
MINUTES**I. Call to Order the Regular Meeting**

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States was recited.

IV. Invocation

Invocation was given by Nathan Babcock.

V. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem

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

VI. Approve Agenda

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

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

None.

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

A. Minutes- *Consider the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 14th, 2025.*

B. Excuse- *Consider excusing Mayor Weedon from the July 14, 2025, Regular Meeting.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Voice votes are carried unanimously.

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

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

Election scheduled for August 5 (next Tuesday) in Buchanan. Single ballot item: library proposal. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., absentee ballots available. City Hall is accessible despite construction; directions and assistance are provided. Clarified as a library district proposal, not a city proposal; misinformation is present on social media

B. Board/Committee Reports- *SMCAS, Landfill, Planning Commission, BARB, DDA.*

SMCAS: SMACAS has two staff openings; the hiring process is ongoing. The remounted ambulance is in production, expected online by the end of the month. State of Michigan approved \$34,650 grant for 2026 to support EMT education. SMACAS received 248 priority run requests last month; achieved 90% on-time performance.

BARB: Disc golf course ordered new, cheaper baskets preferred by volunteers after manufacturer delay. Tee pads to be poured this weekend.

Planning Commission: Short-term rental hearings planned to prevent loss of school students and protect the community. Nearby communities are overwhelmed by short-term rentals due to a lack of early ordinance; local ordinance has been implemented proactively.

DDA: DDA board established marketing subcommittee to promote downtown businesses; members listed on website. Discover Buchanan promoted via websites, Instagram, TikTok, and QR codes.

XI. Unfinished Business

XII. New Business

A. Axon Tasers- *Consider the subscription of 4 Axon Taser 10, for the next 5 years.*

Current tasers are over 10 years old, and upgrading them addresses liability concerns. Police departments utilize a force continuum guided by state and federal statutes, prioritizing verbal de-escalation before resorting to physical force. Tasers are employed if verbal methods fail, while firearms are considered the last resort. Maintenance for tasers is necessary, including replacing batteries and prongs. The expected lifespan of a taser is approximately five years.

Motion made by Money, seconded by George, to approve the subscription for Axon Taser for five years and not to exceed \$28,308.00, as presented. The roll call vote is carried unanimously.

B. Server Licenses- *Consider the purchase of server licenses.*

purchase of two server licenses (City Hall, Police Station) to replace unsupported 2019 and 2016 licenses. Selected CDW as the low bidder at \$6,868.85 via the State of Michigan's MiDEAL program. MiDEAL program enables municipalities to access the lowest state-negotiated bids, resulting in significant cost savings.

Motion made by Vigansky, seconded by Money to approve the server licenses to CDW-G in the amount of \$6,868.85. The roll call vote is carried unanimously.

C. City Vehicle Fleet- *Consider the city vehicle fleet leasing option for the following vehicles: 2 police patrol vehicles, 1 Water Department Truck, and 1 general-use pool vehicle for citywide operations.*

The city is considering a vehicle fleet leasing option for four vehicles at a cost of \$4,000 per month. This lease would cover two police patrol vehicles (Dodge Durangos), one water department vehicle, and one general-use pool vehicle. Currently, the fleet consists of 12 vehicles, some of which are up to 20 years old and have over 171,000 miles. The lease includes maintenance services such as oil changes, tire replacements, and wiper replacement, as well as fuel management for all vehicles. Police interceptor vehicles typically cost between \$55,000 and \$60,000 each. Leasing provides predictable monthly payments, making budget management easier. There are no mileage limits on the leases; vehicles will be replaced when they reach 100,000 miles.

Motion made by Vigansky, seconded by Money, to approve the city vehicle fleet leasing option with a \$4,000.00 monthly limit, as presented. The roll call vote carried unanimously.

D. Commission Rules and Procedures Amendment-*Consider the Amendment to the Commission Rules of Procedure, Ordinance, and Adoption Amendment.*

Policy standardizes the ordinance process to minimize confusion from previous procedural inconsistencies. A public hearing is now mandated for every ordinance going forward. The new

procedures set clear deadlines and ensure consistent processes and transparency for all future actions.

Motion made by George, seconded by Vigansky, to approve the amendment to the Commission Rules of Procedure, as presented. The roll call votes carried unanimously.

E. Introduction of Ordinance 2025.08/443- Introduction of Short-Term Rental Ordinance and schedule for public hearing and first reading.

The planning commission has recommended that 15 existing short-term rentals be grandfathered in, while allowing the addition of 15 new units in non-R1 (non-single-family) zones. The policy aims to restrict short-term rentals to commercial corridors, thereby keeping them out of single-family neighborhoods. The debate centered on balancing private property rights, the impact on school enrollment, and the distinction between business use and owner-occupied rentals.

Motion made by Money, seconded by George, to accept the proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance and schedule the public hearing on said ordinance for August 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM. The roll call votes carried unanimously.

F. Expenditures- Consider the expenditures in the amount of \$131,815.22

Motion made by Money, seconded by Vigansky, to approve the expenditure in the amount of \$131,815.22. The roll call vote 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)

Shelly King- Comments made about a citation received.

Mike Swartz- Updates on the Downtown Reconstruction Project, saying the project is 60 percent done.

Joe Kruger- Comments about the business downtown hurting.

XV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

McGhee: Comments about the MEDC grant award. There are 3 pipe crews going with 1 road crew, Kalin will be bringing in another crew this next week. It will be messy but it will go faster. The excess inventory sale was last week. Staff is working on compiling a second round. Long Term rental letters will be coming out soon for registration. DNR was into last week to do a site review at Kathryn Park.

B. Commissioner Comments

Vigansky: Comments made about Mosaic with Community Service help to come in to Buchanan, contacted County Commissioner Elliot. Also sympathized with the downtown business owners.

Money: Comments about spray day with the common concert series, making sure its not a muddy mess. The fire department will be moved over by Pears Mill. Also sympathized with the downtown business owners. Asking for patience.

George: Comments about planning a support the business day. Faith and Family Day is coming up as well.

C. Mayor Comments

Weedon: Sympathized with the business owners. Asking the community to support local business and saying we don't have a parking problem, we have a walking problem. Supporting the Downtown during construction by walking to the location.

XVI. Adjourn

Motion made by Vigansky, seconded by George, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. Voice votes carried unanimously.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon