well. She said he would soon find that this is not always an easy job and probably takes up a little bit more time and energy than anyone may have told him before. She said she hopes he has a chance to learn from and lean in with this group of people up here, while also staying true to his own values and the residents of the city.
- She said it was very bittersweet to be up there saying goodbye. She said life was very different back in 2021 when she ran. Her daughter was only in seventh grade, and her impending graduation wasn't something she thought about at all. She said today her daughter is a junior, and college material comes to their house daily, and they are preparing to navigate applications and college tours. She said she was additionally excited to plan her wedding. She said she would be remiss if she left out Bonnie, who was the star of the campaign and is now quite happy in her residency at the library, reading with kids and visiting with patients at Corewell.
- She said as much as she truly has loved serving, time is finite, and she cannot prioritize the next chapter of her family while also serving the city in the way that the residents deserve. She said she wanted to thank the 2,305 residents who cast a vote for her back in 2021. She said she didn't have run for office on her bingo card, but she was glad that she took the leap and was really grateful for everyone's support over the years. She said she was especially grateful to those who have reached out with kind words of encouragement over the past four years. She said at times this can feel like a truly thankless job, and those interactions, when they were least expected, were the fuel that kept her going over time.
- She said lastly, she wanted to give a very special thank you to Sydney and Andy. She said they were by her side and her greatest supporters from day one of this journey. She said they knocked on doors, delivered signs, and were the best campaign team a gal could ask for. She said when the campaign turned to serving, they were understanding of the constant nights away and endless events. She said she was so lucky to call them her family and truly could not have done this without their support. She said she was looking forward to having more time and more dinners with them, especially on Mondays.
- She said she wanted to thank everybody, including all of the amazing staff who keep this city up and running. She said it is truly an honor to be a part of this.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: Newly elected members of the Council to be given Oaths of Office by the City Clerk:

Mayor Bridget Dean
Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gary Elrod

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Vilani

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTY-FIRST COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:25 PM ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely due to military duty)
Councilmember Gary Elrod
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Lisa Hamameh
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager of Public Services Shawn Young
Communications Director Caitlin Flora
Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dan McMinn
Finance Director Carl Johnson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve the agenda as amended adding item 11 to appoint a Mayor Pro Tem and moving communications before the last item on the agenda.
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin
Ayes: Black, Elrod, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Baker and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

WARRANT LIST: Matter of approving Warrant List No. 1416.

MOTION NO. M-101-25: Matter of approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Berkley and the City of Huntington Woods for Shared Resources and Services.

MOTION NO. M-102-25: Matter of approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Berkley and the Berkley School District for Shared Resources and Services.

MOTION NO. M-103-25: Matter of approving a budgeted purchase for upfitting the recently purchased Ford F-250 to Truck and Trailer Specialties of Howell, MI in the amount of \$13,360, utilizing account 592-536-985-000. This purchase also utilizes the Bidnet/Rochester Hills Cooperative Bid.

MOTION NO. M-104-25: Matter of authorizing the City Manager to sign the Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase for Stanislaw Lisica, approving 24 months of additional service credit. This

purchase is allowed by the Merit System Schedule and the MERS Plan Document for active members. The total cost calculated by MERS included on the Application for Additional Service Credit is \$34,652. The City of Berkley's share of that cost is \$26,593.81.

MOTION NO. M-105-25: Matter of approving the proposal from Vettraino Consulting for the Performance Evaluation Facilitation for the City Manager, and authorizing Mayor Dean to sign the Notice to Proceed.

MOTION NO. M-106-25: Matter of authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for Senior Home Chore Snow Removal Service with Luxury Lawn and Snow, 28240 Farmington Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334, for the 2025-26 winter season. This is a budgeted item that will be paid for using Community Development Block Grant funding.

ORDINANCE NO. O-09-25: Matter of considering the second reading and approval of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to amend Section 114-27 Authorization and Establishment of Workforce Housing Exemption of Article III, Workforce Housing PILOT of Chapter 114 Taxation, of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to clarify that annual shelter rent payments less than 10% are permitted, as authorized by provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, Public Act 346 of 1966. MCL 125.1401, et seq.

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

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

None.

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation by the American Legion.

Jack Blanchard, Emergency Manager, presented:

- He said that in October, he was contacted by Lt. Kobernick from Public Safety about assisting at a fundraising activity to buy a large flag that could be displayed from the ladder truck at city events. He said he took this back to the Legion, and when he brought it up at the executive board, he received overwhelming support from everyone in the Legion family.
- He said tonight, they were there to make a presentation from the American Legion family to Public Safety. He said he wanted to explain who the American Legion family is. He said they had with them Ike Eisenhower, the commander of the Legion; Dale Heidland, the commander of the Sons of the American Legion; and Jim Pierce, the commander of the Royal Canadian Legion, who has been a great asset. He said that through all their efforts, they raised \$1,400 for Public Safety to purchase a 20x30 American flag.
- Commander Eisenhower spoke and stated that it is a privilege to be the commander of the American Legion Post 374. In recognition of the service and the honor that our police department gives to our city, he said that he is happy to present this check for \$1,400 so that they can buy that big flag and hang it when it looks good.
- Lt. Kobernick stated that anything Public Safety asks from the Legion, they're there for them. This was just kind of at a whim, a phone call, and that's a relationship they have with a lot of people in the city. He said that he thinks that's what makes the city great—it really can turn to outside counsel if something comes up.
- Mayor Dean stated that she was not surprised when the Legion gave overwhelming support. She said that she is a member of the auxiliary, and this is what she loves about the Berkley Legion. She said the Legion is very service-oriented; the community reaches out; they reach out to the community. She said that the Legion has done work with so many things, including the Berkley

Cares Community Food Pantry. She said that she is grateful that the Legion is here in Berkley and that they lead with that compassion and with that mind of service. This is just yet another way that the Legion cooperates and supports and understands the values of not only our city but our Public Safety department and the Legion itself.

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation of the fiscal year 2025 audit by the finance department.

Finance Director Carl Johnson presented:

Audit Completion

- Audit completed earlier than expected this year.

Financial Results – General Fund

- Presentation summarized key financial results for the prior fiscal year.
- Budget comparison for General Fund:
 - Original budget: revenues equaled expenditures.
 - Amended budget: planned use of fund balance of \$562,000 (rollover budget from prior year items such as equipment, vehicles, and contracts).
 - Actual results: fund balance increased by \$668,000, a favorable variance of \$1.2 million.

Revenue Highlights

- Favorable revenue variance: \$300,000.
 - \$150,000 from licenses and permits (building activity).
 - \$180,000 from HVAC grant (revenue rolled over from prior fiscal year).
 - Net of other revenues: \$12,000.
- Revenue variances are primarily one-time items.

Expenditure Highlights

- Overall expenditures are approximately 5% under budget.
- \$422,000 in rollover items spent from prior year commitments.
- Retiree healthcare under budget by \$198,000 (self-insured plan).
- Other departments collectively under budget by \$250,000.
- Budget management achieved realistic results while maintaining fund integrity.

Capital and Infrastructure

- Limited funds available for capital projects outside HVAC system (\$1.6–1.7 million).
- Only \$300,000–\$400,000 available for general capital needs in the General Fund.
- Key challenge: reinvesting in facilities and equipment within the available budget.

Water & Sewer Fund

- Cash balance improved from negative \$1 million (two years prior) to \$1.8–1.9 million at fiscal year-end.
- Lead line and road projects completed; pause in projects during the fiscal year just ended.
- Fund balances meet reasonable cash reserve levels for unexpected events.

New Funds

- COM 1 Fund: \$180,000 capitalized for field improvements; five-year lease agreement to cover costs.
- Major Streets, Local Streets, Infrastructure Funds: funds ending \$200,000–\$300,000 higher than expected; to be reprogrammed into a six-year capital plan.
- Parking Fund: \$9,000 collected from overnight parking fees; restricted for parking lot use.
- Opioid Fund: settlement funds collected; restricted use.
- Sidewalk Fund: program paused; to resume with new ordinances and implementation plan.

Retiree Benefits and Pensions

- OPEB (Other Postemployment Benefits): liability \$14 million; assets \$8.8 million; funding level ~60% (above 40% state minimum).
- MS Pension (non-public safety): liability \$25.4 million; assets \$14 million; unfunded \$11 million; funding level 56% (below 60% state minimum).

- Public Safety Pension: liability \$33.4 million; assets \$23.7 million; unfunded \$9.6 million; funding level 71%.
- Pension funding plans align with actuarial recommendations; some funds are supplemented by ARPA contributions.

Audit Findings

- Previous year: seven findings; all addressed and closed.
- Current year: one finding related to a missing date on the updated bank policy sign-off; corrected immediately.
- Overall financial condition: fund balance at target level; key challenge remains infrastructure and facility funding.

Conclusion

- First full year under the new financial team; multiple improvements implemented.
- Financial results are favorable with strong fund management; attention is required for infrastructure and capital planning in the coming years.

PRESENTATION: Matter of receiving a presentation of the fiscal year 2025 audit by the auditors.

Partner Greg Soule and Audit Senior Justin Comis from Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC presented:

- This was a much smoother audit this year. Second-year audits are always smoother.
- Thanked the Finance department, which made the process very easy and very smooth throughout the entire audit.
- Audit Opinion
 - Independent auditor's report: report on the city's financial statements on the annual comprehensive financial report, and it is a clean or an unmodified opinion.
 - Throughout the document, it talks about the basis for their opinion and the standards that they used to conduct the audit.
 - It also talks about the responsibilities of management for preparing the financial statements and their responsibilities as the city's auditor for the audit of the financial statements.
 - Stated that they take a risk-based approach to the audit and look at those risks and controls as part of the process, and that's laid out on page two.
 - There are also some sections on required supplementary information, things like pension and OPED schedules, as well as other supplementary information, such as the non-major fund combining statements and other information within the act for the annual comprehensive financial report.
 - Finally, that report wraps up on page three by talking about other reporting required under the government auditing standards. So, that's our overall opinion. The numbers represent the underlying activity for the city.
- Required Communications
 - If we turn to page 110, that is their required communications letter to the city council. Under audit services, they've completed the financial statement audit. The single audit or the federal expenditures audit is in process. They've completed drafting of the financial statements and helped management in that process, and also worked through the preparation of the auditing procedures report, which we'll file.
 - Their scope letter and initial communications letter described some significant risks of material misstatement facing the city. They audited each of those risks throughout their process and didn't find anything that was required to be communicated to the council.
 - The top of page two talks about the uniform grant guidance or the single audit for federal expenditures related to the HVAC project.
 - There are some federal dollars involved in that, which is triggering a single audit for the city. As part of that single audit, it stated that they use a document published by the federal government called the compliance supplement. Said that they can't complete the single audit at this point because the compliance supplement is not done yet.

- The compliance supplements are published every year. It's effective for audits of years ending June 30th and after for the following year. The city's fiscal year-end is June 30th. Typically, that document is finalized in May, and it's not finalized yet. So, no real indications as to when it's going to be finalized. There were some changes in the uniform grant guidance and some significant shifts on the federal side of the equation. That's all delaying the issuance of the compliance supplement.
- GASB Standards
 - There's some information there around cybersecurity and IT controls.
 - This document gets into adopted accounting standards. There were two this year for the city:
 - One is related to GASB 101 compensated absences, talking about how the city calculates its accrued vacation and sick liability. That did have a significant impact and brought in some additional liabilities related to that, and counted for additional leave that wasn't previously counted under the old standards. So that has been incorporated into the city's financial statements this year.
 - 102 is related to certain risk disclosures about concentrations or constraints that did not affect the city's financial statements this year. That's just some things that if the city faces, those that are going to be some required disclosures potentially in the future.
 - GASB 103 will affect next year's financial statements and will change some information around how the MDNA is reported, as well as the budget-to-actual. They'll add some additional columns to those back schedules that Mr. Johnson went through earlier. So that will affect next year's financial statements.
 - GASB 104 could affect next year's financial statements related to certain capital asset disclosures.
- Auditor Responsibilities
 - Our responsibility under the auditing standards is the next section of the report. It also talks about our responsibilities for testing internal control.
 - No items came to their attention that affected the plan scope and timing.
 - On page five, there are some significant and sensitive estimates related to fixed assets, the estimate of net pension liabilities, and the estimate of the OPED liabilities that Mr. Johnson went through. All of those estimates are significant to the city's financial statements. There are some sensitive disclosures in the financial statements related to deposits and investments, long-term debt, capital assets, and OPED.
 - We had no difficulties encountered in performing the audit.
 - There were some immaterial adjustments that were not reflected in the statements. Those aren't significant.
 - We had no disagreements with management. We have requested a standard management rep letter that is included at the back of this document, so you can see what the management team here signs off on.
 - To our knowledge, there were no consultations with other independent accountants.
 - There were no major issues discussed prior to our retention.
 - There's some information there on our procedures around the required and other supplementary information.
 - No fees for non- audit services.
 - Stated that they do have a management letter that Mr. Johnson indicated that Mr. Comis will talk through related to the government auditing standards communication. As Mr. Johnson said, all of the findings that we identified last year, those seven items we talked through, have been cleared. We verified that during our process. We did identify one item this year.

- Overall, the audit process went much smoothly. Stated that they wrapped up the engagement six weeks earlier than last year, so that's always a good thing.
 - Thanked the team here at the city in that process. Turned over the presentation to Mr. Comis to briefly talk through the internal control.
- Internal Control Discussion
 - The city's audit is conducted under a government auditing standard. With an audit conducted under government auditing standards, it is required to do certain tests and procedures that wouldn't normally be required under a typical audit, such as compliance testing.
 - Focused on the two excerpts followed under internal control over financial reporting.
 - In planning and performing the audit of the financial statements, stated that they considered the city's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing their audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing their opinions on the city's financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the city's internal control. Accordingly, stated that they do not express an opinion on the city's effectiveness of internal control.
 - Focused on the definitions in the section below:
 - A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.
 - A material weakness is a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control such that a reasonable person would expect that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis.
 - A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness yet important enough to merit attention to those charged with governance.
 - As Mr. Johnson had previously mentioned, there were a number of internal control matters communicated during the prior year audit. None of these issues recurred during the prior year. However, they did note one matter that we deemed a significant deficiency as part of the 25 audit that Mr. Johnson had previously mentioned, related to the city's bank reconciliation process.
 - As Mr. Johnson had previously noted, the city policy indicated that the reconciliation should be signed and dated timely after review, and it was not. Timely bank reconciliations are an important piece of city operations in order to make informed financial decisions. As such, they recommended that the city make sure they follow their policy and also date the reconciliation upon completion of the review.
 - It all comes down to timeliness. The city's policies stipulate that the bank recs have to be prepared timely. The state of Michigan requirements also stipulate that it has to be prepared timely.

MOTION NO. M-107-25: Matter of accepting the quarter ended September 30, 2025 budget-to-actual report.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-107-25

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-108-25: Matter of accepting the quarter ended September 30, 2025 investment report.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Motion No. M-108-25

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

MOTION NO. M-109-25: Matter of authorizing the amendment 2026-2 of the 2025-26 budget as presented.
Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-109-25
Seconded by Councilmember Elrod
Ayes: Patterson, Baker, Black, Elrod, Gavin, Hennen and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

PUBLIC HEARING: Matter of holding a Public Hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2026 application in the approximate amount of \$97,000.

Opened at 8:19 PM
Closed at 8:20 PM

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-25: Matter of adopting a Resolution for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2026 application in the approximate amount of \$97,000 and requesting the Mayor and City Manager to sign the application and submit it to the Oakland County CDBG Division.
Councilmember Baker moved to approve Resolution No. R-20-25
Seconded by Councilmember Gavin
Ayes: Baker, Black, Elrod, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-110-25: Motion to approve the contract extension Letter of Understanding with the Berkley Police Service Aide Association/Michigan Association of Police.
Councilmember Patterson moved to approve Motion No. M-110-25
Seconded by Councilmember Baker
Ayes: Black, Elrod, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Black and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-111-25: Matter of appointing Ross Gavin as Mayor Pro Tem from November 2025 until November 2027.
Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-111-25
Seconded by Councilmember Patterson
Ayes: Elrod, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Black and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- Parks and Recreation will meet on December 11th at 7 PM at the Community Center.
- The Library Board will meet on November 19th at 7 PM at the Library.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- The Beautification Committee met; luminaries are for sale at the library now. When you're there, you can check out the new BerkBuster, the new video rental media section.
- Thanked the veterans for all of their service during Veterans Day.
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- No updates.

COUNCILMEMBER ELROD

- Stepping in for former Councilmember Vilani, he will be the Council liaison to the Environmental Action (Advisory) Committee.
 - The next meeting is this Thursday, 6:30 PM at Public Safety.
 - He stated that he wanted to draw attention to an upcoming clothing drop-off that's being held at the Library, called Swap Day. It is for adult clothing, not children's clothing. It runs from 12:30 to 1:15 PM for the drop-off, and then shopping continues till 3 PM. This is also a time when the library is doing its own media swap. So, two for one.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Zoning Board of Appeals has no meeting in November.
 - Reported that Steve Allen resigned his seat due to health reasons.
- The Tree Board met; they are reviewing educational opportunities throughout the coming year and preparing their work plan for 2026. Their next meeting is Monday, November 24th at 7 PM in the Public Safety conference room.
- He stated that he recently attended the SEMCOG General Assembly and brought back some information on storm water management, downtown economic growth, and also attended the Oakland County Sustainability Conference. He said that one of the highlights was storm water management, green infrastructure, solar, and a group of elected officials got together, and it looks like there might be some opportunity for food waste collection. He said that he knows a lot of people in the city are interested in that, and a lot of other communities were very interested in hearing about our cardboard dumpster, and he's already had one community reach out: How does it work? Where do you get it?
- Thanked the people of Berkley for their trust and support in his re-election and said that he is looking forward to great things that can be accomplished over the next four years.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- Congratulated his colleagues and welcomed them aboard.
- Thanked Jess for all her years of service.
- The Berkley Historical Committee meets tomorrow night, November 18th at 7 PM.
 - Visit berkleyhistory.com if you'd like to see what they're up to.
- The Downtown Development Authority board met last week's Wednesday. They're working on all sorts of cool stuff.
- Malala Yousafzai once said, "There should be no place for fear in the mind of a child." He said that that's been on his mind a lot lately since many on the Council, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals had to go through ALICE training for active assailant. While that information is absolutely critical, he said that he finds it heartbreaking that this has become part of our culture. Kids shouldn't have to practice these drills multiple times a year. Teachers shouldn't have to rehearse scenarios that take them far beyond the jobs they signed up for. And none of us should have to think twice about going to church or a concert or a community event. He said that we're doing the right thing by preparing, but preparation shouldn't be the norm. Safety should be the norm. A sense of ease should be the norm. He said he hopes that we move forward toward a future where these trainings become something that we talk about in the past tense, not a regular part of our civic life.
- Please take care of yourselves and hug somebody you love.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- Thanked Councilmember Vilani for her service to the city and the support she's shown her.
- Stated that she is excited to get to know Councilmember Elrod and, hopefully, work hand in hand with everything to come.

CITY ATTORNEY HAMAMEH

- Working closely with city staff to get up to speed. Attention will be brought to a number of amendment revisions soon. She stated that they are hoping to clean up a lot by the end of the year.

MAYOR DEAN

- Congratulated her colleagues at the table who were winners in their election, and Councilmember Elrod. She said that they are going to keep this rolling and continue to move Berkeley forward in a positive direction.
- Thanked Senator Gary Peters for thinking of Berkley when he requested \$385,000 to put toward the replacement of Engine 4. The cost of a new fire truck is about \$1.1 million. It's a long-term plan, but she said that she believes that Berkley is on the way, and so while this is good news, we need to keep our fingers crossed. She said that she is optimistic.
- This past Thursday and Friday, she said that she attended the Mayors and Presidents Institute in Bay City, put on by the Michigan Municipal League, where she was on a panel with Fremont Mayor Jim Reinberg and Saginaw Mayor Brenda Moore. She said that they discussed paths to elected office, shared insights and lessons learned, and then discussed challenges ahead. She said that it was some intense learning and that she is grateful not only for that opportunity to learn but to spend time with her peers from across the state.
- Last week on November 11th, she said that she attended two Veterans Day ceremonies, one at the gazebo and then at the Legion following. She expressed her gratitude to those who have served and those who are serving currently. She said that she has a lot of military in her family. Her oldest brother was Army. Her next brother is a Marine. His son Navy. Her youngest brother Marines and then he joined the Army. He married a woman who was a Marine. Their daughter is a graduate of West Point. She said that she has a nephew who's in the Coast Guard, an aunt who was in the Navy, and an uncle who was in the Army. Somehow that military gene skipped her, but she said that she is grateful for their service and to Councilmember Black for his service.
- Last Saturday, she said that she spent a delightful afternoon at Perch, chatting with residents and visitors to Berkley, and she thoroughly enjoyed listening to all the great things they have to say about Berkley.
- Her next stop on the Mayor's Road Show is Mug and Jug at 42381 Twelve Mile on Friday, November 21st, from 4 to 6 PM.

CLOSED SESSION: Matter of considering convening in closed session to consider attorney/client privileged communication in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h). Councilmember Patterson moved to approve convening in closed session to consider attorney/client privileged communication in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h).

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved.

THE CLOSED SESSION MEETING OF THE FORTY-FIRST COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 8:43 PM ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
 Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely due to military duty)
 Councilmember Dennis Hennen
 Councilmember Gregory Patterson
 Councilmember Gary Elrod
 Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
 Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Lisa Hamameh
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski

Members of Council met in closed session to consider attorney/client privileged communication in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h).

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTY-FIRST COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN
WAS CALLED BACK TO ORDER AT 9:30 PM ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 BY MAYOR DEAN**

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black (attending remotely due to military duty)
Councilmember Gary Elrod
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Lisa Hamameh
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Baker moved to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:30 PM
Seconded by Councilmember Patterson
Ayes: Black, Elrod, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Baker and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:32 p.m.
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gavin
Ayes: Black, Elrod, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Baker and Dean
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk