

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2024 – 7:00 PM**  
**CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI**

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**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Recognition**

**A. Buchanan City Proclamation Constitution Week: September 16th-20th, 2024.**

*Presented to the Rebecca Dewey Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.*

Mayor Weedon recited and presented the proclamation to Tiffani Dash regent of the Rebecca Dewey Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. *See attachment A*

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

*Mayor Weedon led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.*

**IV. Roll Call**

**Present:** Mayor Weedon, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Patrick Swem, Commissioner Dan Vigansky

**Absent: None**

**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

**V. Approve Agenda**

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

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

*Norma Ferris- would like better definitions on the agenda. Comments about the parking lot.*

*Beth Murphy- Showed support for Tony Houser and commended Raquelle George.*

*Jerry Flenar- Showed support for Tony Houser and commended Raquelle George.*

*Jenne Harris- Showed support for Tony Houser.*

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

**A. Minutes-** *Consider approving the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 26th, 2024.*

**B. Excuse Absence-** *Excuse Commissioner Money's absence from the Regular Meeting on August 26th, 2024.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money 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

*1) Boone Labs Marihuana 2024 Permit Renewals- Consider approving the Medical Processor, Medical Grown, Adult Use Processor, and Adult Use Grow at 107 E Alexander St. Buchanan.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to postpone. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

*2) Consider the demolition specifications proposal for 111 Railroad St. by Shea Miller of Point Blue Consultants.*

The commission approved a contract with Point Blue in 2023 to develop demolition specifications for 111 Railroad, and we proceeded with that work. We then submitted a very competitive grant application, which unfortunately we did not receive. After discussions with the County, they have guaranteed a grant of \$220,000 for the demolition of the old feed mill. We are now looking at a different approach to itemize each demolition to use our resources more efficiently. The bid specifications have been redone, and Murphy is asking for consideration of approving contract 2, which would cost \$8,760.00 with an estimated budget of \$25,760.00.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the specifications and construction management for the Demolition proposed from Point Blue at the proposed amount of \$25,760.00. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

*3) Consider the Restaurant Incentive Grant Application from Haley Jones of "Chunk's Ice Cream".*

Murphy presented the Restaurant Incentive Grant submitted by Haley Jones of Chunk's Ice Cream. Jones addressed the Commission, expressing their belief in Buchanan and their commitment to revitalizing a city park. They have created a space where people not only come for ice cream, but also gather, stay, and return. Chunks has created 12 jobs and had a successful year, but there are still improvements that need to be made.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the restaurant incentive grant for Chunk's Ice Cream in the full amount of \$10,000.00.

Yea: Money, Swem, Weedon

Nay: Vigansky

Motion carries 3-1.

*4) Update on CDBG Home Repair Program.*

Murphy provided an update on the CBDG Program. We have entered into an agreement with the third-party administrator, Sonya Vitale, and have begun reviewing applications. It was mentioned that the city needs to adopt some policies. Lynch and Murphy are reviewing those policies and will present them at an upcoming meeting.

*5) Update of DDA path for Buchanan.*

Murphy has been investigating several paths forward. He believes that partnering with the county Community Development Director, Dan Fette, is the best way forward. Dan is responsible for writing development plans and is willing to collaborate with us on the creation. Murphy wants to emphasize that this collaboration will require time and money. Once the creation is completed, it will move into the development plan of the DDA. Choosing to work with the county will be the most cost-effective option.

Vigansky claims that the DDA was not properly dissolved. However, a third-party law firm conducted a review and confirmed that it was dissolved. Vigansky is also requesting that we proceed with the DDA in whatever manner necessary.

**X. Unfinished Business**

- A. City Commissioner Appointment** - *At a special meeting on September 6th, 2024, the City Commission interviewed three applicants: Tony Houser, Scott King, and Raquell George. The Commission will now consider appointing one of the applicants to fill the remaining commissioner term, which ends in December 2026.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to appoint Raquell George to the City Commission for the term ending in December of 2026. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Langston swore Raquell George in to take her seat as the appointed City Commissioner.

**XI. New Business**

- A. Expenditures**: *Consider approving the expenditures for September 9th, 2024, in the amount of \$67,522.94.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the expenditures, as presented.

Yea: Money, Vigansky, Swem, Weedon

Abstain: George

Motion carries.

- B. SMCAS- Special Assessment**

*1) Discussion on the establishment of a Special Assessment District for Emergency Medical Services.*

*2) Consider Resolution 2024.09/24- A resolution of intent to form a Special Assessment District.*

Langston presented the resolution on establishing the Special Assessment District, which schedules a public hearing for the next meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> for public comment on the establishment of the district. See Attachment B

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to approve Resolution 2024.09/24, as presented.

Yea: Vigansky, Weedon, Money, Swem

Abstain: George

Motion carries.

- C. City Hall Parking Lot Repair/ Resealing** - *Consider approving city hall parking lot repair/resealing.*

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to approve the proposal from Shembarger Asphalt Sealing in the amount of \$5,450.00. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

- D. Closed Session**: *Consider entering a Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8 (1)(c) for discussions relating to the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(1)(c) for discussion relating to the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements at 7:57 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to reenter open session at 8:11 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the police union contract effective July 1, 2024.

Yea: Money, Weedon, Swem, Vigansky

Abstain: George

Motion carries.

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

**A. McCoy Creek Trail Trek-N-Treat Event will be held on Saturday, October 26th at 12:30 PM- 2:00 PM**

The Trail is looking for Candy donations and cash donations for the event.

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

*Tony Houser- Congratulated Raquell George and thanks for the consideration for the appointment. Houser is running for City Commissioner in the upcoming November Election.*

**XIV. Executive Comments**

**A. City Manager Comments**

*Lynch and the finance team met with the auditors and issued instructions to complete our financial audit. They developed a timeline and plan to present the FY 2023-2024 audit in November. Lynch also received correspondence stating that the city is still in the running for a grant that was submitted in January by himself and Mike Baker regarding the locating and identifying of lead service lines. Finally, he thanked the commission for approving the Police Union agreement and for recognizing the honorable and dedicated work of our officers and Chief Burnett.*

**B. Commissioner Comments**

**Vigansky** welcomed Raquell.

**Money** congratulated Raquell. Although only three people stepped up, it was a little disheartening. The DPW building is looking great, and it's a job well done. Also, congratulations to Chunks. The police negotiations went well, and congratulations to the two new officers.

**George** thanked the commission for the opportunity and expressed excitement about serving Buchanan to the best of her ability. She also thanked the community for their support.

**Swem** congratulated the Police Union. The community lost two important figures, Mr. Joseph Saratore and Ms. Reba Money, who were longtime residents and had a significant impact on this community. Additionally, congratulations to Raquell; the commission's choice is very pleasing.

**C. Mayor Comments**

*Congratulations and welcome, Raquell. It's not always going to be easy. You will see and hear things that you probably never thought a community would say, and that's on both sides. There is a lot more good than bad. Stay vigilant in your convictions and who you believe you are, and you will persevere and do well. Thanked Houser for his comments, it is a very honorable thing to do. Congratulations to Chunks. On September 11th, there is a meeting in the Common to honor 911 starting at 7 PM. Thank you, police, for all you do.*

**XV. Adjourn**

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 P.M. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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Kalla Langston, City Clerk

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Mayor Mark Weedon