

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 – 3:30 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

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

I. Call to Order

Denison called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Sean Denison, Mayor Pro Temp Mark Weedon, Commissioner Dan Vigansky, Commissioner Patrick Swem, Commissioner Larry Money

Absent: None.

City Staff: City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Community Development Director, Rich Murphy; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Chief of Police, Harvey Burnett

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

Alan Robandt, 114 E Front St – I like option 1 its clean, plain, and simple. I’m glad you scaled back that whole thing from Disneyland to small Midwestern town. Question, are there two varieties of trees? There are two different symbols he listed on the paperwork. I would discourage any sort of tutti frutti trees, they just don’t make sense. Theres a fence on Dewey Ave where Short St dead ends into Honor Credit Union. We shouldn’t be paying for that. If Honor Credit Union wants a fence, Honor Credit Union should put in their own fence. Are the sidewalks deeper, this was one of the critical questions and goals we all had at the beginning in order to have more space for restaurant outdoor seating and more outdoor eventing. Narrowing Front St just slightly will slow down traffic. I was glad to see all the planters eliminated. What is the HMA lifespan? Thank you.

Karla Jackson Johnson – As far as your streetscape choices, stop spending and stop suspending.

IV. New Business

A. Consider two options for the Downtown Streetscape Revisions.

The commission discusses with the Prien and Newhoff team who are virtually attending.

Denison explains that the commission sat with the City Manager a couple weeks ago to discuss reducing costs. They eliminated brick pavers, fire pits, trash receptacles, benches, columns, planters, and by changing the roadway from concrete to asphalt. P&N drew up one option including the changes we wanted and a second option that, in their professional opinion, we should pursue.

The P&N team walks the commission through the concept for both options.

Option 1 includes the desired changes. The goal with option 2 was to keep the historic feel and the input of everyone from the past 2-3 years. It added some soft features including brick and a few planters. Asphalt roads if you don't maintain them typically have a 20-year life. In the meantime, you may have maintenance to extend that life. Concrete costs more upfront but lasts twice as long. There is still maintenance but less. If you go concrete expansion joints would be included in the design to mitigate contraction and expansion related issues. Areas with concrete and asphalt that have transverse joints are to maintain and you'll be constantly patching them so limit the change back and forth. If you're putting a concrete road in we'd probably be doing a colored concrete or brick crosswalk, not asphalt. If you're doing an asphalt road we'd most likely do stamped asphalt. Most of it would come down to aesthetics, the brick preserves more of that historic feel but is more expensive and the concrete gives a modern feel. A concrete tabletop would be easier to maintain and feel like it's at a uniform grade level. It would make trucks feel like they don't belong in that area. An asphalt road would narrow the road and give more dining space but still be distinguished as a road. Everything shown in concrete is raised up about 6in so it's all curb height. The sidewalks are 1.5-2 ft wide with the North side being a little wider. We have two native trees chosen, one being redbud trees for the historic nature of them, but we can choose any number of trees that meets your needs for the project. Through the MDOT contract it is \$500-600 per tree. There was a discussion with the Credit Union there about screening along the sidewalk there so you're not staring at the backs of buildings and that parking lot which is how we came up with the fence on Dewey.

Denison – Are we all in favor of moving that fence from the plan? There is unanimous agreement to request the fence be removed from the plan.

Swem – We had been talking with Buchanan Tree Friends about hardwood trees. They could research the proper root penetration, style of tree, and their cost would be \$150 per tree. It's important we research this, and we wouldn't have labor costs using our local experts.

Final Decision: option 1 but with concrete tabletop roadway, neutral flat non stamped concrete, could potentially use creative saw cuts to make it more attractive, removing the ornamental fence, and plan to work with local experts for the trees.

Motion is made by Vigansky that Mayor Denison steps down. The motion dies hearing no second.

V. Adjourned at 4:37pm.

Motion made by Money supported by Weedon to adjourn. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Sean Denison