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**MINUTES****I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Denison

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

Mayor Denison led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Roll Call**

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

City Staff: City Manager, Timothy Lynch; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Community Development Director, Rich Murphy; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Chief of Police, Harvey Burnett; Assistant Community Development Director, Ashley Regal

**V. Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Money to approve the agenda, as presented.

Vigansky is asking the motion to be amended to remove IX.A.3. No amendment was made.

Roll call

Yay: Weedon, Denison, Money, Swem

Nay: Vigansky

Motion carries 4-1.

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

Norma Ferris- Asking for clarification of what LiveBuchanan is.

Correspondents through email, Langston summarized the correspondents and left copies for the public and gave a copy to the commission. Correspondents as follows:

Alan Robant: would suggest holding off on LiveBuchanan until after the November election. There is significant support for re-creating the DDA.

Suzanne Hipshear: Object to Resolution 2024.07/21.

Tamara Sinner: Object to approving the LiveBuchanan proposal.

Jennifer Marsiglio: Object to the funding of LiveBuchanan.

Carla Jackson Johnson & Scott King: opposition to any approval of LiveBuchanan.

Angela Lowery: Objection to passing Resolution 2024.07/21.

Don Ryman: Oppose the LiveBuchanan proposal.

Randy Hendrixson: Asking the City to embrace the process of the community being involved with Michigan Main Street.

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

**A. Minutes-** Consider approving the regular meeting minutes from July 8, 2024.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Weedon to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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

**IX. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards**

**A. Community Development Report-** *Community Development Director, Rich Murphy & Assistant Community Development Director/ Mainstreet Manager, Ashley Regal*

*1) LiveBuchanan Activity Report*

LiveBuchanan is a non-profit that revitalizes downtown and is tasked to apply to Michigan Mainstreet and receive that status. Projects they have been working on include Munchie Mondays, the business incubator, library murals, string lights to Days Ave. in progress are the trail markers going through the downtown, billboards on US-12 and we have some plans in the future to put together a Masterplan for the Common.

*2) Consider Use of the Common for Old Fashioned Fall Festival- October 4th, 5th & 6th.*

They are hoping to bring back the Fall Festival, which hasn't been done since the 1920's. With the absence of Thrill on the Hill we find that our community needs an annual event. LiveBuchanan is collaborating with the library, preservation society, business owners, and the art center for the festival. The primary date would be October 5<sup>th</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> would be for setup and tear down. They have been planning it for months, but they do not have the funds to hire a headlining act. The scarecrow ladies and the Chamber have been involved as well in collaboration.

Motion made by Vigansky to approve the use of the Common around October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> of 2025.

No support, motion dies.

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Swem to approve the use of the Common as presented.

Yay: Denison, Swem, Weedon, Money

Nay: Vigansky

Motion carries 4-1.

*3) Consider Resolution 2024.07/21 LiveBuchanan support.*

Regal was hired on October 1, 2021, and given the express task by the commission to make Buchanan a designated Michigan Main Street community. The resolution and agreement before you represents 2.5 years of work.

The City of Buchanan sought to become a designated Michigan Main Street because acceptance into this program opens doors to extensive technical support, capacity building, and unique funding opportunities. The state of Michigan participates in this national program, Main Street America, because it works. Participation in the Michigan Main Street program isn't easy. It requires cooperative effort towards a common goal— a unified vision – shared by business owners, residents, volunteers, and municipalities. To be selected as a Michigan Main Street is a notable achievement and honor with Buchanan poised to join a select group of just 22 other communities in the state.

In January, LiveBuchanan submitted our application to become a designated Michigan Main Street to achieve this milestone for Buchanan, put us on the map, and be granted specialized attention and

resources from the state of Michigan. Representatives from the state visited our small town reviewed our application and gave us feedback on best practices and what they would like to see moving forward. This is what is before you tonight.

Approval of these items is required before Buchanan can become a designated Michigan Main Street. This is a make-or-break moment for the Main Street Program in Buchanan. Voting no would throw away 2.5 years of work and put us behind at least another 3 years until the next Main Street application cycle opens. Voting yes signals your commitment and belief that our downtown is worth investing in.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to postpone Resolution 2024.07/21.

Discussion:

Money opens with stating that he thinks this a good program. A lot of the information we have received we haven't been able to sink our teeth into, I would like to see this commission call a special meeting and possibly get the attorney involved before we approve anything.

Swem agrees with Money, with a few areas of the contract that he struggled with ahead of tonight's meeting. Based on conversations with MEDC in different capacities, he feels that they are a negotiable group to work with. With a quarter of a million-dollar commitment he believes we need the attorney to review.

Roll call vote

Yay: Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem

Nay: Denison

Motion carries 4-1.

*4) Consider agreement by and among the City of Buchanan and LiveBuchanan to provide Economic Development, Historic Preservation, and Promotion of Downtown Buchanan.*

MEDC extended the application until August, because the first resolution that the city supported was vague, with no mention of financial support which was ultimately rejected. Understanding moving forward that the State requires the municipality to financially support LiveBuchanan for five years since they are agreeing to give technical support for five years as well.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to postpone the agreement.

Roll call vote

Yay: Vigansky, Swem, Money, Weedon

Nay: Denison

*5) Consider the St. Joseph River Kayak Launch proposal for Engineering.*

The ADA access Kayak Launch was a priority project in the River Front Masterplan. DNR awarded the grant to the city in the amount of \$230,000.00, Murphy and Regal have raised the local match money to the grant in the amount of \$80,000.00. Murphy is asking to approve the proposal to go under contract.

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

Vigansky congratulated Murphy.

**B. Election Information Report, Kalla Langston, City Clerk**

*1) City Commissioner Filing Deadline- July 23rd at 4:00 PM*

2) Early Voting Hours- July 27th - August 4th.

**X. Unfinished Business**

**XI. New Business**

**A. Expenditures** - Consider approving the expenditures in the amount of \$54,652.50 for July 22nd, 2024.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Weedon to approve the expenditures. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

**B. Budget Amendments**- Consider the final budget amendments for FY 2023-2024.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the final budget amendments, as presented. 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)

Beverly Archer- Comments about contending with issues and disappointed with a member of the commission who reacts with mannerisms and language that are on the level with a back-alley punk. It's bad for our community. A person serving on the Commission should be able to conduct themselves in an intelligent civilized adult manner.

Albert Mais- Judicial candidate for 5<sup>th</sup> district court judge and will be on the Ballot in November asking for support.

Amy Byrd-Currently appointed prosecuting attorney is planning on running for the position on the Ballot in November asking for support.

Norma Ferris- Comments about when the USDA Front Street infrastructure project would start.

**XIV. Executive Comments**

**A. City Manager Comments**

Front Street project will hopefully be started this year, the loan closing is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> with a preconstruction meeting on that same morning. Includes two contracts Front St. and the Street Signal. For the Front St. retaining wall we received the preliminary drawings and provided feedback to the engineering firm, we are expecting the final drawings for the city's review and after that the drawings will be sealed and the bid documents prepared. As far as the McCoy Creek culvert and Days Ave. the EGLE permit for the public notice has ended and it had received one comment from the DNR about the stream. We have received word just tonight that the permit will be issued as is.

**B. Commissioner Comments**

Weedon- No comment.

Swem- Contentious meeting tonight. Thanked the LiveBuchanan group for all the effort in the past two and half years. Thanks to the Donors who donated to the Kayak Launch. Would like an update on the board realignment meeting.

Vigansky- Comments about threatening to bite the Mayor's finger off in front of the prosecuting attorney and judge. Proud to be called an Alley-cat since the infrastructure is 100 years old. The DDA was destroyed and Mainstreet should be run under the DDA. With two more years in the office.

Money- Thanked Ashley and Rich want to see the Mainstreet rapidly taken care of. Thanked the staff and DPW crew for the sewer break. The Commission always has a hard job to do and we faced that tonight.

C. Mayor Comments

Wanted to give his resignation but not going to because of the person next to me. The last 10 months he has had his name run through the mud and been called unethical. Now it is rumored that he is having a homosexual affair with a business owner downtown. These people have no couth, they do not care about the community at all, and they say whatever they want to get elected this fall, remember that when you go to the November election if you want more of this vote for his friends.

**XV. Adjourn**

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Money to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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Kalla Langston, City Clerk

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Mayor Sean Denison