



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026 – 7:00 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

I. Call to Order Public Hearing # 1

Mayor Weedon called Public Hearing No. 1 to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mayor Weedon and Commissioners Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George.

III. Opening of Public Hearing # 1

Motion: Vigansky moved, supported by Swem, to open Public Hearing No. 1 at 7:01 PM. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Statement and Purpose

- A. The purpose of Ordinance No. 2026.07/450 is to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Buchanan by repealing Chapter 76, Signs, in its entirety. The proposed repeal is intended to eliminate duplicate and potentially conflicting sign regulations from the City Code following the adoption of the City's Unified Development Code, which now contains the City's applicable zoning and signage regulations. By repealing Chapter 76, Signs, the ordinance will help ensure that the City's sign regulations are located in the appropriate governing document, reduce confusion for property owners, businesses, staff, and the public, and promote consistent administration and enforcement of the City's current zoning and signage standards
Public Comment: No public comments were offered.

V. Close of Public Hearing #1

Motion: Money moved, supported by George, to close Public Hearing No. 1 at 7:02 PM. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Call to Order Public Hearing #2

Mayor Weedon called Public Hearing No. 2 to order.

VII. Roll Call

Mayor Weedon and Commissioners Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George.

VIII. Opening of Public Hearing #2

Motion: Swem moved, supported by Vigansky, to open Public Hearing No. 2 at 7:03 PM. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Statement and Purpose

- A. The purpose of Ordinance No. 2026.07/451 is to amend Chapter 78, Solid Waste, of the City of Buchanan Code of Ordinances to update and clarify the City's brush collection regulations. The proposed amendments are intended to establish clear, consistent standards for the City's brush pick-up program, including regulations for brush size, pile size, stacking requirements, placement, collection schedule, prohibited materials, property owner responsibilities, and enforcement procedures. The ordinance is further intended to clarify that the City's brush pick-up program is provided for routine trimming of on-site trees and vegetation by property owners and is not intended to serve as a disposal service for tree removal or brush generated by professional contractors. These amendments will help promote efficient collection operations, maintain public rights-of-way, support neighborhood cleanliness, and provide clear guidance to property owners regarding proper brush disposal.

Public Comment: Norma Ferris, 304 North Oak Street, asked whether the ordinance would be available in paper form and whether it would be understandable to long-time residents. Mayor Weedon stated that the enacted ordinance would be available online and that a printed copy could be obtained from City Hall. It was explained that the ordinance primarily updates and clarifies existing practices, including that the City brush program is not intended to dispose of whole trees or contractor-generated material.

X. Closing of Public Hearing #2

Motion: George moved, supported by Vigansky, to close Public Hearing No. 2 at 7:06 PM. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Call to Order Public Hearing # 3

Mayor Weedon called Public Hearing No. 3 to order.

XII. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present - Mayor Weedon and Commissioners Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Absent - None.

XIII. Opening of Public Hearing #3

Motion: Swem moved, supported by Money, to open Public Hearing No. 3 at 7:06 PM. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

XIV. Statement and Purpose

- A. The proposed ordinance 2026.08/453 would amend the City's bicycle ordinance to address bicycles, electric bicycles, quadracycles, scooters, skateboards, roller blades, Segways, and similar devices. The ordinance would remove outdated bicycle licensing requirements, establish updated safety and operating rules, restrict use in designated downtown areas and recreational trails, authorize additional traffic control orders, and provide on that violations are municipal civil infractions.

Public Comment: Norma Ferris, 304 North Oak Street, asked when bicycle licenses had been required and commented on the age of the existing ordinance. Commissioner Vigansky noted that bicycle licensing dated back many decades. Dennis Moore commented that two riders on electric bicycles had passed him and his dog at a high rate of speed on the sidewalk in Mill Alley, creating a safety concern. The Commission also discussed downtown sidewalk safety and enforcement concerns involving electric bicycles, scooters, and similar devices.

XV. Close of Public Hearing #3

Motion: Vigansky moved, supported by Money, to close Public Hearing No. 37 at 7:11 PM. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

XVI. Call to order the Regular Meeting

Mayor Weedon called the regular meeting of the Buchanan City Commission to order at 7:11 PM.

XVII. Recognition

- A. Letters of Commendation** – The City Commission will recognize members of the Buchanan Police Department and City staff for their dedicated service to the community. Letters of Commendation will be presented to Sgt. Michael Horton for his faithful leadership of the Buchanan Police Department Reserve Program; Officer Philip Huang for his faithful work as the School Resource Officer with Buchanan Community Schools; Professional Admin/Records Clerk Diana Selir for her dedication to providing professional and courteous administrative support and service to Department personnel and the public; and Code Enforcement Officer Jason Cullum for his dedication and professionalism in advancing courteous and quality code enforcement to the Buchanan community.

Police Chief Harvey Burnett introduced newly hired Officer Alex Wootton, who had recently graduated from the police academy. Chief Burnett then presented Letters of Commendation to Administrative Professional/Records Clerk Diana Selir, Sergeant Michael Horton, Officer Philip Huang, and Code Enforcement Officer Jason Cullum for exceptional service to the City and community.

XVIII. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

XIX. Invocation

Invocation was given.

XX. Roll Call

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

CITY STAFF: City Manager Tony McGhee, City Clerk Kalla Langston, Zoning and Community Development Director Kristen Gundersen, Director of Public Services Mike Baker, Treasurer Deborah Perez, Chief of Police Harvey Burnett

XXI. Approve Agenda

Motion: Swem moved, supported by George, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

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

Dennis Moore, representing Buchanan Business Boosters, spoke regarding the Dog Days of Summer adoption event included on the consent agenda. He stated that the event was being organized primarily through volunteer efforts and that Good Boy Vodka had donated \$1,000 directly to the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan.

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

A. Minutes- Consider the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes from June 22nd, 2026.

B. Department Head Reports- Receive monthly reports

C. Special Event Application- Consider approving the Special Event Application for "The Dog Days of Summer" on August 8th, 2026, from 10 AM-12 PM.

D. Board Appointment- Consider appointing Julie Capron to the Downtown Design Review Committee as an Alternate serving a 3-year term.

E. Excuse- Consider excusing Mayor Mark Weedon absence from the June 22, 2026 City Commission Meeting.

Motion: Swem moved, supported by Money, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

XXIV. Scheduled Matters from the Floor (if any)

XXV. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

XXVI. Unfinished Business

A. Second Reading and Enactment of Ordinance 2026.07/450 – Consider the second reading and enactment of Ordinance 2026.07/450, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Buchanan by repealing Chapter 76, Signs, in its entirety.

Motion: George moved, supported by Vigansky, to approve the second reading and enact Ordinance No. 2026.07/450, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of

Buchanan by repealing Chapter 76, Signs, in its entirety, as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Second Reading and Enactment of Ordinance 2026.08/451** – Consider the second reading and enactment of Ordinance 2026.08/451, an ordinance to amend Chapter 78, Solid Waste, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Buchanan to update and clarify brush collection regulations. The Commission discussed enforcement. City staff explained that noncompliant brush would not be collected; a notice would be left for the property owner, and continued failure to remove the material could result in enforcement for leaving it at the curb. Staff will prepare an informational notice regarding the updated brush requirements.

Motion: Money moved, supported by Vigansky, to approve the second reading and enact Ordinance No. 2026.08/451, an ordinance to amend Chapter 78, Solid Waste, of the City of Buchanan Code of Ordinances to update and clarify the City brush collection regulations, as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. First Reading of Ordinance 2026.08/453 and Schedule Public Hearing #2** – Consider the first reading of Ordinance 2026.08/453, an ordinance to amend Chapter 98, Article VI, of the City of Buchanan Code to regulate the riding of bicycles within the City and to repeal all ordinances in conflict therewith, and schedule Public Hearing #2 for August 10, 2026, to receive public input on the proposed ordinance.

The Commission discussed the importance and practical challenges of enforcing restrictions on bicycles, electric bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and similar devices in the downtown area. Staff stated that the ordinance was brought forward because the existing ordinance did not adequately address current conditions.

Motion: Vigansky moved, supported by George, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2026.08/453, an ordinance to amend Chapter 98, Article VI, of the City of Buchanan Code to regulate the riding of bicycles within the City and to repeal all ordinances in conflict therewith, and to schedule Public Hearing No. 2 for August 10, 2026, as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

XXVII. New Business

- A. Axon 10-Year Integration Contract**- Consider approving the purchase of the Axon 10-year integration contract for the purchase of three DVMs, upgraded BWcs, and integration of the current Taser Purchase contract and related digital evidence cloud access for the total amount of \$397,333.00

City Manager Tony McGhee explained that the proposed contract would bundle body-worn cameras, three in-car digital video systems, the existing Taser contract, and digital evidence cloud access into a ten-year program. The arrangement was estimated to save the City approximately \$172,704.28 over ten years and included camera equipment intended for the boat launch area.

Motion: Swem moved, supported by Money, to approve the ten-year Axon integration lease contract in the total amount of \$329,096.98 and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary contract documents on behalf of the City. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. 401 River St Lease**- Consider the lease of City-Owned Property located at 401 River St to MJ Electric LLC.

City Manager McGhee explained that MJ Electric, LLC sought to lease the City-owned property for equipment, crews, and a job-site trailer while completing a transmission-line project in the area. The lease would generate revenue while the City continues to market the property and would be assignable if the property is sold.

Motion: Money moved, supported by George, to approve the lease of the City-owned property located at 401 River Street to MJ Electric, LLC, beginning July 27, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a rate of \$3,000 per month, with MJ Electric responsible for maintaining the property during the

lease term, with the lease assignable in the event the City sells the property, and to authorize the City Manager to execute and finalize the documents. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Expenditures- Consider approving the expenditures for July 13th, 2026.

The Commission discussed several expenditures, including costs associated with state-required testing and employee work-boot reimbursement.

Motion: Vigansky moved, supported by Money, to approve the expenditures dated July 13, 2026, in the total amount of \$397,333.00, as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas - Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem, and George. Nays - None. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. National Night Out**- On Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 6 - 9 p.m., the Buchanan Police Department will sponsor its annual ***National Night Out (NNO) Against Crime at McCoy Creek Park behind Buchanan High School***. This event is open to all citizens in and around the Buchanan community. NNO is designed to: (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Many neighborhoods throughout America accomplish this through such activities as block parties, parades, visits from police, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities, and anticrime rallies.

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

No public comments were offered.

EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

XXX. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

City Manager McGhee reported that the first group of projects under the City's sidewalk program had been sent to the contractor and was expected to begin within the next few weeks. The initial phase includes approximately \$35,000 in sidewalk improvements, and staff is already preparing the next group of projects. He reported that the Catherine Park community playground build was successfully completed. He thanked the Department of Public Works, Fire Department, volunteers, and community members who assisted with the project. He stated that the contractor considered it one of the most efficient community builds they had completed and noted that the new playground is already receiving significant use. City Manager McGhee also announced that the City received a \$10,000 grant from the Berrien County Community Foundation for the Victory Park playground project. Fundraising efforts for that project are continuing.

B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner George thanked everyone who participated in the Catherine Park community playground build, including the Department of Public Works, Fire Department, Realtors Association, volunteers, and the Buchanan Area Recreation Board. She noted that the project was well organized and that the new playground has received positive feedback from the community. She also congratulated the Police Department personnel who received commendations and thanked them for their dedication to the community. Commissioner George reported that she attended the Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting held at the Buchanan Area Senior Center. She complimented the Senior Center and its staff and recognized the residents who attended the meeting to express concerns regarding drainage issues. She also announced that Faith and Family Day will be held Sunday, August 30, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will include live worship music, inflatables, a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, food, giveaways, children's identification kits, vision screenings, and other activities.

Commissioner Swem thanked the volunteers who participated in the Catherine Park playground build and stated that the park has been heavily used since the project was completed. He also thanked those involved with the recent downtown concerts, noting that the events were well attended and brought many people downtown. Commissioner Swem congratulated the Police Department personnel who received letters of commendation and thanked the department for its service to the community.

Commissioner Vigansky expressed disappointment that City officials were not directly notified that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners would be holding a meeting in Buchanan. He stated that he would contact the County regarding improved notification for future meetings. He also discussed questions he raised at the County Commission meeting regarding a Sheriff's Department vehicle accident and expressed concern about the responses he received. Commissioner Vigansky asked that information regarding the City's ongoing projects and workload be shared with downtown organizations so they better understand the amount of work already being completed by the City.

Commissioner Money thanked everyone involved with the Catherine Park playground project, including the Department of Public Works employees who prepared the site and worked through difficult conditions. He noted that concerns had been raised online regarding playground equipment bolts and was informed that someone had already inspected and addressed the matter.

D. Mayor Comments

Mayor Weedon thanked Chief Harvey and the Police Department personnel, including the department's support staff, for their service to the community. He congratulated the officers and employees who received letters of commendation and welcomed the City's newly hired police officer.

He thanked everyone involved with the Catherine Park playground project and recognized the volunteers, Department of Public Works, Fire Department, Buchanan Area Recreation Board, and others who contributed to the successful community build. He encouraged residents to visit the completed playground. Mayor Weedon reported that he attended the Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting held in Buchanan. He stated that he attended in part to hear the County's discussion regarding roads located outside the City's jurisdiction. He noted that the City would continue investing in and repairing the streets within its control.

XXXI. Adjourn

Motion: Money moved, supported by Vigansky to adjourn at 7:57 PM. Voice vote: motion carries unanimously.

Kalla Langston-Weiss, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon