
MINUTES**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Weedon at 7:00 PM.

II. Recognition**A. McCoy's Creek Tribute-** *Representative Brad Paquette will present a tribute to the McCoy's Creek Trail Extension Groundbreaking.*

Let it be known that it is with deep appreciation for the hard work, dedication, and vision that we gather to commemorate the grand achievement of the McCoy's Creek Trail Extension to the River St. Joe Brewery. As members of the Buchanan Community come together to celebrate this milestone, we proudly add our voice to honor the countless individuals who have worked so tirelessly to bring this remarkable project to life.

Far more than a simple path, the McCoy's Creek Trail Extension embodies the shared vision and persistent determination of Buchanan's residents, leaders, and partners. A dream first shared by Buchanan Visionaries including Dick Proud, Russ Stephens, Michelle Klarich, Lloyd Miller, Jac McClellan, and Mike Hughes, this extension connects key areas of our city, including E.B. Clark Woods and the downtown, and offers a route to River St. Jow Brewery. It stands as a symbol of progress, collaboration, and the transformation it represents will benefit Buchanan for generations to come. In Special Tribute, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to commemorating the opening of the McCoy's Creek Trail. May this trail continue to bring our community together, promote health and well-being, and offer an enduring legacy for all who enjoy its beauty and benefits. Signed by Brad Paquette, State Representative, the 37th District; Jonathan Lindsey, State Senator, the 7th District; Garlin Gilchrist II, Lieutenant Governor; Gretchen Whitmer, Governor.

B. City Hall Proclamation- *Recognized as a contributing resource within the Register Historic District*

Proclamation Recognizing City Hall as Part of the National Register of Historic District

WHEREAS, the City of Buchanan, Michigan, has a rich part and a strong sense of community; and

WHEREAS, the City Hall building is a testament to that history and a symbol of civic pride; and

WHEREAS, this building was designated Building No. 51 and comprised a part of the administrative complex for the Clark Equipment Company; and

WHEREAS, it has been recognized as a contributing resource within the Clark Administrative Complex National Register Historic District; and

WHEREAS, the preservation and maintenance of this historic landmark are essential to ensuring the continued vibrancy of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mark Weedon, Mayor of the City of Buchanan, do hereby proclaim April 14th, 2025, as a day to recognize and celebrate the historic City Hall building. I urge all residents to join me in honoring this important landmark and its enduring legacy.

Signed by Mayor Weedon

C. American Electric Power (AEP) Proclamation- *Proclamation of appreciation to American Electric Power (AEP)*

Proclamation of Appreciation to American Electric Power (AEP)

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2025, the City of Buchanan and surrounding areas experienced a severe storm event that resulted in widespread power outages, fallen trees, damaged infrastructure, and dangerous conditions for residents; and

WHEREAS, the timing of the storm coincided with a significant cold snap, placing additional strain on the community and posing increased risk to the health, safety, and well-being of residents; and

WHEREAS, American Electric Power (AEP) responded with urgency and professionalism, mobilizing crews and resources rapidly to assess the damage, restore power lines, and ensure the safe and efficient return of electrical service to the community; and

WHEREAS, AEP's extraordinary efforts enabled power restoration across the City of Buchanan in a remarkably short period of time given the widespread and complex nature of the damage, helping to restore a sense of normalcy and security to residents and businesses alike; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buchanan recognizes the dedication, coordination, and long hours of the AEP team, including linemen, technicians, support staff, and leadership, who worked tirelessly under challenging conditions to serve our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City Commission of the City of Buchanan does hereby express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to American Electric Power (AEP) for their swift and effective response to the March 30, 2025, storm, and their unwavering commitment to public service and community safety.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that a copy of this proclamation be presented to AEP as a token of the City's gratitude and recognition of their exemplary service.

Proclaimed this 14th day of April 2025.

On behalf of the Buchanan City Commission

Signed by Mayor Weedon.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Weedon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Weedon, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Raquel George, Commissioner Dan Vigansky

CITY STAFF: City Manager, Tony McGhee; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Community Development Director, Rich Murphy; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker

V. Approve Agenda

Motion made by Money, supported by George, to approve the agenda, as presented. Voice vote carries unanimously.

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

None.

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

A. Minutes- *Consider approving the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 24th, 2025.*

B. Department Reports- *receive monthly reports.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Vigansky to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Voice vote carries unanimously.

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

IX. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

A. Community Development Report- *Director Rich Murphy*

1) Project Updates.

Work is underway for the Baroda Tire demolition project. The contractors are on site and anticipate a 4-6 week project period. Mailers have been sent out to nearby residents and we will continue to communicate through mailings, our website, and social media.

Between the downtown project website, project engineer, text updates, and our own social media, we are communicating updates and adjustments regularly.

The McCoy's Creek Trail Extension is underway. Currently most of the work is happening outside of River Saint Joe, but work on Schirmer Parkway will begin as soon as April 21, requiring road closures. Nearby residents have been notified personally and communication across multiple platforms will continue.

We are working on many big projects and we appreciate resident's continued patience.

Commissioner Vigansky asked about an electric pole at the feed mill. Murphy confirmed there is no power at the feed mill currently. AEP has been very responsive. Vigansky would like to see renderings of Front st post project completion shared, Murphy said he could provide them and that they're also on the project website.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

A. Resolution 2025.04/13- *Resolution to authorize issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bond, Series 2025.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money, to approve Resolution 2025.04/13, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

B. Resolution 2025.04/14- *A Resolution to negotiate the summer school tax collection fee.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by George, to approve Resolution 2025.04/14, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

D. Resolution 2025.04/15 - *A Resolution establishing fees for the Road Right-of-Way Permits and Policy.*

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to approve the Resolution 2025.04/15, as presented. Roll call votes carry unanimously.

E. Tin Shop Bid- Consider *approving the Tin Shop Roof Bid replacement.*

Motion made by George, supported by Swem to approve the bid award to Astrong Construction not to exceed the amount of \$10,020.00. Roll call votes carries unanimously.

F. DDA Ordinance Review

McGhee introduced the proposed DDA Ordinance. It is being presented to the Commission before its official reading to provide ample time for review. The changes to this ordinance are to bring the previous DDA ordinance up to speed with state requirements introduced since the DDA was disbanded.

F. Budget Amendments- *Consider the Budget Amendments #2 for FY 2024-2025.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money, to approve Budget amendments #2 for FY 2024-2025, as presented. Roll call votes carries unanimously.

G. Expenditures- *Consider approving the expenditures for April 14th, 2025, in the amount of \$161,989.19.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by George, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$161,989.19, as presented. Roll call votes carries unanimously.

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

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

Haley Jones – Chunks will be doing a soft opening Easter weekend before opening for the season starting May 2nd.

Mike Baker – There has been some vandalism and damage in Ravish and Victory parks over the weekend. The City has placed dumpsters around town for BYSBA and parks, not for public use.

XIV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

Thanked staff for their work this week. We will begin enforcing signs in the right of way and will be communicating that. The contractors have enjoyed working in our community and spoke highly of Buchanan. McGhee also offered his congratulations to Chief Burnett.

B. Commissioner Comments

George – Thanked AEP and the DPW for their hard work during the storm and the subsequent clean up around town. Thanked Rep. Paquette for attending the Trail extension groundbreaking. The feed mill has been an eyesore for a while and she looks forward to the project and believes it will benefit Buchanan. The Easter egg hunt will be this Saturday at 11am, put on by the Leos.

Swem – Praised AEP, DPW and residents for their response to the storm. We were on top of the ball and able to act quickly. DDA applications are due April 21st. Spring clean up day will be May 2-3rd.

Money – Thanked McGhee and staff for their hard work and AEP, Mike Baker, and his crew during and after the storm. Thanked Peter Lysy for his help with the Historic District designation. Thanked the citizens of Buchanan for their continued patience.

Vigansky – Thanked Beth for her comments on Facebook. He also personally messaged commenters who asked questions or expressed opinions. Thanked McGhee for all his work.

C. Mayor Comments

Thanked residents for their communication. He is impressed with the communication coming out of City hall. He also thanked the commission.

XV. Adjourn

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon