

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 – 6:00 PM**  
**CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI**

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**MINUTES**

*THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BUCHANAN, in compliance with Michigan’s Open Meetings Act, hereby gives notice of a special meeting of the Buchanan City Commission to be held in the Chamber of City Hall.*

*\* Requests to be added to the agenda as a “Scheduled Matter from the Floor” should be submitted in writing to the City Clerk at least 5 business days prior to the scheduled meeting during which the speaker wishes to appear, and the approval of such requests remain within the discretion of the Mayor. If denied, the speaker may nonetheless speak during the “non-agenda items only” public comments section of the agenda.*

*\* Those who are unable to appear during a meeting but who still wish to share public comment may submit such comments in written form to the City Clerk at least 4 hours in advance of the meeting.*

*\* Individuals with disabilities may request necessary reasonable accommodations by submitting requests to the City Clerk, preferably at least 24 hours in advance.*

*\* Written requests and comments may be submitted to the City Clerk either in person or via mail to Buchanan City Hall, 302 N. Redbud Trail, Buchanan, MI 49107, or via email to [clerk@cityofbuchanan.com](mailto:clerk@cityofbuchanan.com)*

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

The Mayor read the following statement:

“Over the last several days, there has been extensive media coverage concerning the City Manager, some of which is not entirely accurate or has been taken out of context. This statement reflects and is intended to clarify my personal and public comments surrounding these issues.

I wish to clarify that there are not, and never were, multiple complaints against Mr. Eldridge of misconduct against female employees based on gender or sex. Based on my understanding, there were never any employee complaints of inappropriate or wrongful physical contact or sexual misconduct; however, there was one contested claim of one single comment made about inappropriate clothing in the workplace. Given the ramifications of these issues, I felt it important to clarify these details.”

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The mayor led in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Money, Vigansky, Denison, Swem, Weedon

Absent: None

City Hall Staff Present: City Manager Ben Eldridge, Community Development Director Richard Murphy, City Clerk Kalla Langston, Public Works Director Mike Baker, Chief of Police Harvey Burnett, Public Safety Director Tim Ganus, and many other staff members present from all different departments.

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

Don Ryman – Warned the Commission that hiring a new City Manager would be difficult and that Buchanan is not in a good financial position.

Brenda Beadenkopf – Spoke against firing the City Manager and in favor of fiscal responsibility.

Carla Jackson Johnson – remarked that the Commission had previously praised Ben Eldridge.

Hugh Hagan – Praised Clerk Kalla Langston and her work ethic.

Penny Slocum-Correa – Spoke against Commissioner Vigansky releasing information to the City Manager and members of the public in lieu of handling it in private.

Richard Martin – Spoke about the positive interaction he had with the City Manager during Tree Friends meetings.

**V. New Business**

**A. Employment Status-** *Consider the employment status of City Manager, Benjamin Eldridge.*

Mayor Denison asked if Eldridge would like to make a statement. Eldridge spoke in support of his conduct and the work he has done as City Manager. He read a selection of the grievances submitted in reference to him and denied any wrongdoing. He then submitted his resignation as he felt he could no longer work at City Hall.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Weedon to not accept the City Manager’s resignation.

Vigansky would like the Commission to make a decision instead of accepting Eldridge’s resignation. Denison provided a timeline of his actions after receiving the list of grievances. Vigansky named City Staff and members of the audience he was unhappy with.

Yea: Vigansky

Nay: Money, Denison, Swem, Weedon

Motion fails.

Eldridge returned to the stand to address specific members of City Staff. Denison asked that he refrain from making personal attacks.

Motion made by Money, supported by Swem to accept Ben Eldridge’s resignation.

Yea: Money, Denison, Swem, Weedon

Nay: Vigansky

Motion carries.

**VI. Adjourn**

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Swem to adjourn. Voice vote carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

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Kalla Langston, City Clerk

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Mayor Sean Denison