



CITY OF BURTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2026

MINUTES

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

**4303 S. Center Road
Burton, MI 48519**

A. Call To Order

The Council President called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

B. Invocation

LED BY: Councilwoman Tina Conley

A moment of silence was observed in honor of the passing of Councilman Gary Wines' mother, Sherry Wines.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

LED BY: Councilwoman Tina Conley

D. Roll Call

Present: Council President Gregory Fenner, Council Member Candice Miller, Council Member Steven Heffner, Council Vice-President Gary Wines, City Council Member Kris Johns, Council Member Tina Conley

Absent: Councilwoman Ellen Ellenburg (Excused)

E. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Council Member Miller, second by Council Vice-President Wines, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Gary Wines, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 6 - 0.

F. Staff Present

Duane Haskins, Mayor

Racheal Boggs, City Clerk

Charles Abbey, DPW Director

Ted Valley, HR Director

Kirk Wilkinson, Fire Chief

Amanda Odette, City Attorney

G. Approval of Minutes

1. City Council Regular Meeting January 8, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Motion by Council Member Heffner, second by Council Member Conley, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Gary Wines, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 6 - 0.

H. Administrative Reports

Mayor Haskins reported the following:

Please keep Councilwoman Ellenburg in your thoughts and prayers as she is having some health issues. During the cold weather, I would ask everyone to keep an eye on your neighbors. This weekend is going to be brutally cold. I recommend letting your water run a little bit, so your pipes don't freeze. There has been a chest cold/flu type thing going around recently. Please, if you are sick, stay home to stop the spread of it. City Hall employees are getting sick to the point that I almost had to close City Hall. Respiratory patients are flooding emergency rooms, and these conditions can be serious. Our DPW road crew is working hard on these snow days, using old equipment. Please be patient as our trucks are breaking down, and there may be delays in taking care of the roads. I can't thank the DPW Department and road crews enough for all the extra hours they have put in. A lot of people say well, they make good money, but when you do this day after day and get called in on holidays, weekends, evenings, it's hard to be excited about the extra money at times. Burton is known for getting our roads cleared quickly during snow events. If that is not the case, I want everyone to know that we are not slacking, but there is a reason. I attended a ribbon-cutting event for the Bentley Bulldog Early Learning Center. The project was due to the outstanding efforts of Superintendent Dr. Kristy Spann, the community, and McLaren. We are still working on the Police & Fire Memorial. We are hoping to go out to bid for that next week. When we have a cost, we will bring it forward.

I. Committee Reports

Mr. Johns stated Parks & Recreation met last week. Mr. Craig is now the Chair of that commission. Our longtime Chairperson, Mr. Scharrer, stepped down, and we thank him for his service. Both of our December events, Pizza with Santa and the Christmas Tree Lighting, were a tremendous success. The Metropolitan Planning Commission met last night, and there is a draft of the Genesee County Trails Plan. The plans included for Burton are very exciting. Once it is published, I will bring an update.

J. Audience Participation

Now is the time set-aside for members of the audience to address the Burton City Council. I would ask each individual to give their name and address for the record and to limit their comments to three (3) minutes and to speak on the topics germane to City business.

Patrick Dargel of 6119 Hugh Street in Burton spoke about item M.1 on the agenda, stating I hope you follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Melinda Benn of 6177 E Bristol Road in Burton spoke about mosquito spraying. She expressed concerns about health issues.

Rick Fuhst of 1072 Forest Avenue commended the road crew for clearing the snow. I have been told that nobody else can match us and that we have the cleanest roads in the county. Fantastic job. He also expressed opinions about item M.1 on the agenda.

K. Council Discussion

Mr. Heffner discussed having a Flag Day on June 14th. Mr. Johns has some great ideas about promoting the flag, etiquette, and events for kids. We were thinking of an ice cream

social, something simple to celebrate the flag.

Mr. Johns stated that we have submitted a grant through the state to fund some of the activities. This is also the 250th Anniversary of our great country. We want to show how patriotic the City of Burton residents are.

Mr. Heffner stated this can all be done privately, without city funds. This could be our way to celebrate the 250th Anniversary and to show the world that the City of Burton loves America.

Mrs. Miller asked about the amount of grant funds.

Mr. Johns stated we submitted for less than \$5,000 last week. We submitted a solid proposal and were told that it was very favorable that we would be approved.

Discussion continued about the possibility of a Flag Day event.

Mr. Heffner asked President Fenner to put a motion to hold a Flag Day Event on the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Johns recommended Mr. Heffner and himself as Chairpersons for the committee.

Mr. Heffner stated the administration will need to be involved with the mayor's blessing.

Mr. Fenner stated that this is the first time the mayor has heard about it. I would like to have a further discussion.

Mr. Wines stated as far as the mosquito spraying, we still need to talk about how that will be funded.

Mr. Abbey stated that last year, we tried it as a pilot for one year to see how it went. It is up to the council how we do this going forward. We can do a special assessment or pay for it out of the general fund. Mr. Seago brought some information last week, and I was unavailable because of all the snow and equipment failures we have had. Once we catch up, I will sit down with him and the mayor, and we can bring it to you.

Mr. Heffner stated our roads are top-notch. There is no snow or ice on the roads like in other communities. If you drive into Flint or Davison, you'd better lock it into four-wheel. Our guys have done a fantastic job. Thank you.

L. Council Action

1. Approve and Authorize the payment of Attorney Billing (Odette) 1/1/26 to 1/14/26 in the amount of \$2,155.00.

Motion by Council Vice-President Wines, second by Council Member Conley, to Approve.
Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Gary Wines, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 6 - 0.

2. Approve and Authorize the payment of Attorney Billing (Miller Johnson) 12/1/25 to 12/31/25, invoice # 2042813 in the amount of \$745.00.

Motion by Council Vice-President Wines, second by Council Member Heffner, to Approve.
Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Gary Wines, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 6 - 0.

3. 2026 Homeowners Property Exemption (HOPE) formerly known as the Poverty Exemption

Approve and authorize the Homeowners Property Exemption (HOPE) application and guidelines for use by property owners and the City of Burton Board of Review for consideration of exemption of ad valorem property taxes for tax year 2026 pursuant to MCL 211.7u.

Motion by Council Member Heffner, second by Council Member Miller, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Gary Wines, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 6 - 0.

4. Approve and Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a contract with T.G. Priehs, LLC 8 Mountain Dr., Imaly City, MI 48444 for the Genesee Rd Sidewalk Project 24-011-P in the amount of \$637,325.75.

Motion by Council Member Heffner, second by Council Vice-President Wines, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Gary Wines, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 6 - 0.

5. Approve and authorize a budget amendment within the Major Streets Fund as follows: Decrease Non-Motorized Funds GL number 202-451-802.000 in the amount of \$75,000.00; Decrease Major Street Fund Balance \$572,325.75; Add new project GL line 202-451-802.632 Genesee Road Sidewalk Project for construction in the amount of \$647,325.75.

Mr. Heffner asked if the purpose of this was to have the sidewalk connect from Kelly Lake to Formar?

Mr. Abbey said yes.

Mr. Heffner stated at the corner of Court and Genesee, the sidewalk is only one and a half feet wide. Can we move the telephone pole or the sidewalk around to make it handicap accessible?

Mr. Abbey stated I will have to look at the plan. We have additional work to do there anyway. We have the next phase of Court Street project to our east boundary coming up, and we will need to address it then.

Motion by Council Member Heffner, second by Council Member Conley, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Gary Wines, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 6 - 0.

M. First Reading of Ordinance

1. Approve and Authorize Case No. 336, Amar Shango; 8515 Highgrove Ct., Grand Blanc, MI 48439 requests a zoning change from M-2 General Industrial District to C-2, General Business on the following described parcels:

G3271 S. Dort Hwy., Burton MI, 48529, Parcel 59-28-551-001 described as:
W 150 FT OF LOTS 1 & 2 HEMPHILL DORT COMMERCIAL SITES (81)

Mr. Heffner stated the Planning Commission sent this for council approval by a vote of 6-0.

Mrs. Miller asked, what is the difference between M2 and C2?

Mr. Heffner stated that the C2 allows them to put in a gas station if they choose. There are no homes to affect. It's all businesses right there. This will allow this business to save his business because the gas station nearby just put in liquor. To keep up, he has to sell more stuff.

Mr. Fenner asked what zoning the surrounding properties are under.

Mr. Abbey stated the NW corner is a gas station that is in the City of Flint. The NE corner is C2, currently operating with a variance as a used car lot. The SW corner is zoned C2, and we are unsure if the business is operating at all. The SE corner, which is the property we are discussing, is currently zoned as a convenience store, and has been for over 30 years.

Motion by Council Member Heffner, second by Council Member Miller, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Kris Johns, Tina Conley

Voting No: Gregory Fenner, Gary Wines

Motion Passed 4 - 2.

N. Meeting Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 2, 2026 @ 7:00 PM.

Agendas and minutes may be found at www.burtonmi.gov.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]