



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026 – 7:00 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

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

II. Recognition

A. Proclamation Recognizing Evelyn Furst for achieving the Stars & Stripes Award

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Invocation-Nathan Babcock

Invocation was given.

V. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Mark Weedon, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Raquell George, Commissioner Dan Vigansky

Absent: None.

City Staff: City Manager Tony McGhee & City Clerk Kalla Langston-Weiss

VI. Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Swem, seconded by George, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice votes carried unanimously

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

No public comment was made.

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

A. Minutes- Consider approving the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes from April 13th, 2026.

B. BARB Appointment- Consider approving the Appointment of Brian Kill to BARB for a 3-year term.

Motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by George, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Voice votes carry unanimously.

IX. Scheduled Matters from the Floor (if any)

A. Lead Service Line Replacement- City of Buchanan FY 2027 Drinking Water Project Planning Document, Mike Schwartz with Prein and Newhof.

1) Presentation of Plan

McGhee asked Mike Schwartz, with Prein&Newhof to come to speak about the DWSRF lead service replacement project planning document. Schwartz provided an overview of the DWSRF program, description of the problems addressed by the project, the alternatives that were evaluated and recommended alternative selected for the project, cost estimates, project financing, costs to users, anticipated social and environmental

impacts with the recommended alternatives and measures to mitigate adverse impacts. Commission questions included potential schedule and how the location of replacements we determined. These questions were answered and addressed during the presentation.

2) Public Comments on the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (*limit 3 minutes*)

No residents spoke on this topic, and no written comments were submitted.

3) Consider Resolution 2026.04/06, a Resolution adopting a final project planning document for water system improvements and designating an authorized project representative.

Motion made by Swem, seconded by Money to approve resolution 2026.04/06 a resolution adopting the final project planning document for water system improvements and authorizing City Manager McGee to serve as the authorized project representative. Roll call votes carry unanimously.

X. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Resolution 2026.04/04- Consider Resolution 2026.04/04, a resolution to submit to the electors a proposal for the renewal of a millage for public transportation purposes (Niles Dial-a-Ride) at the August 4, 2026, Primary Election. (*Postponed at the 4/13/2026 Regular Meeting*)

Motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by George, to postpone consideration of the Dial-A-Ride millage ballot proposal until the City receives verification from the City of Niles regarding the contract amount so the proposed millage amount may be aligned with the required funding level.

Discussion included the status of information from the City of Niles, the possibility of a broader countywide Dial-A-Ride effort, and potential impacts on future contract negotiations.

Roll call votes unanimously.

XII. New Business

A. Intergovernmental Agreement for Transit Service- Consider approving the Intergovernment Agreement for Transit Service with Niles Dial-A-Ride (DART)
Motion made by Money, seconded by Vigansky, to postpone consideration of the intergovernmental agreement for Dial-A-Ride services until the City receives confirmation from the City of Niles regarding the proposed agreement extensions and contract terms. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

B. FY 2026-2027 Draft Budget- Manager McGhee is submitting the draft recommended budget for the next fiscal year. Consider setting the public hearing to gather comments on the proposed draft budget for May 26th, 2026.
City Manager McGee presented the draft recommended budget for fiscal year 2026–2027 and requested that the Commission set a public hearing for May 26, 2026.
Motion was made by Swem, seconded by George, to accept the fiscal year 2026–2027 draft budget and set the public hearing to receive comments on the proposed draft budget for May 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

C. Insurance Bid Award- Consider awarding a Professional Services Contract for Employee Insurance Brokerage Service.

City Manager McGee reported that the City issued an RFP for professional services for employee insurance brokerage. After an extension of the proposal period and review of three bids, staff recommended awarding the contract to Michigan Planners.

Motion was made by George, seconded by Vigansky, to award the professional services contract for employee insurance brokerage services to Michigan Planners and authorize City Manager McGee to finalize and execute the necessary agreement documents, subject to review by the City Attorney.

- D. Resolution 2026.04/07-** Consider Resolution 2026.04/07, a resolution considering the local government approval for the following license MCL 436.1521 a(1)(a) Redevelopment RDA License Class C at 110 Main St.

City Manager McGee presented a request for local government approval of a redevelopment liquor license for LG Bradley LLC, associated with a restaurant planned for 110 Main Street. The license was described as a Class C full liquor license.

Motion was made by Swem, seconded by George to approve Resolution 2026-04/07 as presented.

Discussion noted that redevelopment liquor licenses have benefited multiple properties in the City and are a useful tool for encouraging downtown development and investment.

Roll call votes are carried unanimously.

- D. Expenditures-** Consider approving the expenditures in the amount of \$101,973.32. Motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by Money, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$101,973.32. Roll call votes are carried unanimously.

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

- A. Kathryn Park Playground Equipment-** Playground color renderings.

City Manager McGee presented the selected color renderings for the new Kathryn Park playground equipment as a communications item. He stated the equipment would be ordered the following day.

Commissioners discussed the project and thanked those involved in the selection process and park improvements. It was noted that Kathryn Park had been identified by the community as a priority for playground improvements.

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

Eric Boswell II spoke in support of allowing golf carts within the City of Buchanan. He stated that golf carts could provide convenient short-trip transportation, improve accessibility for elderly residents, and support a safer and more connected community.

XV. Executive Comments

- A. City Manager Comments**

He reported that there were power outages throughout the community. AEP was working on restoration, with approximately 350 outages in the city proper and approximately 3,500 outages in the region at the time of the meeting. Public Works crews were also out addressing trees coming out of power lines. He asked residents to be patient while crews worked through the situation safely.

City Manager McGee also provided an update on the downtown construction project. He stated that striping had begun the previous week, with additional striping scheduled. Railings were being manufactured for certain downtown areas, and some concrete that did not meet specifications would be removed and replaced. He stated that the City was pushing to complete as much of the project as possible before the May 16 Buchanan event.

- B. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner George stated that it was a great meeting and provided several community updates. She announced that May 2 would be a cleanup day for the parks, with work planned at Veterans Park, Ravish Park, and the Commons. Volunteers were scheduled to meet at the City Center at 9:00 a.m., with lunch provided and donuts from Lehman's.

George also discussed the May 16 community events, including SIP Buchanan, Cruise Buchanan, and Run Buchanan. She stated that Run Buchanan is being organized by the BARB Board to raise funds for park equipment and improvements, helping reduce the burden on the general fund. She noted that participants may run or walk, and that local businesses and organizations were supporting the event, including Martin's, the DDA, Chunks, and the Fire Department, which would be holding a pancake breakfast fundraiser. Commissioner George thanked Tree Friends for planting trees at Veterans Park, near City Hall, and at the dog park. She also thanked Richard Martin, Lane Martin, and all volunteers involved in the tree planting efforts. Commissioner George stated that she appreciated working with the Commission and announced that she is officially running for City Commissioner.

Mayor Pro Tem Swem asked City Manager McGee whether final numbers would be available regarding dump day participation. City Manager McGee stated that he would provide an update at the next meeting and noted that the event had been very busy. Swem also thanked Tree Friends, stating that they continue to be a great organization and lead the way in the community. He also thanked Chunks and mentioned visiting with his family while the tree planting work was underway nearby.

Commissioner Vigansky discussed the topic of golf carts and expressed concerns about allowing them in the City. He stated that he did not want individuals without driver's licenses operating golf carts and questioned the overall benefit. He also discussed downtown tree plantings, noting that some fruit trees downtown were being reviewed or removed. City Manager McGee clarified that two trees had been rejected because the species was not verified, while others were appropriate for downtown streetscapes and would remain.

Vigansky asked about the removal of rubber stoppers or soil sacks around drains. City Manager McGee responded that some would be removed soon, with others expected within approximately two weeks as ground stabilization improved. Also discussed were pedestrian crosswalk signs, jaywalking, traffic flow, truck traffic, and downtown street design. He noted that truck traffic downtown appeared to be reduced and stated that he had previously contacted Swift before construction to encourage routing trucks around the city.

Commissioner Money congratulated Evelyn First on her Stars and Stripes Award and stated that the tree planting at Veterans Park turned out very well. He noted that many events are beginning in Buchanan and stated that he would not repeat the details already provided by Commissioner George.

C. Mayor Comments

Mayor Weedon congratulated Evelyn First and thanked Commissioner George for bringing the recognition to the City's attention.

Weedon also commented on the golf cart topic, stating that he is a proponent of allowing golf carts if appropriate controls, parameters, and limitations are put in place. He noted that golf carts are used in lake communities throughout Michigan and stated that the topic is not dead but remains an ongoing conversation for future Commission consideration. Also thanked Tree Friends and described speaking to fifth-grade students at the middle school regarding tree planting efforts. He noted that students received trees and that the event was enjoyable and meaningful.

XVI. Adjourn

Motion made by Vigansky, seconded by Money to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Roll call votes unanimously.

Kalla Langston-Weiss, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon