

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021 – 7:00 PM
CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Mayor Denison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT Mayor Sean Denison, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Weedon, Commissioner Cameron Downey, Commissioner Larry Money, Commissioner Patrick Swem

ABSENT None

STAFF City Manager Heather Grace, City Clerk Barbara Pitcher, Community Development Director Rich Murphy

GUESTS Fran Terry, Ted Chase, Dan Vigansky, Stacy Martin, Mitt Drew, Matt Derby

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

Dan Vigansky - Spoke regarding Chamber/Main Street Manager contract, stating the City just spent money to hire a grant writer and could have hired a full-time employee. He was critical of the Chamber. Asked when the meeting was decided on, stating that they should be scheduled publicly.

Fran Terry - Representing the Chamber, stating that the Chamber has been an advocate and that she personally attended the DDA meetings until the end. Apologized to the Commission for the lateness of the contract. Everyone wanted it to be a collaboration and best for both parties.

Ted Chase - Representing the Chamber, stating he's been impressed with the candidates throughout the interview process and is confident they will find a highly qualified individual for the role.

Stacy Martin - Representing the Chamber, stating she's excited about the partnership. The desire is to set this person up for success so they will report to the Chamber President rather than the entire board. This is a step toward creating solutions.

IV. Schedule Matters from the Floor

A. Chamber Board

Presentation of Proposed Contract to Memorialize Agreement for "Chamber Executive Director/ Main Street Manager" Position

City Manager Grace spoke regarding the Chamber's involvement in the process. Weedon spoke about forward movement and change and suggested if you don't like it, find better ways to help instead of dredging up the past. He appreciates this will be someone who understands the vision and will be elevating the professionalism of the City. Denison is excited to have both entities working towards a common goal. No action was taken on this item at this meeting.

V. New Business

A. BS&A Change Order Due to Clerk Cashier Change

City Manager Grace wanted to bring this item forward to keep the Commissioners apprised. The Commissioners are comfortable with her making the administrative decision.

B. Closed Session to Discuss Matters Subject to Attorney-Client Privilege

Motion made by Commissioner Swem, seconded by Commissioner Money to enter into a closed session at 7:19 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8 (h) to discuss matters of attorney-client privilege. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

C. Consider Action Items Discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Weedon, seconded by Commissioner Money to resume open session at 8:19 p.m. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Weedon, seconded by Commissioner Money to authorize City Manager Grace to continue ongoing negotiations with Edgewater as recommended by City Attorney. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

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

VII. Adjourn

Prior to adjournment, Commissioner Money thanked the DPW and Cemetery crews for erecting a new flagpole at City Hall.

Being no further business, Mayor Denison adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Voice vote carried unanimously.

Barbara A. Pitcher, City Clerk

Mayor Sean Denison