

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTY-FIRST COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026 BY MAYOR DEAN**

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Gary Elrod
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Mayor Bridget Dean

ABSENT: Councilmember Clarence Black
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Lisa Hamameh
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Deputy City Manager for Public Services Shawn Young
Parks & Recreation Director Dan McMinn
Facilities Manager Alex Brown
Public Safety Lt. Jordan Kobernick
Finance Director Carl Johnson
Deputy Finance Director Ryan Shaw
Communications Assistant Seraphine Hinz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Baker moved to approve the agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Elrod
Ayes: Elrod, Hennen, Patterson, Baker and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: Black and Gavin
Motion Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nathan Miller, Troy, spoke regarding his flight school, Victor's Aviation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve the following Consent Agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Baker

M-16-26: Minutes of the 41st Regular City Council meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026 and Work Session meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026.

R-03-26: Amend resolution R-03-26 for the updated Poverty Exemption Guidelines.

R-04-26: Flagstar "Government Banking Public Unit Resolution and Master Signature Authorization agreement" updating the authorized signers on the bank accounts to the current clerk, deputy treasurer, finance director/treasurer, and deputy finance director.

M-17-26: Amended proposal for engineering related services as they relate to the Bacon Water Main and Road Reconstruction Project.

M-18-26: Authorizing publication of a Notice of Public Hearing regarding the proposed operating budget and millage rates to be levied beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 for the City of Berkley, Michigan and formally authorizing a public hearing on the May 4, 2026, council agenda.

M-19-26: Proposal from Allied Building Services for improvements to the Bacon Park pavilion.

M-20-26: Accepting a scoreboard donation from the Berkley Dad's Club.

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Elrod and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS: Matter of receiving any recognitions or presentations from the Consent Agenda.

None.

Accepting the Quarter-Ended December 31, 2025 Budget-to-Actual Report.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-21-26

Seconded by Councilmember Baker

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Elrod, and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

Accepting the Quarter-Ended December 31, 2025 Investment Report.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-22-26

Seconded by Councilmember Elrod

Ayes: Patterson, Baker, Elrod, Hennen and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

Authorizing Amendment 2026-3 of the 2025-26 Budget as Presented.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-23-26

Seconded by Councilmember Patterson

Ayes: Baker, Elrod, Hennen, Patterson and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

Motion to approve contracts to provide security upgrades to City Hall, Community Center, Public Safety, and Library, subject to review of a contract by the City Attorney and approval and execution by the City Manager.

Councilmember Elrod moved to approve Motion No. M-24-26

Seconded by Councilmember Baker

Ayes: Elrod, Hennen, Patterson, Baker and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

Motion to approve the proposal from Allied Building Services to provide materials and labor to tuckpoint approximately 2400' of existing brick wall and install a 24' gate at DPW, subject to review of a contract by the City Attorney and approval and execution by the City Manager.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-25-26

Seconded by Councilmember Elrod

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Elrod and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

Motion to approve accepting the City Manager's Advisory Opinion Responding to Alleged Ethics Violation Under Section 2-40 of the City of Berkeley City Code.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-26-26

Seconded by Councilmember Baker

Ayes: Hennen, Patterson, Baker, Elrod and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- Thanked the Dad's Club for the scoreboard; it's absolutely gorgeous and well needed.
- The Parks and Recreation Department had a great Winter Fest on Saturday, and the weather was warm. Thanked everyone who put that on.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet Monday, March 9th at 7 PM.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets Thursday, March 12th.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Berkeley Historical Committee meets next Tuesday, on March 10th at 7 PM.
 - They are continuing to work on revised marketing information and refreshing materials. They have bookmarks and other items and are refreshing the exhibits and displays in the museum.
 - Please visit in person or go to berkeleyhistory.com.
- The Downtown Development Authority board meets next on Wednesday, March 11th.
 - They are working on projects for the spring and summer months and are deep into budget season, contributing to the bigger picture of how the city's funds will be spent.
 - Visit downtownberkeley.com to learn more about exhibits and events.
- "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet." — Stephen Hawking.
 - Tomorrow morning between 6:00 AM and 7:00 AM, with a peak around 6:30 AM, there will be a blood moon. It will be in the western sky. No special equipment is needed. The next blood moon will not be until December 31, 2028.
- Daylight saving time begins Sunday, so you will lose an hour.
- Please hug somebody you love.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Tree Board met last week and discussed plans for an April Arbor Day tree planting at the library.
 - They are working to make the Arbor Day event bigger and more community involved than in past years, with the library playing an integral part.
 - Their next meeting is Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM in the public safety conference room.
- The Planning Commission met last week.
 - They reviewed and passed the capital improvement plan.
 - They recommended the rezoning of properties that were improperly zoned during the ordinance rewrite so they become conforming again. That will come before council for final approval.

- Their next meeting is Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 PM at City Hall.
- Said that he attended the first session of the Michigan Political Leadership Program with 23 other individuals in Lansing. Stated that they spoke with representatives and the Senate Fiscal Budget Agency head and did a deep dive into the state budget. It was the first of 10 meetings and a great program to learn more about state government and how he can be an effective advocate for the city.

COUNCILMEMBER ELROD

- The Environmental Advisory Committee is meeting Tuesday, March 17th at the second-floor public safety building.
- The Beautification Advisory Committee met last Wednesday and discussed the Adopt-A-Garden program. Communications will be shared online and through city forms with information on how to participate. This is not a vegetable garden; it uses native plants mixed with perennials and annuals.
 - Their next meeting is Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30 PM on the second-floor of public safety.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- The seed library team is gearing up for another successful season.
 - They are hosting a seed packing event Friday, March 6 from 3 to 5 PM. It is open to the public with no reservation required.
- The Friends of the Library donated two large whiteboards to the new study room. It is a great improvement to the space, and people are encouraged to rent the rooms.

CITY ATTORNEY HAMAMEH

- No updates.

MAYOR DEAN

- Said that she used one of the study rooms at the library and it was very quiet and perfect.
- Thank you to Mr. McMinn and his team for bringing us such a fun Winter Fest. The expanded fishing opportunity, bouncers, ice carvings, s'mores, and the donut truck were great. The best part of these events is the sense of community and everyone coming together, especially after a long winter.
- Expressed her deep gratitude to the Dad's Club for the gift of the scoreboard. The Dad's Club and the city have enjoyed a long history of cooperation and working together for the betterment of all.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:58 PM

Seconded by Councilmember Hennen

Ayes: Baker, Elrod, Hennen, Patterson and Dean

Nays: None

Absent: Black and Gavin

Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk