

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025 – 7:00 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

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

II. Recognition

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 Raquell George, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Dan Vigansky

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 Vigansky to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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

None.

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

A. Minutes- Consider the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 13th, 2025.

B. Compensation Committee Appointments- Consider the appointments of the five applicants received for the Compensation Committee for the upcoming terms.

1) Tony Houser, 1-year

2) Jeannie Harris, 2-year

3) Joseph Kruger, 3-year

4) Matthew Pleasant, 4-year

5) Jen Garry, 5-year

C. Common Rental- Consider the Common rental form submitted by Victoria Aalfs for the Buchanan Community Autism Walk, on June 22nd from 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM.

Motion made by Money, supported by George to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Voice votes carry unanimously.

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

IX. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

A. Updates & Discussion- City Manager, Tony McGhee

1) Review the goals for the fiscal year and schedule dates for budget workshops.

McGhee addressed the commission regarding the upcoming budget process. Goal setting took place last November during the strategic planning session. The question was raised whether the commission would like to hold another session before the budget workshops begin. The consensus was to move forward with budget workshops.

2) Provide an update on the downtown construction project and its financing.

The downtown construction project currently requires approximately \$1.7 million in financing to be completed. One option we are considering is seeking a loan from the common market. We have invited Andy Campbell to present us at our first meeting in February to discuss rates and borrowing options. There are some options for grant funding and possibly with the USDA community facilities.

B. Resolution 2025.01/03- Consider Resolution 2025.01/03, a Resolution of Support and Commitment of match for the Downtown Infrastructure and Placemaking Project.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve Resolution 2025.01/03, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

C. Expenditures- Consider approving the expenditures for January 27th, 2025 in the amount of \$57,446.86

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$57,446.86. Roll call votes 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)*

Randy Hendrixson- Gave an informal update on Building 324 in the last six months obtained 7 new businesses. 33 organizations are now in the building

Haley Jones- Asked about the railing by the creek at Veterans Park.

XIV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

McGhee provided updates on the pre-bid meeting regarding the demolition at the Mill site. City Hall hours will remain consistent, operating Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. This year, our focus will be on policy and procedures here at City Hall. Key areas of concentration will include the Downtown Project, budgeting, and policy development.

Ordinances will be introduced, and as policies change, we will keep the commission informed. Efforts to ensure consistent branding are also underway. Additionally, surplus inventory has become an issue; department heads will be compiling a list of surplus equipment with the aim of offloading it in the spring.

B. Commissioner Comments

****Vigansky:**** For the sale of city-owned properties, Vigansky would like to have yard signs indicating that they are for sale. There are also questions about a vacant church.

****Money:**** Thanked McGhee and the staff; it sounds like it has been a productive week. It is always a pleasure to sit with the Commission.

****George:**** Thanked McGhee and expressed appreciation for the city hall staff for changing the hours.

****Swem:**** We are in great hands with McGhee and I am looking forward to the future.

C. Mayor Comments

****Weedon:**** With a heavy heart, Weedon acknowledge that Buchanan has faced some challenges lately. It's important to tell people you love them. Buchanan has lost some wonderful community members, friends, and loved ones this week. My condolences to their families.

XV. Adjourn

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon