



# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUCHANAN CITY COMMISSION

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 – 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](mailto:clerk@cityofbuchanan.com)

### I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sean Denison at 7:00 PM

### II. Recognition

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Denison led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### IV. Roll Call

**Present: Mayor Sean Denison, Commissioner Patrick Swem, Commissioner Dan Vigansky, Commissioner Larry Money**

**Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Mark Weedon**

**City Staff: Interim City Manager, Tim Lynch; Community Development Director; Rich Murphy; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Chief of Police Harvey Burnett; Director of Public Safety, Tim Ganus; City Attorney, Matt Derby**

### V. Approve Agenda

*Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem 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. Street Closures

1) Street Closure for Annual Chili Walk organized by the Buchanan Chamber of Commerce, Front St to Oak and Red Bud Trl. on April 13th.

2) Street Closure for Memorial Day Parade organized by the American Legion Post 51, Front St- from American Legion to Terre Coupe St. (Oakridge Cemetery) on May 29th.

**B. Minutes**

1) Consider approving Regular Meeting Minutes from March 13th, 2023

**C. Expenditures**

1) Consider approving expenditures for March 27, 2023, in the amount of \$89,309.02

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

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

**A. BYSBA- Joe Kruger**

1) Consider approval for a new shed to be placed at Smith Park.

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to approve the New Shed placement at Smith Park, as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

**IX. Reports by: Departments, Committees, Boards**

**A. Buchanan Tree Friends- Richard Martin**

1) Consider approval for spring tree planting in Northside Neighborhood on April 22nd, 2023.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to approve the spring tree planting in the Northside Neighborhood on April 22, 2023.

**B. Friends of McCoy Creek Trail- Jerry Flenar**

1) Update on McCoy Creek Trail Extension.

Jerry Flenar and Suzanna from Wightman and Associates. Gave a brief update on the trail project, with it currently in the design phase. They will be looking to do an open house in May for the residents to look at the conceptual plans. In June they will submit their first set of plans to the State of Michigan for their 1<sup>st</sup> review. Mayor thanked Suzanna for all her work with this project.

**C. Community Development Report- Director Rich Murphy**

The Community Development Department presented 2 Resolutions 2023.02/06 Kayak Launch Project & 2023.02/07 Victory Park Project both resolutions were approved at a regular meeting on February 27th, 2023. These said resolutions need to be amended and public input needs to be allowed for said resolutions.

1) Open to Public Input for Resolution 2023.02/06 AMENDED Kayak Launch Project (limit to 3 minutes per person)

Denison opened the floor for public comment for resolution 2023.02/06 AMENDED Kayak Launch Project. No comments were made.

2) Consider approving Resolution 2023.02/06 AMENDED Kayak Launch Project

Motion made by Money, supported by Swem to approve resolution 2023.02/06 Amended, Kayak Launch Project. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

3) Open to Public Input for Resolution 2023.02/07 AMENDED Victory Park Project (limited to 3 minutes per person)

Denison opened the floor for public comment for resolution 2023.02/07 AMENDED, Victory Park Project. No comments were made.

4) Consider approving Resolution 2023.02/07 AMENDED Victory Park Project

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to approve Resolution 2023.02/07 AMENDED, Victory Park Project. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

**D. Finance Report- Interim City Manager, Tim Lynch**

1) Consider Resolution 2023.03/10 Resolution allowing City Treasurer, Deborah Perez, and Mayor Sean Denison to be named authorized signers for Sturgis Bank

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to approve resolution 2023.03/10 naming Mayor Sean Denison and Treasurer Deb Perez as the authorized signers for Sturgis Bank.

Yea: Denison, Money, Vigansky

Nay: None

Abstain: Swem, due to employment.

Motion carries with majority vote.

2) Consider Resolution 2023.03/11 Resolution allowing City Treasurer, Deborah Perez, and Mayor Sean Denison to be named authorized signers for 1st Source Bank

**E. Clerk Report - Kalla Langston**

1) Election update for May 2, 2023

Langston updated the public and commission on the upcoming election. The only item to vote for is the school bond proposal. If there are questions about the wording of the proposal please direct that to the school. If you have questions about the process or registration, please contact Langston.

2) Consider pursuing agreements with the City of Niles to host an Early Voting Site (EVS) as well as other municipalities.

Motion made by Swem, supported by Vigansky to allow Clerk Langston to pursue agreements with local municipalities or possible county agreements for Early Voting Sites. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

**X. Unfinished Business**

**XI. New Business**

**A. Closed Session**

(1) Enter Closed Session- Consider entering Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8 (1)(d) and (h) to consider an attorney-client privileged opinion memo & regarding a real estate matter

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to enter closed session at 7:28 P.M. pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8 (1) (d) & (h) to consider an attorney-client privileged opinion memo & regarding a real estate matter. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

(2) Re-Enter Open Session- Consider re-entering Open Session.

Motion made by Money, supported by Vigansky to re-enter open session at 7:49 P.M. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

**B. Consider approving a ground lease for 606 Clark St. - Due to agreements for the DPW construction site, 606 Clark has to be owned or leased to the Building Authority of the City of Buchanan.**

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Swem to approve the ground lease for 606 Clark St. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

**C. Consider approving a RFP Process for the sale of 107 W Front St. Ross Sanders House and proposed RFP Document**

Motion made by Swem, supported by Vigansky to approve the RFP process and the proposed form RFP Document for 107 W Front St. Ross Sanders House. Roll call vote 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)*

Harvey Burnett- Information for two community workshops. April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6PM-7:30PM will be on "how to raise self-disciplined, responsible, and socially skilled children and teens in today's world. The other held on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM- 7:30 PM on "Learning how to cope and recover from loss" both will be held at Fellowship Hall Buchanan SDA Church.

Carrie Franklin- wanted to address the commission with concerns about the red door hangers being distributed among residents and the school proposal. Information on the school bond proposals can be found on the school's website.

Monroe Lemay- continued with Carrie Franklin written comments.

Katie Shelton- continued with Carrie Franklin written comments.

Don Ryman- Opposed the current school bond. Inflation is affecting everyone and would hope people donate to RAM Love.

Ezra Scott- Past Berrien County Commissioner that is running for State Senate in the next election cycle. Regarding the increase of water/sewer bill, please look at house resolution 3684 as well as the schools to help with grant funding available for infrastructure.

Carla Johnson- Comments about the School Bond Proposal.

Michelle Funk- Comments about Water and Sewer rates, as well as School Proposal.

James Busby- Comments about Buchanan School Proposal and support for the athletic departments at the school. As well as fixing the Dollar General Parking Lot. Improvements to the city include sidewalk repairs, potholes, drinking fountains. We need to be respectful to each other.

Brandon Wagner- Comments about School Proposal. Seeing positive movement of the schools asking citizen for support of the proposal.

Henderson- Comments about the repairing roads. Buchanan is about up-building and encouraging. Support our community and support the interest of the people.

Thomas Wilson- Comments about the School Proposal. Vote, whatever the outcome, support it the outcome.

Thomas Macigewski- Comments about School Proposal. Encourages every citizen to do their own research.

Jerry Flenar- Comments about the Code of Conduct. It is being abused by certain "employees".

*Chris Carlson- April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM there will be an open house at Moccasin for tours. April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM open house for the High School. April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM you can go to either school and they're happy to help with any questions.*

#### **XIV. Executive Comments**

##### **A. City Manager Comments**

The finance committee is working through the budget. We have an open-door policy at city hall, if you have any questions or concerns, please come down and we will try to help you.

##### **B. Commissioner Comments**

*Swem- Thanked everyone for coming out. No additional comments about the School Proposal. Thanks to Richard Martin for working with Mike and AEP on tree cuts that are able to reserve the tree canopy.*

*Vigansky- No comments about the School Proposal. Addressed the code of conduct.*

*Money- Thanked everyone for being here. Your opinions are yours and thank you for sharing them. I hold respect to this commission because we have to make decisions that no one wants to make. Thanked Mike Baker for his continued work.*

##### **C. Mayor Comments**

*Denison- Thanked Rich Murphy for the hard work he has put in since being here. Misinformation seems to be the word of the night. Denison referred to the tax graph that the city collects and what revenue actually stays in the city. There is very little tax revenue and unfortunately, we have been tasked to bear the burden. We are doing the very best we can, no one wants to see water/sewer rates go up. Either we raise taxes or water sewer rates, either way the burden falls on us. What we all need to do is keep coming to meetings like this and put our heads together and we can work together as a community. Or we can call each other names and get on Facebook and tear each other apart, which is not helpful. Encouraging all to keep coming to the meeting to take other issues we face as a city. Thanks to everyone for being here.*

#### **XV. Adjourn**

Motion made by Vigansky, supported by Money to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 P.M. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

---

Kalla Langston , City Clerk

---

Mayor Sean Denison