



WORK SESSION OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 – 12:00 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 Pro Tem Swem at 12:00 PM.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Weedon (12:08 PM), Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Dan Vigasnsky, Commissioner Raquell George

CITY STAFF: City Manager Tony McGhee, City Clerk Kalla Langston, City Treasurer Deborah Perez, Director of Public Works Mike Baker, Chief of Police Harvey Burnett, Director of Community Development and Zoning Kristen Gundersen, Wastewater Lead Operator Terry Burns, Water Lead Operator Craig Miller, Fire Chief Mike Adams

III. Public Comments- are limited to 3 minutes

Norma Ferris- Future road improvement priorities, water and sewer infrastructure planning and cost-related concerns.

IV. Items for Discussion

A. 2026-2027 FY Budget & Goals Workshop

City staff presented initial budget priorities and capital planning considerations for Commission discussion and feedback. No formal action was taken.

1. Public Services & Roads

Discussion focused on:

- Development of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Establishment of 1-, 5-, and 10-year infrastructure plans
- Priority areas identified:
 - North side infrastructure
 - Harlem/Detroit area water and road issues
 - Clark/Alexander neighborhood conditions
- Planned PASER road ratings and future funding scenarios were reviewed
- Sidewalk program continuation was discussed

2. Water & Sewer

Discussion included:

- Long-term infrastructure planning and capital needs
- Lead/galvanized service line replacement program
- Potential use of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Expansion opportunities, including Bertrand Crossing
- Future rate study and alignment of rates with infrastructure costs
- Workforce challenges related to licensed operators

3. Economic & Community Development

Discussion included:

- Housing development opportunities (multi-family and mixed-use)
- Support for small manufacturing and local businesses
- Status of:
 - Underutilized building ordinance
 - North side development negotiations
 - Feed Mill and River Street properties
- Emphasis on increasing density due to limited available land

4. Public Safety

Discussion included:

- Maintaining current service levels
- Long-term facility planning (including combined police/fire facility)
- Exploration of regional fire service partnerships
- Increasing call volume and service demands

5. Parks & Recreation

Discussion included:

- Completion of the disc golf course
- Catherine Park improvements
- Future planning for Ravish Park
- Riverfront access improvements
- Role of boards and need for planning initiatives
- Potential removal of certain underutilized park properties from park designation

6. Cemetery

Discussion included:

- Maintenance and mapping improvements
- Columbarium expansion needs
- Veteran section planning
- Long-term capacity and available acreage

7. Clerk & Elections

Discussion included:

- Board and committee training efforts
- Improvements to meeting procedures and minutes
- Use of technology and AI to improve efficiency
- FOIA process improvements

8. Finance

Discussion included:

- Maintaining fund balance and financial stability
- Need for structured capital planning

- Prioritization of needs over wants
- Development of financial tracking tools (scorecard concept)
- Long-term infrastructure funding considerations

9. Administration

Discussion included:

- Increasing tax base and utility revenue
- Development agreements and property sales
- Regional collaboration efforts
- Use of technology to improve operations
- Board structure and governance alignment

10. Capital Projects & Funding

Staff reviewed major project commitments, including:

- Downtown infrastructure and parking improvements
- Riverfront project funding requirements
- Grant obligations and associated risks
- Potential funding strategies, including use of reserves or financing

11. Departmental Capital Needs

Discussion included:

- Equipment replacement and repair needs (DPW, water, sewer)
- Vehicle replacement strategy
- Wastewater system equipment
- Water system improvements

12. Summary

The Commission expressed general consensus on:

- The need for comprehensive capital planning
- Prioritization of infrastructure investments
- Alignment of financial planning with long-term needs

No formal motions or decisions were made.

V. Adjourn

Motion made by Vigansky, seconded by Money, to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 pm. Voice votes carry unanimously.

Kalla Langston-Weiss, City Clerk

Mayor Mark Weedon