

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 – 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

Mayor Weedon read and recognized the Election Workers and the re-elected commissioners.

A. Recognition #1- *On behalf of the City Commission of Buchanan, I hereby recognize the team of dedicated Election Workers. Their hard work is appreciated, and I hope that you will all join me in congratulating them on a well-run election.*

Recognition #2- *Mayor Weedon hereby recognizes and congratulates our re-elected City Commissioners: Commissioner Patrick Swem and Commissioner Larry Money. You have been selected by members of your community. As such, you are now entrusted with the sacred duty of leadership through service to your City and its People. May truth and wisdom guide you, as you chart the course for Buchanan's bright future!*

-City Clerk Kalla Langston will now administer your Oaths of Office:

Oaths of Office

Langston swore in Commissioner Patrick Swem and Commissioner Larry Money.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Weedon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Mark Weedon, Commissioner Dan Vigansky, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Patrick Swem, Commissioner Raquell George

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 Swem, supported by Money to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

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

None.

VII. Special Buisness

A. Nominations and Appointments for Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem- *Consider nominating, via motion and support, and then voting, on the following nominations and appointments:*

(1) **Mayor (1 seat)**

Motion made by Money, supported by George to nominate Commissioner Mark Weedon to be appointed Mayor. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

(2) **Mayor Pro Tem** (1 seat)

Motion made by Money, supported by George to nominate Commissioner Patrick Swem. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

The other boards and committees will be considered further in the agenda.

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

A. Minutes

1) Consider the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 28th, 2024.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

IX. Scheduled Matters from the Floor (if any)

X. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Construction Contract Award, Front Street Retaining Wall - This item was postponed at the last City Commission Meeting. City Manager Lynch will provide an update and make his recommendations for the project.

Lynch is requesting that the commission consider rebidding with a different timeline to attract more bidders, while maintaining the same design.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to have the Front Street Retaining Wall Project rebid with modified date of completion. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

XII. New Business

A. Construction Contract Award, McCoy Creek Culvert Improvements- Consider the Construction Contract Award for McCoy Creek Culvert Improvements.

Lynch presented the bid tab for the McCoy Creek Culvert Improvements, the city received one bid that came in under the engineer's estimated cost. Lynch is recommending awarding the bid to Riverwalks Construction.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to approve the Construction Contract Award for the McCoy Creek Culvert Project to Riverworks Construction in the amount of \$702,230.00. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

B. Water Line Material Notifications and Lead Service Line Grant Update- City Manager Lynch will provide the update.

C. Closed Session

1) Consider entering closed sessions under MCL 15.268 Section 8 (f) to review and consider the contents of applicants who have requested confidentiality.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by George to go in closed session under MCL 15.268 Section 8(f) to review and consider the contents of applicants who have requested confidentiality at 7:16 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

2) *Re-enter open session.*

Motion made by Money, supported by George to re-enter open session 8:22 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

3) *Closed Session Action- Consider action regarding matters discussed in the Closed Session.*

Motion made by Swem, supported by Vigansky to proceed with offering public interviews to candidates #30, #34, #40, #45, & # 46, with interviews taking place on November 22, 2024, starting at 10 AM, the second round of interviews will take place on November 25th, 2024 starting at 5:00 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

D. Expenditures- *Consider the expenditures for November 12th, 2024, in the amount of \$57,215.86.*

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

E. Nominations and Appointments Continued

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to postpone Item E. 6, 7, & 8 until the reorganization of the boards and committees. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

(1) **Planning Commission (1 seat)**

[as per Act 33 of 2008, state statute dictates that members of the Planning Commission must be appointed by the Mayor, subject to approval of a majority vote of the City Commission. Also, one member of the Planning Commission shall be the Mayor, or the Mayor's designee, who may be another City Commissioner].

Motion made by Swem, supported by Weedon to appoint Vigansky to the Planning Commission. Voice Vote carries unanimously.

(2) **Zoning Board of Appeals (1 seat, with alternate- or five seats--see below)**

[Pursuant to Public Act 110 of 2006, state statute dictates that members of a Zoning Board of Appeals must be approved by a majority vote of the City Commission - OR - the entire City Commission may choose to serve as the Zoning Board of Appeals].

Motion made by Swem, supported by Weedon, to appoint Vigansky to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Voice vote carries unanimously.

(3) **Joint Water/Sewer Board (2 seats)**

Motion made by Weedon, supported by Swem to appoint Swem and Money to Joint Water Sewer Board. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Yea: Swem, George, Weedon, Money

Nay: Vigansky

(4) **Buchanan Area Recreation Board (1 seat)**

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to appoint George to BARB. Voice vote carries unanimously.

(5) **Southeast Berrien County Landfill Board (1 seat)**

Motion made by Money, supported by Weedon to appoint Swem to the Southeast Berrien County Landfill Board. Voice vote carries unanimously.

~~(6) **One Buchanan (1 seat)**~~

~~(7) Buchanan Area Fine Arts Committee (1 seat)~~

~~(8) Common Committee (1 seat)~~

(9) **Board of Review** (1 seat)

Motion made by Swem, supported by George to appoint Money to Board of Review. Voice vote carries unanimously.

(10) **Election Board/Commission** (1 seat) [should include Mayor, as per Buchanan City Charter Sect. 3.13]

No motion was needed since Weedon was appointed as Mayor. The mayor is automatically appointed to the Election Commission.

(11) **Cemetery Committee** (1 seat)

Motion made by Weedon, supported by George, to appoint Money to the Cemetery Committee. Voice vote carries unanimously.

(12) **SMCAS** (1 seat)

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to appoint Money to SMCAS. Voice vote carries unanimously.

(13) **Finance Committee** (1 seat)

Motion made by Money, supported by Weedon to appoint Swem to the finance committee.

George and Vigansky will organize a special committee for the 2026 downtown infrastructure business impact.

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

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

Chief Burnett- On behalf of the police department he thanked the Veterans. Shop with a cop is coming up on December 7th.

XV. Executive Comments

A. City Manager Comments

None.

B. Commissioner Comments

Vigansky had some health issues arise; his recovery will be slow and long. Congratulated Swem and Money on their winning the election. Happy to be back.

Money expressed gratitude to the public for re-electing him and is excited to be back. He thanked the Commission for all their hard work, emphasizing their effective collaboration. He noted that there is an explanation for everything they do and congratulated Langston and her team for a smooth election day. It's always a pleasure to work with Mr. Lynch.

George thanked the veterans for their service. She is pleased to see Swem and Money back and looks forward to continuing to work with them both. Congratulations to Weedon for being appointed Mayor. She is looking forward to the upcoming interviews.

Swem commended the team's response to the water line emails and letters, acknowledging that it wasn't a fun letter to receive but appreciated the competent work being done. The letter was a

template, and he hopes the public conducts their own research on the matter. He is looking forward to working with everyone at the strategic planning session tomorrow. He thanked everyone who shared their topics for discussion; it will be a good opportunity for progress updates and the next steps for the team. He expressed gratitude to the citizens who have put Money and himself back in office, looking forward to the next four years of serving the community.

C. Mayor Comments

Weedon is excited to see what happens in the next four years. Having been around for the last six years and having experienced two different commission styles, he believes this one is the most exciting. The city staff is pleased to have a cohesive team and improved communication at a different level. The noise is very quiet now, indicating that people are getting what they need. Thank you to everyone, from the staff to the citizens. Keep up the hard work!

XVI. Adjourn

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon