

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

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

II. Recognition

A. Proclamation for White Cane Week

Mayor Denison recited the proclamation for White Cane Week.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Denison led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Sean Denison, Commissioner Patrick Swem, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Dan Vigansky

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Mark Weedon

City Staff: Interim City Manager, Tim Lynch; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Assistant Community Development Director/ Mainstreet Manager, Ashley Regal; Director of Public Safety, Tim Ganus; Chief of Police Harvey Burnett

V. Approve Agenda

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to amend the agenda to add item C. Excuse Mayor Pro Tem Mark Weedon from March 27th Regular Meeting as well as the April 24th Regular Meeting. Also, to add approval of new signage of the Common under Consent Agenda item D. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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

Stephanie Deschepper- asking for support for Scarecrow Charities resolution.

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

A. Minutes

1) Consider approving regular meeting minutes from April 10, 2023

2) Consider approving special meeting minutes from April 17, 2023

3) Consider approving closed session minutes from April 17, 2023

B. Expenditures

1) Consider approving expenditures for April 24, 2023, in the amount of \$313,045.52

C. Excuse Mayor Pro Tem Weedon from March 27th, 2023 & April 24, 2023, Regular Meeting.

D. Approve the new signage at the Common.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to approve the amended consent agenda. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

VIII. Scheduled Matters from the Floor (if any)

A. Resolution 2023.04/13

1) A resolution allowing Buchanan Scarecrow Charities to hold a raffle event.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to approve Resolution #2023.04/13, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

B. Mary Lister, Interim Executive Director Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan

1) Consider funding for sidewalk improvements to The Roti Roti Art Center.

Mary Lister original intent was to ask for funds for improvements to the sidewalk. She is now requesting to help save the locus tree. To save the tree the design aspect had to be changed with an extra 6,000 on top of what they have contracted for already. The art center is trying to make the sidewalk safer since there have been falls that have occurred. The Buchanan Tree Friends have been consulted; they have asked that the tree be saved. The art center has also decided to add an accessibility ramp from the tree lawn to the street. The art center is in need of funds for this \$21,000.00 project, they have raised \$5,000.00 so far and continue to fundraise. With a "Brisket and Blues" fundraiser coming up on June 4th at the Art Center. As well as "sidewalk sale" to purchase a memorial brick to out in the walkway. Lister has asked the Commission to consider funds for the project at budget time.

C. Randy Bicard- Presentation on Bringing Pickleball to Buchanan.

Randy Bicard presented to the commission on bringing pickleball courts to Buchanan. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the US right now. This sport reaches all ages from children to older generations. Bicard brought a representative from Paddle Tek, a company that sells rec gear for pickleball, which she informed the commission about the sport and the possibility of it having economic effect. Bicard is asking for the commission to consider putting in courts somewhere at the city. The Commission asked Bicard to reach out to Jen Tabor for possible space at Stark School, to reach out to the schools about possible lining the tennis courts, as well as talking to the BARB committee about granting opportunities and a financial plan.

IX. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

A. Director of Public Services Mike Baker

1) DPW building construction update.

Baker informed the Commission that there will be a meeting held with AVB this coming Wednesday on the DPW Building. Building Risk insurance is taken care of. Baker is working on FF&E trying to find cost savings on those items, including a local forklift. AEP has been contacted

about DEMO of the old DPW Building, that way the electric lines are in the correct spots. The building has been ordered. The construction group has made selections of the finishes for inside and outside. The soil analysis is being done and sent to the State to see where the contamination is at. Discussion about the Auger and Mike is waiting for a part to be able to get the auger running.

B. Mainstreet Manager/ Assistant Community Development Director, Ashley Regal

1) Consider approving the 2023 Common Schedule.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the Common Summer Schedule as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

A. Budget Amendments

1) Consider approving the budget amendments as presented by the finance committee.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Vigansky to approve the budget amendments as presented by the finance committee (see attachment A). Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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

A. Election Day is Tuesday, May 2, 2023- Polls are open from 7 AM- 8 PM

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

Norma Ferris- Concerns about the Cemetery.

Brian Murphy & Richard Martin- Comments about Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations.

William Haas- Comments about wanting a retail permit for marijuana.

Deanna Banock- Comments about candy being thrown at Memorial Day Parade.

Beth Denton- Comments about "No Mow May" and grass ordinance.

XIV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

Commended Mike Baker and the public works crew they have been dealing with water mains all week. Baker is a man of man hats, he is the Director, the crisis manager, and emergency planner. Who has some great people that work for him. Lynch is proud to be a small part of that team. Lynch also commented that they have been working on the budget, finances, DPW building construction and an internal committee working on Thrill on the Hill hoping to make it a beneficial event with all expenses and revenue being tracked.

B. Commissioner Comments

Swem- Gave condolences to the family of Lloyd Miller, stating that he was a great man that served his community. Thanks to the Tree Friends for their planting this past weekend. It's a true mission to plan that. Thanks to the Buchanan Chamber for the Chili-Walk event, it was a well-attended event. The benefactor for the Chili- Walk was the Buchanan Tree Friends.

Vigansky- Addressed Mike Baker for "growling" at him. He does not apologize for growling, just that Baker acknowledged he "growled" but he got Bakes attention. Excited for the Tree Friends, stating they are a fine example of a committee of the City. Acknowledge the loss of Dick Mann.

Money- Condolences to Dick Mann and acknowledgment for his 52 years to the City of Buchanan. Congratulations and thanks to the Tree Friends for their hard work on Saturday as well as DPW crew for their help with the tree planting. Thanks to the Scarecrow Charities for their service to the community. Thanked city staff for doing an outstanding job, Mr. Lynch has been amazing for stepped up for the city. As well as thanked the Commission for all they do.

C. Mayor Comments

Denison offered his condolences to the family of Lloyd Miller. Mr. Miller was instrumental in helping to create the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation. Condolences to the family of Dick Mann who served 54 years for the Berrien County Sheriff's Department, which is truly incredible. Thanks to the Tree friends for the great event this Saturday. Encouraging all to go help when they do the next plating. Recommending everyone take advantage of the plays put on at the Tin-Shop Mayor was able to attend on Sunday afternoon with a lot of shows still left in the season and a great line up at the Common this year. Denison brought up the parking on Claremont Street by Stark School that due to the games and parking an ambulance could not get to the softball field. The signage needs to be updated so that cars are only parked on one side.

XV. Adjourn

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 P.M. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Barbara A. Pitcher, City Clerk

Mayor Sean Denison