

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 – 7:00 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Weedon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Mark Weedon, Commissioner Cameron Downey, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Patrick Swem

ABSENT: Mayor Sean Denison

STAFF: City Manager Heather Grace, City Clerk Barbara Pitcher, Director of Public Services Mike Baker

GUESTS: Jason Washerman, Dan Vigansky

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

Dan Vigansky - Asked several questions about grants.

IV. Business

A. USDA Loan Applications for Water & Sewer

Jason Washler from Prein & Newhoff to present.

Washler provided a summary of the presentation made at the September 13, 2021, City Commission meeting and announced the City had been offered the poverty rate for both loans, which is the best option for these projects. Everyone is looking for grants. There may be Federal infrastructure grants in the future, but those are unknown at this time and will be very competitive. We will have 15-8 months to close on the loan. If better rates or grant opportunities arise, we can take advantage of them. The project can be shrunk, but it is difficult to add to the project, so determining the scope is important. Since Third Street is currently being completed, perhaps other work could be added to the project scope in its place.

Discussion regarding water-sewer rates. Water and sewer debt is retiring in 2029 and 2030 which can dampen the effect on user rates and septage receiving can also help to offset rates. Grace mentioned the potential for a \$300,000 MDOT grant and a lead remediation grant.

Motion made by Commissioner Swem, Seconded by Commissioner Downey to approve the City of Buchanan moving forward to obligate the USDA loan applications for water and wastewater presented this evening and authorize the City Manager and Mayor to sign any documents necessary to execute said obligation. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Grace indicated Mayor Sean Denison requested his absence be excused due to illness. ***Hearing no objections from the Commission, Mayor Pro Tem Weedon declared Mayor Sean Denison's absence excused.***

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

Dan Vigansky - Spoke again regarding contracting a grant writer and requested it be on the next City Commission agenda.

VI. Adjourn

Being no further business, motion made by Commissioner Downey, seconded by Commissioner Money to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Barbara A. Pitcher, City Clerk

Mayor Sean Denison