
MINUTES**I. Call to Order**

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

II. Recognition

~~**A. McCoy's Creek Tribute**– Representative Brad Paquette will present a tribute to the McCoy's Creek Trail Extension Groundbreaking.~~

Due to illness this item was moved until a further time.

B. Proclamation in Recognition of Women's Month– Presented by Mayor & Mrs. Weedon.

PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S MONTH

WHEREAS, Women's History Month is a time to honor and celebrate the invaluable contributions of women throughout history, recognizing their achievements in leadership, innovation, and service across all sectors of society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buchanan acknowledges the strength, resilience, and determination of women who have shaped our community, our state, and our nation, making lasting impacts in business, education, healthcare, public service, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, women-owned businesses play a vital role in Buchanan's economic development, creating jobs, driving innovation, and improving the overall quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, these businesses not only provide essential goods and services but also foster economic independence, inspire future generations, and contribute to the cultural and social fabric of our city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buchanan is committed to supporting and uplifting women entrepreneurs, recognizing their dedication and perseverance in overcoming challenges to achieve success; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Weedon, Mayor of the City of Buchanan, do hereby proclaim the month of March as **Women's History Month** in Buchanan, Michigan, and urge all residents to celebrate and support the remarkable women who continue to shape our community and economy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Buchanan to be affixed this 24th of March 2024.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Weedon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

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

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

V. Approve Agenda

Motion made by Swem, supported by George to approve the agenda, as presented. Voice vote carries unanimously.

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

Norma Ferris- Comment about Riverfront Resolution.

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

- A. Minutes**- *Consider minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 10th, 2025.*
- B. Common Rental**- *Consider the use of the Common on June 4th, 2025 from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM for the 4th-grade graduation ceremony.*
- C. Road Closure**-*Consider the request for road closure from American Legion Post 51 on May 26th, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, for the Memorial Day Parade on Oak St to Oak Ridge Cemetery for the Memorial Day Parade.*

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

VIII. Scheduled Matters from the Floor *(if any)*

- A. Buchanan Market Analysis & Real Estate Redevelopment Strategy**- *Presented by Andrew Haan, Cornerstone Alliance.*

Haan presented the findings from the Market Analysis & Real Estate Redevelopment Strategy (See Attachment A for presentation).

IX. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

- A. Community Development Report**- *Director Rich Murphy*

1) MNRTF Grant Application for the St. Joseph River Improvements Project

a) Public Comment on the MNRTF Grant Application for the St. Joseph River Improvements Project.

The mayor asked for public comments on the application. No public comment was made.

b) Consider Resolution 2025.03/09- a Resolution to approve the MNRTF Grant Application for the St. Joseph River Improvements Project.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money, to approve resolution 2025.03/09, the MNRTF Grant application for the St. Joseph River Improvements Project. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

2) Recreation Passport Grant Application for Kathryn Park Improvements

a) Public Comment on the Recreation Passport Grant Application for Kathryn Park improvements.

The mayor called for public comment on the application.

Norma Ferris- Comments about the process of construction of improvements.

b) Consider Resolution 2025.03/10- a Resolution to approve the Recreation Passport Grant Application for Kathryn Park Improvements.

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to approve resolution 2025.03/10, the recreation passport grant application for Kathryn Park Improvements. Roll call carries unanimously.

3) Interim Building Official- *Consider the approval of the Independent Contractor for Todd Herter Inspections, LLC to serve as interim building official for the City of Buchanan.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Vigansky, to approve the independent contractor for Todd Herter Inspections LLC. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

X. Unfinished Business

- A. Ordinance 2025.03/441**- *Consider the second reading and approval of Ordinance 2025.03/441, an ordinance for dwelling unit registration.*

Motion made by George, supported by Vigansky, to approve the second reading and approval of Ordinance 2025.03/441, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

XI. New Business

- A. St. Joseph River Boat Launch Improvements**- *Consider the proposal for Engineering, Regulatory & Construction Administration Services from Abonmarche for the St. Joseph River Boat Launch Improvements.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money, to approve the proposal from Abonmarche for the St. Joseph River Boat Launch, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- B. Downtown Parking & Event Space Project** - *Consider the proposal for professional services from Abonmarche for the Downtown Parking & Event Space Project.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money approve the proposal from Abonmarche for the Downtown Parking/Event Space, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- C. Bendzinski & Co. Engagement Letter**- *Consider the Bendzinski & Co. engagement letter for private placement bond.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by George to approve the engagement letter from Bendiziski & Co, as presented.

Ayes: Weedon, Money, Vigansky, George

Nays: None

Abstain: Swem, business interest

Motion carries 4-0.

- D. Prien & Newhof Proposal**- *Consider approving the Prien & Newhof 2005 Road Rehabilitation proposal.*

The rehabilitation project is as follows:

1. Liberty Street (Front to Rynearson) – currently gravel
2. Red Bud (5th Street to the apartment drive south of Fulton)
3. River Street (Bridge to 440 feet west of the Bridge)
4. Terra Coupe (Front Street to the cemetery)
5. Rynearson (Liberty to E. City limits)

Motion made by Swem, supported by George approve the proposal from P&N for the 2025 Road Rehabilitation, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- E. Resolution 2025.03/11**- *Consider Resolution 2025.03/11 a Resolution Establishing Rental Dwelling Unit Registration/Inspection Fees.*

Motion made by Money, supported by George to approve the resolution 2025.03/11, as presented.

Ayes: Weedon, Money, Vigansky, George

Nays: None

Abstain: Swem, due to owning rental property.

Motion carries 4-0.

- F. Resolution 2025.03/12**- *Consider Resolution 2025.03/12, a Resolution to impose a moratorium on the registration of short-term rental units in the City of Buchanan.*

If you are currently operating short-term rentals, you are permitted to continue doing so, provided you can show proof of their operation. However, for new short-term rental applications, there will be a temporary hold until the planning commission makes a recommendation to the city commission regarding where and how many short-term rentals will be allowed.

This moratorium gives us the time needed to allow the Planning commission to provide a recommendation as well as the ordinance to be written.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to approve Resolution 2025.03/12, as presented.

Ayes: Weedon, Money, Vigansky, George

Nays: None

Abstain: Swem, due to owning rental property.

Motion carries 4-0.

G. DDA (Downtown Development Authority)

a) Discussion- looking forward to having to go forward.

b) Call for Applicants- the application will be on the website and applications will be due back by April 21st.

H. Expenditures- *Consider approving the expenditures for March 24th, 2025 in the amount of \$78,569.29.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$78,569.29. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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

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

Tom Jolly- Comments about the area between Redbud Trail and US-12, if that was slated to be redone this year. Comments about short-term rentals and inspections.

XIV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

I want to extend my thanks to the Commission and staff for all that we accomplished in the first three months; it has been incredible. MEDC, along with MISHDA, will be here at noon on April 3rd to present various programs that can assist in launching downtown redevelopment projects. Excess inventory will be brought in next month. Code enforcement is increasing with the warmer weather, and we will give everyone a reasonable amount of time to address any issues before issuing tickets.

B. Commissioner Comments

George- thank everyone for attending. Always a pleasure to work with both the staff and the commission. Is really excited to see Buchanan moving forward. Although the construction may cause some issues, she's confident that it will be wonderful once it's completed. And is looking forward to progressing with the DDA.

Swem- Thank you to the women-owned businesses in the city. When you consider the numbers, it's incredible to realize the size of the impact you're making. Appreciate the updates on construction projects, and the dialogue has been very positive. It will take the entire city working together to get through this year.

Vigansky- His wife is a self-employed business owner in this city. The atmosphere has changed, and people are noticing it.

Money- congratulated all the women-owned businesses in the city and express my appreciation for everything they do for our community. A big shout-out goes to the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff for their hard work, as well as to the police department for their presence in the community. Thank you to the staff at City Hall; they do an excellent job. Once the construction is complete, it's going to be great. This commission deserves significant credit for all its accomplishments.

C. Mayor Comments

Weedon- I want to echo everything that has been said. I would like to thank my wife for bringing to my attention the number of women-owned businesses we have in our city. There are so many women who make a significant impact on our community; they truly give their hearts to their work. I also want to express my gratitude to all the women in this room for everything you do. Tom, thank you for your comments tonight. Thank you to the staff and everyone in attendance.

XV. Adjourn

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon