

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BUCHANAN, in compliance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act, hereby gives notice of a regular meeting of the Buchanan City Commission to be held in the Chamber of City Hall.

* Requests to be added to the agenda as a "Scheduled Matter from the Floor" should be submitted in writing to the City Clerk at least 5 business days prior to the scheduled meeting during which the speaker wishes to appear, and the approval of such requests remain within the discretion of the Mayor. If denied, the speaker may nonetheless speak during the "non-agenda items only" public comments section of the agenda.

* Those who are unable to appear during a meeting but who still wish to share public comment may submit such comments in written form to the City Clerk at least 4 hours in advance of the meeting.

* Individuals with disabilities may request necessary reasonable accommodations by submitting requests to the City Clerk, preferably at least 24 hours in advance.

* Written requests and comments may be submitted to the City Clerk either in person or via mail to Buchanan City Hall, 302 N. Redbud Trail, Buchanan, MI 49107, or via email to clerk@cityofbuchanan.com

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sean Denison at 7:00 P.M.

II. Recognition

The Commission Recognized Scott Desenberg for 10 years of service.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Denison led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Sean Denison, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Weedon, Commissioner Cameron Downey, Commissioner Patrick Swem

Absent: Commissioner Larry Money

City Staff: City Manager, Heather Grace; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Director of Public Safety, Tim Ganus; Chief of Police Harvey Burnett; Public Services Lead, Klay Weaver

V. Approve Agenda

A. 1) Approve Amended Agenda- Consider approving the amended agenda, as presented.

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Downey to approve the amended agenda, as presented.
Roll call vote carries unanimously.

VI. Open Public Hearing 1

A. Public Hearing on Proposed Infrastructure & Streetscape Plan for Buchanan's 2023-2025 Downtown Project-

(1) Consider voting to formally open the public hearing.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Weedon to open the Public Hearing on the proposed infrastructure & streetscape plan for Buchanan's 2023-2025 Downtown Project at 7:02 P.M. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Recommended Properties to be Sold is also provided, for context, but is not meant to be construed as limiting to the conversation.

Visit the following link to learn more: <https://bit.ly/3rKTTmp>

VIII. Consent Agenda *(can be approved all in one motion, for general housekeeping items)*

A. Minutes- Consider approving minutes from the September 26, 2022, Regular Meeting.

B. Expenditures- Consider approving expenditures for October 10, 2022, in the amount of \$81,251.20
Motion made by Weedon, supported by Downey to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

IX. Scheduled Matters from the Floor *(if any)*

A. Downtown Streetscape Concept Update by Prein & Newhof- Mike Schwartz and Matt Levandowski will present an updated version of the proposed Downtown Streetscape plans. The plans themselves are expected to be finalized on 10/07/22, at which time they will be added to the Packets for this meeting, and also added to www.facebook.com/buchanandowntownproject

Schwartz recapped the open houses that the city has had on the downtown streetscape project with an emphasis on the closing of Rynearson. With the discussion on closing Rynearson at the last open house they have designed a concept that will keep Rynearson open. Schwartz presented the open concept and closed concept for Rynearson (see attachment A & B).

Swem would like the dialog to stay open with the Citgo and Moose Lodge on how they feel about the open concept.

Denison asked Schwartz to elaborate on Mr. Kruger's earlier question pertaining to the sub pumps in the downtown business's basements.

As part of the Infrastructure project, they are cutting off some infiltration that is coming into those pipes. The intent is to put, in essence, a permanent dewatering system to keep that water level down. As for sub pumps, they typically let them go back into the storm system, not the sewer system.

Swem made it clear that the commission is taking the businesses downtown into account.

Grace explained the "stretching of the downtown", to open corridors in the downtown.

More discussion will be had on different aspects of the design.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Downey to approve the updated Streetscape concept as presented with the "open" Rynearson. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

X. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

A. Finance Department Report- Treasurer Deb Perez will give an update on City financials.

Perez let the commission know that the expenditures for this week do not include the tax disbursements which came in at \$89,284, but they were included in the Commission packets. Initially the finance department was going to present budget amendments at this meeting, but considering the draft audit just came through, they are currently still waiting on a chart of account changes as well, the finance department decided that they would wait to present until those items are finalized. We are at 92% of are tax collection for the city.

B. Public Service Report- Director Mike Baker

(2) Request to Hire a New Officer/School Resource Officer Request- Consider a request to approve adding an additional officer to the Buchanan police force, in conjunction with a related request for a School Resource Officer.

Chief Burnett explained the staffing levels and the amount of time being spent on school calls. The school district does not break down by township or city it only breaks it down by zip code. 13 percent of students are outside of the district. Mrs. Robinson, superintendent of Buchanan Schools is looking for other grants to help with the cost of another officer. There is a grant through the state that would cover up to 50 percent and the school would cover the other 50 percent. That is a work in progress.

The other part is they are up around 300 calls since last year. Ganus is seeing an increasing number of calls. The calls are very involved calls, it's tough and the officers are starting to feel overwhelmed, while they do not want to give up the community events they do. Something has got to be given up.

Denison asked how the new police officer would be used. Right now, they would help with the schools and the road.

The commission was looking for more numbers by township between Bertrand, Buchanan, and the City. They want to know where the amendment is coming from, and how to fund the extra officer. Grace is confident in amending the budget to be able to cover an extra officer. And strongly recommends using the permit fee revenue from the marijuana licenses to do so.

The permitted money is being allocated to community development, but it can be a policy change to put it toward a new officer. There is support for a new officer. There was discussion about the COPS grants with the school district and partnership with the city.

They would like to make a recommendation to move forward with the School Resource Officer.

XI. Unfinished Business

XII. New Business

A. Potential Land Sale Prioritization Discussion- Consider discussing the potential sale of City-owned properties, and whether the Commission wants to provide specific direction to the City Administration regarding the matter.

The RFP will be with recommendations and provisions to each property. Discussion of what MEDC does now, with creating a map to be able to see each parcel and signage.

XIII. Communications *(informational only, formal board action is not necessary for these items, unless so desired)*

League of Women Voters will be holding a candidate forum at City Hall on Oct. 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Notice for the Public Accuracy Test for the November 8, 2022, General Election will be held on Friday October 21, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall.

XIV. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only *(3-minute limit)*

Norma Ferris- Comments made by Dial-a-Ride agreement. DPW needs more staff if moving to the AEP building.

Jeff Griffin- Public Hearings were given out late in the mail. Had a difficult time hearing the Finance Department Report as well as visual obstructions during the meeting. Concerns about the Ross Sanders building being sold due to the Fire Department still being on the parcel. Does not agree with using a realtor for potential land sales. And does the commission really believe that cannabis is here to stay?

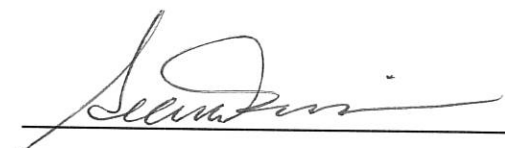
with no money, it's like trying to run a household with 30 kids and one person working part-time. I give them all the credit in the world for what they do and all their hard work. I really think the city must push forward with a capital improvement plan.

XVI. Adjourn

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Downey to Adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Roll call vote carries unanimously.



Kalla Langston, City Clerk



Mayor Sean Denison