

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORTY-FIRST COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 BY MAYOR DEAN**

PRESENT: Councilmember Steve Baker
Councilmember Clarence Black
Councilmember Gary Elrod
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Gavin
Councilmember Dennis Hennen
Councilmember Gregory Patterson
Mayor Bridget Dean

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Crystal VanVleck
City Attorney Lisa Hamameh
City Clerk Victoria Mitchell
Community Development Director Kristen Kapelanski
Public Safety Lt. Andrew Hadfield
Public Safety Lt. Jordan Kobernick
Executive Assistant to the City Manager Lydia Brauher

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

The Mayor began with a firm statement on behalf of Council denouncing hate speech in the city following the distribution of offensive flyers over the weekend. If anyone has information regarding the incident, please contact the Berkley Public Safety Detective Bureau at 248-658-3390 or via email at db@berkleymi.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

M-53-26: Minutes of the 41st Regular City Council meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026 and Special City Council meeting on Monday, April 27, 2026.

M-54-26: Warrant List No. 1422.

M-55-26: Approval of the adoption of the Updated Engineering Design Standards as presented.

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

Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

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

None.

PRESENTATION: Presentation of the Quarter 1 Strategic Framework Report.

City Manager Crystal VanVleck introduced the item and introduced Executive Assistant to the City Manager Lydia Brauher.

Ms. Brauher presented the Quarter 1 Strategic Framework report, detailing municipal progress across priority areas such as organizational effectiveness, economic sustainability, and fiscal stewardship.

O-09-26: Approval with proposed changes of the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan to amend Section 3.03.A Commercial Occupancy Certificate/Business License, Section 3.10 Performance Guarantees, Section 6.04.C.6 Multiple Family Development, Section 6.04.D.1 Authorized Site Layouts, Section 9.16 Locating Parking Lots, Section 11.08.C Standards for All Temporary Signs, Section 11.10 Nonconforming Signs, Section 14.04.E Parking Spaces for Other Land Uses, Section 14.04.N Leased Parking in Municipal Lots, and Section 15.03.A Sketch Plan of Chapter 138 Zoning of the City of Berkley Code of Ordinances to add appropriate cross references, to set a period for project completion, to allow for administrative extension of completion periods, to modify the amount of surety bonds that may be posted for completion and to delete the requirement for a completion agreement, to rename the Multiple Family Development Site type for clarity, to provide regulations for stand-alone parking lots, to revise the time limit for temporary signs, to modify the requirements for non-conforming signs, to clarify location requirements for shared use parking, to prohibit commercial vehicles at single- and two-family dwellings, to allow annual parking passes to count towards parking requirements, and to clarify that an applicant may present a sketch plan to the Planning Commission as a discussion item.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve Ordinance No. O-09-26

Seconded by Councilmember Elrod

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved.

O-10-26: First reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan, to amend Chapter 109 Subdivisions, Article IV Design Standards for Subdivision Planning to repeal Sections 109-26 Guarantee of Completion of Improvements Required by the City and Section 109-27 Condition of City Approval of Final Plat – Financial Guarantees because performance guarantees are required by the Zoning Ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Gavin moved to approve Ordinance No. O-10-26

Seconded by Councilmember Black

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved.

R-09-26: Resolution of the City Council of The City of Berkley, Michigan, approving the Conveyance of Property to and from the Berkley School District.

Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Resolution No. R-09-26

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER

- The Berkley Historical Committee met on May 12th. The museum has a new display at the library featuring vintage golden spine books and toys. One of the Committee's initiatives is a downtown scavenger hunt called "Landmarks and Legends," which runs now through July 31st. Participants can solve puzzles at various locations to receive a souvenir. For more information, visit berkeleyhistory.com.
- The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) met on May 13th to discuss lessons learned from the recent "Ladies Night Out" event and to plan upcoming projects, including the Robina placemaking project and activities at the Dorothea Pocket Park in July. For more information, you can visit downtownberkeley.com.
- Shared a message of kindness, stating that "hate has no home" in Berkley and encouraged residents to be kind to themselves and others.
- Clare Pooley once said, "In a world where you can be anything, be kind."
- Please be kind to one another and hug somebody you love.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN

- The Planning Commission's May meeting is canceled.
- The Tree Board will have its last meeting before the summer hiatus next week, at 7 PM in the Public Safety Building.
- Reported attending the Building Michigan Communities Conference, which featured an inaugural elected officials track focused on affordable housing and tools for addressing housing challenges.
- Attended a hearing in Lansing for the House Committee on Government Operations regarding "housing readiness" bills. He expressed concerns that these bills could preempt local codes and strip away work the city has already completed. He emphasized the need for the city to remain vigilant as these legislative matters progress.

COUNCILMEMBER ELROD

- The Environmental Advisory Committee's next meeting is May 19th at 6:30 PM on the second floor of the Public Safety building.
 - Highlighted an e-recycling event happening on May 23rd from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, which is being coordinated by SOCCRA and the Department of Public Works (DPW). The event will be manned by the Committee and DPW employees.
- The Beautification Advisory Committee's next meeting is Wednesday, May 27th, and the location has been moved to the Community Center due to a room conflict.

COUNCILMEMBER BLACK

- Encouraged residents to keep friends and peers serving in the military in their thoughts and prayers as the situation in the Middle East continues.
- Highlighted the burden placed on the parents of service members and specifically gave a shout-out to Lieutenant Hadfield, who is a military parent, noting the extra burden parents carry for their children.

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

- Thanked the Berkley school board for the invitation to the Student Leadership Showcase held earlier that day, which he attended with Mayor Dean and Councilmember Hennen. He noted that it was

inspiring to see the passion and commitment of the fourth- and fifth-grade students involved in their various projects. He said it was refreshing to meet such enthusiastic future leaders.

- The Parks & Rec Advisory Board:
 - The splash pad is now open for the season (operating from 10 AM to 8 PM daily).
 - Senior program is going very, very strong. They are partnering with local businesses.
 - Cruisefest is right around the corner. They already have nearly 100 cars registered.
 - The Parks & Rec. Department secured a \$12,500 grant for mobile recreation.
 - Highlighted professional developments for staff, including Amanda attending a statewide marketing summit, Josie joining the Michigan Association of Senior Centers, and Dan McMinn earning his certified playground inspector certification, which will allow the city to perform its own equipment inspections and save money.
 - The city clerk and deputy city clerk visited the Board to review board changes, and the board is currently finalizing its bylaws.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet as there were no cases.

MAYOR PRO TEM GAVIN

- The Berkley Area Chamber of Commerce will next meet on Tuesday, May 19th, at 5:30 PM at the library.
- The Berkley library will be moving to its summer hours after this weekend:
 - Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday: 10 AM to 8 PM
 - Thursday and Friday: 10 AM to 6 PM
 - Saturday: Closed
- The next meeting of the Library Board will be May 20th at 7 PM at the library.

CITY MANAGER VANVLECK

- No updates.

CITY ATTORNEY HAMAMEH

- No updates.

MAYOR DEAN

- Stated that she and her husband attended a dinner hosted by the International Armed Forces Council on the Saturday prior to the May 18th, 2026 meeting. She noted that representatives from Canada and Poland were also in attendance at the event, which honored the collaborative efforts of armed forces personnel from all three countries.
- Reported on her attendance at the National League of Cities (NLC) conference in Savannah, Georgia, where she served as a representative for the board of trustees of the Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund.
 - Highlighted a powerful keynote address titled "The Power of 'and'" by Savannah Mayor Van Johnson. She shared that the presentation focused on how the word "and" is inclusive and connects ideas, suggesting that attendees reflect on its use in their own lives and professional relationships.
- The Berkley Dads' Club 78th Annual Opening Day took place on Saturday, May 16th. She said it was a great event and a powerful representation of who we are as a community.
- Praised the fourth- and fifth-grade students from Berkley schools who participated in the student leadership showcase she attended earlier that day. She noted that the students were poised, well-spoken, and demonstrated great collaborative skills.
- Her next stop on the Mayor's Road Show is Ullman's Health and Beauty (2816 Coolidge Highway) on Saturday, June 6th, from noon to 2 PM. She looks forward to hearing residents' questions and concerns.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Patterson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:07 PM
Seconded by Councilmember Elrod

Ayes: Black, Elrod, Gavin, Hennen, Patterson, Baker and Dean
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Approved.

Bridget Dean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk