

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024 – 7:00 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

I. Public Hearing

A. Call to Order the Public Hearing

Mayor Weedon called the Public Hearing to order at 7:01 PM.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Mark Weedon, Commissioner Patrick Swem, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Dan Vigansky, Commissioner Raquell George

C. Open of Public Hearing

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Swem to Open the Public Hearing to hear and consider any objections to establishing a special assessment to defray the cost of operating the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service (SMCAS). Voice vote carries unanimously.

D. Statement of Purpose and Announcement of the Rules of the Hearing

The City Commission of the City of Buchanan has resolved its intention to proceed to defray its share of the cost of maintaining and operating the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service ("SMCAS") by establishing a special assessment district pursuant to Act 368 of 1978. The City Commission will hear and consider any objections.

Resident- Questioned, if the assessments would go to each of the parcels he owns.

E. Close of the Public Hearing

Motion made by George, supported by Vigansky, to close the Public Hearing at 7:03 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

II. Call to Order the Regular Meeting

Mayor Weedon called the regular meeting at 7:04 PM.

III. Recognition

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Weedon led in the pledge of allegiance.

V. Roll Call

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

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

VI. Approve Agenda

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

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

Randy Hendrixson- support for the amended Buchanan Social District on behalf of LiveBuchanan.

Michael Reed- support for the amended Buchanan Social District.

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

A. Minutes

1) Consider approving the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 23rd, 2024.

2) Consider approving the Special Meeting Minutes from September 30th, 2024.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.
Roll call vote carries unanimously.

IX. Scheduled Matters from the Floor (if any)

A. Frank Walsh of Walsh Municipal Services LLC

Walsh joined us via Zoom to provide an update. The community profile for the city manager search was published on Friday. The deadline for applying is November 8th, and we hope to start interviews between November 19th and 21st. The Community Profile can be found on MML, Indeed, and the City's Website. Applicants should refer to the Community Profile for instructions on how to apply and for further details about the position.

X. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

A. Community Development Report, Director Rich Murphy

1) Consider Resolution 2024.10/28, a Resolution amending the boundaries of the Buchanan Social District.

Murphy presented an amended Buchanan Social District see **Attachment A**.

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to approve Resolution 2024.10/28, as presented.

Yeas: Weedon, Vigansky, Money, George

Nay: None

Abstain: Swem, business interest

2) Consider approval of the Homeowner Assistance Program Walk Away Policy as a best practice for Buchanan's CDBG Program.

Murphy is asking for approval for a best practice walk-away policy for Buchanan's CDBG program.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to approve the walk-away policy as presented.

Roll call vote carries unanimously.

3) Consider Resolution 2024.10/30- a resolution amending a local government approval authorized by MCL 436.1501 for a New Class C License issued under MCL 436.1521(a)(1)(a)

Murphy presented the amended Resolution 2024.10/30. There was an administrative error with the MCL 436.1521(a)(1)(a), this is the updated Resolution and Murphy is asking to approval of the amendment.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve Resolution 2024.10/30 as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

B. Clerk Department Report, City Clerk Kalla Langston

- 1) *General Election Communication for Absentee, Early, and Election Day Voting.*
Early voting will start on October 26th, 2024, and will run through November 3rd, 2024, at the Berrien County South County Building located at 1205 N Front St, Niles, MI. Absentee ballots are available, and if you wish to vote this way, please contact Langston. Election day is November 5th, 2024. The polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

XI. Unfinished Business

XII. New Business

- A. Resolution 2024.10/29-** *Consider Resolution 2024.10/29, special assessment district for emergency medical services through Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service (SMCAS) District 1. Confirmation of special assessment roll.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve resolution 2024.10/29, a special assessment of district emergency medical services through the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service (SMCAS) District. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- B. Street Sweeper-** *Consider the purchase of a new street sweeper.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to approve the purchase of a Street Sweeper per the proposal from MTEch for a global M3 Mechanical Sweeper, in the amount of \$314,155.00. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- C. Expenditures -** *Consider approving the expenditures for October 14th, 2024, in the amount of \$183,407.70*

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

D. Closed Session

- 1) *Consider entering a Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8 (1)(c) for discussions relating to the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by George to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(1)(c) for discussions relating to the negotiation of collective bargaining at 7:45 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- 2) *Consider Re-Enter Open Session.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by George to re-enter open session. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- 3) *Consider action based on Closed Session discussions.*

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to approve the AFSCME Union Contract effective July 1, 2024. Roll call vote carries 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)*

Haley Jones- Comments regarding the concrete pad at Veteran's Park needing railing.

Richard Martin- October 19th will be tree planting.

Beth Murphy- Curious about whether there will be a forum, or any newspaper articles about any of the candidates running in November for City Commissioner.

XV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

Manager Lynch announced to the commission that the new discharge permit for the wastewater treatment plant had been issued. Our team is actively implementing the compliance schedules and new testing requirements. The Front Street retaining wall design is finalized, and bid documents have been advertised and issued, with bids due on October 23rd. We are aiming to award the project at the October 28th meeting and anticipate completion by the end of December.

Furthermore, the design for the McCoy Creek/Days Ave project is complete, and the bids are due on October 22nd. We plan to award the bids at the November 12th commission meeting, with the project scheduled for completion in May 2025. Our collaboration with the library and others in the vicinity aims to minimize the impact of construction for this significant project.

Moreover, he and Langston are actively evaluating new plotting software that utilizes GIS technology for managing and locating the cemetery sites. This strategic move will enhance our cemetery management. Lastly, Manager Lynch expressed gratitude to the commission for approving the union agreement during the meeting.

B. Commissioner Comments

George wants to ensure that when we implement the social district, we enforce the guidelines and maintain the highest standards of safety. George appreciates Mr. Lynch's efforts and is both dreading and excited about the search for another city manager.

Vigansky extended special thanks to Director Murphy for the demolition of the house on Victory and Richards. He also thanked Mr. Lynch for his continued hard work.

Money expressed gratitude to Mr. Lynch for his work on the Hoven retaining wall and the McCoy Creek/Days Ave projects. Money also thanked Chief Burnett and the other officers who participated in the Faith and Blue event, appreciating their visibility and support for the community. The cemetery board has been making progress on the chapel doors, which are nearly completed. Additionally, the Wreaths Across America program, which involves placing Christmas wreaths on veterans' plots, has been approved for our local veteran's circle. Money plans to gather more information and organize a formal ceremony at the cemetery.

Swem: The team did excellent work on the ASCFME union agreements. It took us four months to come to terms, and I'm glad everyone stayed at the table and worked hard to get that done. I'm happy to see investments being made from the planning session we had back in March. Street Sweeper was part of that investment for the community. Starting with creating that capital plan and following through is a very big deal. With that said, we will be having a follow-up session in November to address other priorities, such as the playground equipment at Kathryn Park. Recently, Director Murphy brought to my attention that AMTRAK South will be doing some work. I have asked the neighboring communities to stand behind us and work with us in allowing us to put some infrastructure for future expansion in the communities. This is a long-term standing goal, and more information will come in the future. Tomorrow, there is a meeting with all the groups that are impacted by the Common, trying to maximize that space to benefit all the groups that utilize it. The books continue to get cleaner, and a huge shoutout to Deb and Courtney. I continue to be impressed. Tonight was an excellent meeting, and I am proud of the progress that this commission continues to make. Weedon has done a great job stepping in as Mayor, and we will continue to work together as a commission.

C. Mayor Comments

Weedon echoed everyone's sentiments, expressing appreciation for the many positive aspects we have to discuss. Swem and I attended a Gateway Foundation event with several other communities. It was a fantastic event that truly embodied the spirit of the City of Buchanan. We value everyone's input on this commission, and even when we have differences, we can engage in respectful discourse. Mr. Lynch and Langston, thank you very much, and to the entire team, your hard work in all aspects of this city is truly appreciated.

XVI. Adjourn

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon