
MINUTES**I. Call to Order**

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

II. Recognition**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States was recited.

IV. Invocation

Invocation was given.

V. Roll Call

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

CITY STAFF: City Manager, Tony McGhee; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Chief of Police Harvey Burnett, Community Development Director, Rich Murphy

VI. Approve Agenda

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

A. Minutes- *Consider approving the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 28th, 2025.*

B. Department Head Reports- *Receive monthly reports.*

C. Excuse- *Consider excusing Mayor Pro Tem Swem's absence on July 28, 2025.*

The motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by Money to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Voice votes carried unanimously.

IX. Scheduled Matters from the Floor *(if any)***X. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards**

A. Clerk Department- *August 5th, 2025 Special Election*

The special election held on August 5th had a total of 286 voters for the City, resulting in a 12.7% turnout. The library proposal passed. The upcoming November election will include two LMC proposals.

XI. Unfinished Business**XII. New Business**

A. Redbud Roots- *Consider the permit renewal for Grower Class C, Redbud Roots located at 448 Post Rd.*

Background checks and fees for applications have been received. Murphy recommends approval. Red Bud Roots currently plans to continue renewing all licenses, with possible future consolidation.

Motion made by Swem, seconded by Vigansky to approve the permit renewal for Grower Class C, Redbud Roots, located at 448 Post Rd., as presented. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

B. CDBG and Foundations Northside Neighborhood Home Repair- bid tabulation and request for approval of notices to proceed with bid awards and with project contracts.

City of Buchanan launched the Northside Home Repair Program with CDBG and local foundation funding. The program awarded contracts for 8 home repair projects after two rounds of bidding. Total approval requested: \$120,000 (\$57,515 CDBG + \$60,950 foundations); CDBG grant total: \$300,000 with \$200,000 remaining after administration. Projects include roofing, HVAC, siding, gutters, soffit, and fascia; roof replacements are estimated at \$6,000–\$15,000+ per home. Contracts require licensed, insured Michigan contractors; CDBG projects over \$10,000 require a 5-year forgivable lien.

The motion was made by Money, seconded by Swem to approve the notices and the project contract, as presented. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

C. Revitalization and Placemaking "RAP" Grant with MEDC- Consider allowing City Manager Anthony McGhee as the authorized signer for the RAP Grant pertaining to the Buchanan Downtown Infrastructure and Placemaking Initiative Project.

Approval is recommended for City Manager Anthony C. McGee as the authorized signer for the RAP grant. This grant supports the Buchanan Downtown Infrastructure and Placemaking Initiative. MEDC has awarded a \$1 million grant for the project. This administrative action finalizes the paperwork and agreement.

Motion made by George, seconded by Swem, to approve allowing City Manager Anthony C. McGhee to be the authorized signer for the MEDC RAP Grant, as presented. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

D. Expenditures- Consider the expenditures for August 11th, 2025.

Motion made by Vigansky, seconded by Money, to approve the expenditures for \$60,411.81, as presented. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

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

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

Norma Ferris- Concern raised about infrastructure replacement in Buchanan, specifically Oak Street.

Fulton St. Resident-Fulton Street residents reported excessive semi-truck traffic, safety concerns for children, and questioned if the street is appropriate for heavy hauling.

Jerry Flenar- Ribbon cutting for River St. Joe trail scheduled; trail is 98-99% complete; public and commission invited. Trick-or-treat on the trail set for October 25th; last year saw 780 children; parking arranged; seeking \$3,000 in candy donations; no dogs allowed at the event.

XV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

Stranger Wine had a soft opening this past weekend. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority consultant interviews underway; recommendation expected next meeting; feed mill property cleanup to finish next month, then RFP for redevelopment. Water/sewer upgrades reduced treatable waste by 200,000–300,000 gallons/day (20–30% reduction), improving efficiency and cost savings. Disc golf course construction is nearly complete; 12 pads poured, final 6 in progress; project funded by a grant.

Downtown infrastructure project reached 65–70% completion. Curb and concrete should start on the 20th. River St. and Redbud paving should be done within the next month.

B. Commissioner Comments

Vigansky- Comments about Fulton St. being a cut through (McGhee and Chief will look at solutions). Facebook attacks have become personal; there is a line that people should not be crossing.

Money-The comments expressed gratitude to the Police Department for organizing National Night Out. Appreciation was extended to the Buchanan Township Fire Department for their generous donation to the Shop with a Cop program. Additional thanks were given to all the businesses that contributed food for the event. Lastly, thanks were also offered to everyone who attended the meeting, including the Commission and Staff.

George- We would like to express our appreciation to the staff. Disc golf is beginning to take off. Faith and Family Day is on August 24th; everyone is invited, and it will be held at the Common.

Swem- Congratulations to the Library! We appreciate the support from the BARB board and the Disc Golf group. The JWSB meeting held this morning highlighted the significant positive impact our ongoing construction is having on our infrastructure. We have successfully reduced the volume of treatable waste by 200,000 to 300,000 gallons per day. These major efficiencies will enable us to continue making capital improvements throughout the town and explore opportunities to collaborate with neighboring communities to expand the system. Lastly, I'd like to remind the Commission members to submit their evaluation sheets for Manager McGhee.

C. Mayor Comments

Weedon- When I walk through town and see people coming in and out of businesses while the sidewalks remain accessible, it's exciting. However, for those on Facebook who find it fun to criticize and make jokes, it's important to remember that business owners are the ones facing the consequences of these actions. Business owners are affected because of your inactivity and your failure to represent this city effectively. It's crucial to show your support and patronage to local businesses. Give back to your community.

XVI. Adjourn

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon