

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025 – 7:00 PM

CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

I. Call to Order the Public Hearing

The meeting was called to order

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Weedon, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem, Commissioner Raquell George, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Dan Vigansky

III. Opening of the Public Hearing

The motion was made by Swem and seconded by George to open the public hearing at 7:00 PM. Roll call votes carry unanimously.

IV. Statement of Purpose and Announcement of Rules

A. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comments on a proposed Ordinance 2025.11/444 Unified Development Code, also referred to as the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed zoning ordinance to establish zoning districts and land use regulations governing the City of Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan; to provide for regulations governing nonconforming uses and structures; to provide for a Zoning Board of Appeals and its duties and powers; to provide for the administration of this Ordinance including the official whose duty it shall be to enforce the provisions thereof; to provide penalties for the violations of this Ordinance; and to provide for conflicts with other ordinances or regulations.

Mayor Weedon read the statement of purpose and announcement of rules.

No public made in person.

Correspondences included Scott King asking the commission to be cautious.

V. Close of Public Hearing

The motion was made by George, seconded by Money, to close the public hearing at 7:03 PM. Roll call votes carry unanimously.

VI. Call to Order the Regular Meeting

Mayor Weedon called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

VII. Recognition

VIII. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Weedon led in the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

IX. Invocation

Commissioner George gave the invocation.

X. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Weedon, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem, Commissioner Raquell George, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Dan Vigansky

CITY STAFF: City Manager, Tony McGhee; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Chief of Police Harvey Burnett

XI. Approve Agenda

The motion was made by Money, seconded by Vigansky, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice votes carry unanimously.

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

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

A. Minutes- Consider approving the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 22nd, 2025.

B. Department Reports- *Receive monthly reports*

The motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by Swem, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Voice votes carry unanimously.

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

XV. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

XVI. Unfinished Business

A. Ordinance 2025.11/444- Consider the first reading of the Unified Development Code of the City of Buchanan (Zoning Ordinance).

Motion made by Vigansky, seconded by Money, to approve the first reading, as presented, and schedule the 2nd public hearing for the zoning ordinance for November 10th, 2025. Roll call votes carry unanimously.

XVII. New Business

A. Marihuana Permit Renewal- Consider the Retail Marihuana Permit Renewal for KISA Enterprises MI, Inc., dba Pinnacle Emporium, located at 221 E Front St.

The motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by Money, to approve the Retail Marijuana Renewal for KISA Enterprises, as presented. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

B. As-Needed Concrete Work in Public Right-of-Ways Bid Award- Consider awarding the bids for as-needed concrete work.

The motion was made by Swem, seconded by George, to approve the bid award to Astrong Construction not to exceed the amount of \$56,200, as presented. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

C. Sale of City-owned Properties- RFP for Sale of Properties and Scheduling of Public Hearing for said sale of properties

The motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by George, to approve the RFP and schedule a public hearing for November 10th, 2025, to hear comments on the sale of said properties. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

D. Introduction of Ordinance 2025.12/445- an Ordinance to amend Chapter 34, Elections Article II. Even Year Elections, Section 34-29. Filing of Nominating Petitions.

The motion was made by Swem, seconded by Money to accept the introduction of Ordinance 2025.12/445, as presented and schedule a public hearing for November 10th, 2025, for first reading. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

E. Expenditures- Consider approving the expenditures for October 13th, 2025.

The motion was made by Vigansky, seconded by Money to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$84,428.05. Roll call votes carried unanimously.

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

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

Jerry Flenar provided an update on the 5K Salmon Scramble, noting that Trek or Treat is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th. Please remember, no dogs are allowed at this event.

XX. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

City infrastructure updates: Major asphalt and concrete work is currently underway, with all pipe work now completed. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand reopening is scheduled for November 21 at 10:30 a.m. Additionally, a rental registration and inspection program has been initiated. The Berrien County Veterans Service Department has announced Operation Greenlight for veterans, which will run from November 1 to November 12. The Planning Commission will be focusing on updating the Master Plan, as well as addressing a cold storage and vacant building ordinance.

B. Commissioner Comments

Vigansky: Very dissatisfied with the state's budget. That said, our representatives did not vote for that budget. I'm glad the city is looking the way it is.

Money: It's great to see the progress on city lot sales and the sidewalk program. I want to thank the Trail Friends for organizing the 5K run, as well as the staff and commission for their efforts.

George: asked McGhee to explain the removal of the bricks. He mentioned that the recycled materials from construction are being reused in new projects, which is standard industry practice. The removed items belong to the owners of the materials. George expressed his satisfaction with the progress being made on the empty lots and the overall development of downtown. She also appreciated the community's patience during this process.

Swem: Asphalt! Extended gratitude to the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber for their efforts in organizing the CEO meeting held at the Buchanan Library. The meeting was highly productive and informative. Opportunity to engage with fellow leaders in our community.

B. Mayor Comments

Weedon: expressed gratitude to the library for allowing the use of the Community Room. I also want to thank Cornerstone Alliance for organizing the developer tour, which included around 40 participants, focusing on the future redevelopment of the mill site. We are seeing progress on projects both on the North and South sides, as well as in the parks. Appreciate the efforts of the Commission and staff in these endeavors.

XXI. Adjourn

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon