



PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 – 7:00 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 regular 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 Public Hearing Number #1

Public Hearing Number #1 called to order at 7:00pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Vigansky, Money, Weedon, Swem, George

Absent: None

III. Opening of Public Hearing #1

George moved, seconded by Vigansky, to open Public Hearing #1. Voice vote carried unanimously.

IV. Statement of Purpose and Announcement of Rules

A. *The primary objective of this public hearing is to hear public input regarding the proposed Ordinance 2025.12/445. This ordinance amends Chapter 34, Article 11 of the Code of Ordinances related to elections. Specifically, the proposed amendment seeks to revise the filing deadline for nominating petitions to the "Fifteenth Tuesday before the August Primary Election."*

Vigansky stated that he had been a commissioner when the ordinance was initially passed, though he was out of town, and that they knew what they were doing was not correct but did it anyway, and that this ordinance will make it right.

V. Close of Public Hearing Number # 1

Swem moved, seconded by Money, to close Public Hearing #1. Voice vote carried unanimously.

VI. Call to Order Public Hearing Number # 2

Public Hearing Number #2 called to order at 7:03pm.

VII. Roll Call

Present: Vigansky, Money, Weedon, Swem, George

Absent: None

VIII. Opening of Public Hearing #2

Public Hearing Number #2 called to order at 7:03pm.

IX. Statement of Purpose and Announcement of Rules

A. *The primary objective of this public hearing is to hear public input regarding the proposed Ordinance 2026.02/446 (Introduced as 2025.12/446). An Ordinance to amend Chapter 102 Utilities to add Article V. Section 102-177 Sewer Laterals and Appurtenances. The proposed ordinance clarifies that property owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing their sewer laterals from the building to the public sewer main, including areas under streets.*

Vigansky asked McGhee to speak to the proposed ordinance. McGhee shared that the goal is to codify into our code what has been City policy for more than twenty years.

X. Close of Public Hearing Number 2

Vigansky moved, seconded by Money, to open Public Hearing #2. Voice vote carried unanimously.

XI. Call to Order the Regular Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

XII. Recognition

None.

XIII. Pledge of Allegiance

Weedon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

XIV. Invocation

George led the invocation.

XV. Roll Call

Present: Vigansky, Money, Weedon, Swem, George

Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Manager Tony McGhee, Director of Public Works Mike Baker, Chief of Police Harvey Burnett, Director of Community Development and Zoning Kristen Gundersen, Administrative Assistant Emma Lysy

XVI. Approve Agenda

George moved, seconded by Vigansky, to approve agenda as presented. Voice vote carried unanimously.

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

None.

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

A. Minutes- Consider approving the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 8th, 2025.

B. Excuse- Excuse Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem from the November 24th, 2025, Regular Meeting.

C. BARB Appointments and Resignation

1) Consider reappointing Jeanne Harris for a 3-year term to BARB.

2) Consider accepting Jacob Browns resignation from BARB.

D. Buchanan Area Fine Arts Council Appointments

1) Consider approving Commissioner George as the Commissioner Representative for BAFAC.

2) Consider reappointing Alice Kring, Karin Falkenstein, Kelly Carlin, Trevor Hough, Wren Betts and Julie Blaylock to the BAFAC for four-year terms.

E. McCoy Creek Trail Committee Appointment

1) Consider appointing Traci Ragas to the McCoy Creek Trail Committee.

F. Common Rental and Street Closurer- Consider the Common Rental and Street Closurer on behalf of Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce for Sip! Buchanan Event for May 16th, 2026.

G. Department Head Reports- Receive monthly reports.

Swem moved, seconded by Vigansky, to approve consent agenda as presented. Voice vote carried unanimously.

XIX. Scheduled Matters from the Floor (if any)

None.

XX. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

None.

XXI. Unfinished Business

A. Ordinance 2025.12/445- Consider the second reading and enactment of Ordinance 445, an Ordinance to amend the City of Buchanan Code of Ordinances Chapter 34, Elections Article 11. Even Year Elections, Section 34-29. Filing of Nominating Petitions.

McGhee spoke about the new ordinance, which will bring out election and primary cycles in line with how it's traditionally done. Vigansky spoke to the history of the of the change that had been made.

Vigansky moved, seconded by George, to approve the second reading and enactment of Ordinance #445, amending Chapter 34, Elections: Article 11. Even Year Elections: Section 34-29 Filing of Nominating Petitions. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

B. Ordinance 2026.02/446- Consider the first reading of Ordinance 2026.02/446, an Ordinance that amends Chapter 102 Utilities, Article V. Sewage Disposal, Section 102-177. Sewer Laterals and Appurtenances

Swem moved, seconded by Vigansky, to approve the first reading of Ordinance #446 as presented and schedule public hearing #2 for February 9th, 2026. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

XXII. New Business

A. Traffic Control Order #261- Consider Traffic Control Order # 261. The North side of E. Dewey St. between Main and Short Streets shall be a "No Parking" zone.

McGhee spoke regarding the traffic control order, stating that the narrow street needs the order for public safety and that this change was anticipated while doing the design work for the construction project as it is a narrow street. Vigansky wants to see parking ticket written.

Swem moved, seconded by George, to approve Traffic Control Order #261 as presented. Roll Call vote carried unanimously.

B. Zen Leaf Buchanan Marihuana Permit Renewals located at 259 E. Front St.

1) Consider the Renewal Application for the Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center Permit.

2) Consider the Renewal Application for the Adult-Use Marihuana Establishment Retailer Permit.

McGhee stated that the permits were renewals, we've had no issues with the license holder, and that their approval was contingent on background checks, which were in progress.

Money moved, seconded by Vigansky, to approve the renewal applications submitted by Zen Leaf located at 259 E Front St for Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center & Adult Use Marihuana Establishment Retail Permits, contingent upon the completion of background checks, as presented. Roll Call vote carried unanimously.

C. Cannavista Wellness Marihuana Permit Renewal located at 120 E. Front St.

1) Consider the Renewal Application for the Adult-Use Marihuana Establishment Retailer Permit.

McGhee state that the permits were also renewals, we've had no issues with the license holder, and that their approval was contingent on background checks, which were in progress.

Representatives for Cannavista were present if the Commission had questions.

Vigansky asked why retailers still renew medical marihuana permits. Rich Paniagua of Cannavista answered that they have not renewed theirs for several years, and speculated that some municipalities require both.

Swem moved, seconded by Vigansky, to approve the renewal applications submitted by Cannavista Wellness located at 120 E Front St for Adult Use Marihuana Establishment Retail Permit, contingent upon the completion of background checks, as presented. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

C. Introduction of Ordinance 2026.03/447- Regulation of Sidewalk Cafes and Outdoor Service Areas.

McGhee presented the draft ordinance. The final draft will come soon. There are a number of restaurants downtown, including some still to come, and they're interested in outdoor seating. Different municipalities handle it different ways. We will set a standard instead of making multiple individual agreements.

Money moved, seconded by George, to approve the introduction of Ordinance #447, Regulation of Sidewalk Café and outdoor Service Areas and schedule the 1st public hearing for February 9th, 2026.

Vigansky asked if the ordinance would have to go to the Planning Commission, McGhee answered it did not. Vigansky asked about fees, and McGhee answered that the Commission would be able to set those.

Roll call vote carried unanimously.

D. Expenditures- Consider approving the expenditures in the amount of \$44,057.81 (please note that the invoice reports from December 23, 2025, which were administratively approved, are included in the packet).

Vigansky wanted to call Sherwin Williams about having an account. Baker says the City didn't buy paint last year but will be buying more this year. Vigansky asked about the Johnson Controls service call. McGhee has negotiated that bill down to what it is now.

Vigansky moved, seconded by Swem, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$44,057.81. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

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

A. City Hall Hours: *Starting February 2, 2026, City Hall hours will change to Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM and Friday from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM.*

McGhee shared that City Hall window hours would be changing to 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM and Friday from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM. It's the same total number of hours, but a different distribution with the goal of serving more people outside of traditional office hours.

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

None.

XXV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

McGhee welcomed new Director of Community Development and Zoning Kristen Gundersen. She's a Niles native who's worked in planning in Illinois and St. Joseph. The DPW is back on leaf pickup, weather permitting, and Christmas trees will need to be out on the tree lawn by 1/30 for pickup. The last of the feedmill site cleanup is starting soon, and once it's complete the lot will go out for RFP. The 3rd notice letter to register rentals recently went out, with the 4th one being mailed soon that will include the introduction of fines.

McGhee also addressed questions about the audit which had been raised by local news. This year, the City had to do a different audit due to meeting a threshold of federal funding received, and the auditors were delayed in getting information due to the government shutdown. McGhee also introduced a new RxKids program Buchanan has been selected to be a part of that gives money to new mothers in 2026.

B. Commissioner Comments

Vigansky – Welcomed the new nursing school. The school may move fully from Niles to Buchanan. He wished everyone a happy new year and looks forward to an increased focus on code enforcement.

Money – Wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed Gundersen. RxKids is a great program for Buchanan. Congratulated the new nursing school. Money asked McGhee why the arrows at the intersection of Front and Red Bud Trail had faded so fast, and McGhee answered that they were temporarily painting, and thermoplastic markings will go down in spring. McGhee also confirmed that the light at Oak and Front will be reprogrammed this week. Weedon noted that the light at Skyline and Front was behaving strangely, and Baker said he would check on it. Money thanked the DPW for their hard work. He also asked about Channel 17; McGhee will check with Clerk Langston-Weiss.

George – Wished everyone a happy new year and a Merry Christmas, and thanked the Chamber for their work on the rescheduled Christmas parade. George also thanked Hein electric for the revamped lights on the Common stage. Their hard work shows the community coming together for what really matters. George thanked Dennis Mori for being the emcee for the event and welcomed Gundersen to City Hall. We hit the jackpot with the nursing school, she is happy to see them in the neighborhood.

Swem – Welcomed Gundersen to City Hall. McGhee's first year at City Manager will be tomorrow, we're thankful for him. There's a lot of good stuff to come in 2026.

C. Mayor Comments

2026 is the beginning of a lot of 3-5 year projects for the City. Kathryn Park, the Disc Golf Course, downtown upgrades, the DDA – these are all great things. He thanked Mori and the business boosters, and all the good people in the community. He thanked everyone for showing up for ALR's grand opening, and he thanked them for coming to Buchanan.

XXVI. Adjourn

Vigansky moved, seconded by George, to adjourn at 7:42pm. Voice vote carried unanimously.

Emma Lysy, Administrative Assistant

Mayor Mark Weedon