



CITY OF BURTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

MINUTES

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

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

A. Call To Order

President Fenner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. Invocation

LED BY: Vice President Gary Wines

Vice President Wines stated that we have lost some important people in our community. He asked that we keep the families of the following people in our thoughts and prayers: Charles Redmond, a longtime Flint Police Officer; Ralph Nehring, founder of Nehring's Market, and Tristan Boggs, our City Clerk's stepson, have all passed away.

Mr. Wines observed a moment of silence in their honor.

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

LED BY: Vice President Gary Wines

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: Council Member Ellen Ellenburg (Excused)

E. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve the agenda as presented.

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.

F. Staff Present

Duane Haskins, Mayor

Joy Roe, Deputy Clerk

Charles Abbey, DPW Director

Brian Ross, Police Chief

Amanda Odette, City Attorney

G. Approval of Minutes

1. City Council Regular Meeting February 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Motion by Council Vice-President Wines, 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.

H. Administrative Reports

Mayor Haskins gave the following report:

Thank you, Vice President Wines, for recognizing the passing of Charles Redmond, Ralph Nehring, and, of course, the City Clerk's stepson. The Police Chief and I got to serve with Officer Redmond at the Sheriff's Department. He had a family and was an outstanding gentleman. We attended the funeral today, and it was sad, but nice.

We are currently running ads in the newspaper for appointments on our city boards, as the Council President requested. We are getting applicants, so it is working. Saturday is the Kiwanis Hot Fudge Run at Bentley at Noon. There will be road closures, which seems to be a heated topic. It has been posted quite a bit to let people know. It is an inconvenience, and we appreciate everyone's patience. A friendly reminder that taxes are due by the end of February. If they are not paid at the city, they will transfer to the county and be assessed other fees. Rocky's, a longstanding icon in our city, is closing its doors. I wish them happy endeavors and thank them for being an outstanding community leader and partner for so many years. There has been an issue with a waterline at Starlight Coney Island. There is an 80-year-old waterline that we are waiting for the preliminary engineering to come back on. There have been seven water main breaks in a year and a half. We have torn the parking lot up three different times. They just recently opened back up after an accident at their drive-thru, and their business has been shut down about three times because of the water main breaks in different spots. This will not be a cheap fix. It is not only impacting Starlight, but also a medical building, an auto parts store, Burger King, and other businesses in that area. This will need to be expedited as fast as possible. I was recently at a conference in Washington, DC, where I met with leaders in the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives about these issues. We are trying to secure funding for infrastructure projects. I have more meetings coming up in March regarding this issue. Another issue we are having, not with Consumers Energy this time, but with telecommunication companies putting in fiber optic lines in our city. They are running them through our right-of-ways on residents' front lawns. The damage is terrible, and we have no say in it. They are currently targeting Grand Blanc, Burton, and Flint Township. If you get calls, I want you to be aware of what is going on. We are getting a lot of calls about this. The Assessor wanted me to let everyone know that, due to the mandated Proposal A of 1994, the state determines the inflation rate multiplier, and for 2026, that number will be 2.7%. Assessment notices have gone out. The Assessor encourages anyone with questions to contact the Assessor's Office directly.

1. Proposed Budget Workshop Dates
2. Revenue & Expenditures through 10.31.25
3. Revenue & Expenditures through 11.30.25
4. Revenue & Expenditures through 12.31.25

I. Committee Reports

Mr. Wines discussed the tentative dates for budget meetings. They will last about two and a half weeks from May 4th until May 20th. I worked with the mayor and his team to select the dates. I am asking the council to look at the dates and let me know if there are any issues.

Mr. Johns stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission met and had a good meeting. Director Amy Clous has announced that she will be stepping down, and we look forward to the next appointment of a Parks and Recreation Director. We are sharing ideas on how we can improve the Easter Egg Hunt. We are currently looking for additional board members and encourage the public to apply.

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 posed questions about agenda item # 6. He congratulated the U.S. Women's Hockey Team for their Olympic win over Canada.

Sadonna Meyers of 1495 Alberta Avenue in Burton spoke about the Burton Memorial Library. March 14th is pie day, and we will be having a book sale and pie for everyone to enjoy. Donations are welcome and will go to the library. She also thanked the library liaisons, Ellen, Candace, and Tina.

Mrs. Miller added that the event would begin at 10:00 am.

Melinda Benn of 6177 E. Bristol Road spoke against mosquito spraying in the city and provided recommendations for individual residents to control mosquitoes in a nontoxic way.

K. Council Discussion

Mr. Heffner provided a book to the Finance Chair, entitled Guarding the Public Checkbook. One of our biggest jobs is guarding the public checkbook, and we have failed miserably on Bristol Road. We haven't; Consumers Energy has. If you read the article in the Burton View last week, Consumers responded that they have fixed our roads back to Burton's standards. I know it is not up to our standards. I am hoping to get the council to direct the City Attorney and the administration to write a letter to Consumers Energy to let them know that this is unacceptable. Something needs to be done about this. My personal opinion is that the lane needs to be repaved on Bristol all the way to Pringle, just past the school. That road is horrible. What did we spend on that road, \$3 million?

Mayor Haskins stated I agree with you 100%. If we do this, we need to include Center Road as well.

Mr. Abbey agreed. It is frustrating, and it is an ongoing battle. We are having conversations between the attorney and staff. We are also working with an engineer to rewrite our specs for roads. We will need to figure out how far we can go with this. The problem is that when they cut these small windows, it takes time for the flaws to present themselves through freezing and thawing. That is when the problems become evident. We stay in constant contact with them. We are not the only ones with these problems. There are statutes that control a lot of this. We do require bonds before doing work, so that we can cash them in to fix the roads to our standards. We will put as many safeguards in place as allowable to

protect our residents.

Discussion continued on the state of the roads after Consumers Energy and other utility companies do work. Council members and administration both agree that something has to be done about this.

Mayor Haskins stated our Consumers Energy bills have gone up, in some cases over 50%. The service commission and all these other people sitting in their high and mighty spots don't seem to care that we are paying astronomical bills for service. They seem to think there are no rules for them. How can we tackle this to stop the nonsense? I was also just told that Consumers got approved to increase the rates on gas, and we have nowhere else to get energy from. It is out of control. They have a ton of money. They tear up our roads and raise our rates. I will be front and center on this and do all I can to stop it.

Mr. Fenner recommends drafting a letter and contacting our State Reps and Congress. We will take it up to the Governor if we have to.

Discussion about drafting the letter and changing the requirements outlined in our road restoration specifications.

Mr. Heffner said Consumers waits until the City of Burton puts in a new road, and then they come and put gas lines in.

Mr. Abbey stated we can meet with the City Attorney and have a letter drafted expressing our thoughts.

Mr. Fenner asked if we are all in agreement on this. Council and administration agreed.

Mr. Heffner said to let them know that we are prepared to go to court to get this resolved. It will cost them more in court than it will to fix the roads.

Attorney Odette stated I will help draft the letter, but it should come from the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Heffner stated that March 10-11 is the Capitol Conference at the Michigan Municipal League, where many of our legislators will be present. It will be a good chance to have these conversations. I recommend everyone take the time to go.

Mayor Haskins stated our Department of Public Works has done their due diligence ahead of time to make sure we wouldn't have any of these problems, and Consumers stated they were 10 years out from doing any work on these roads in our area. Once we redid the roads, they bumped them up, and we got stuck.

Mr. Heffner said I can verify that what the mayor just said is a fact.

Mr. Johns stated that on Monday, Councilwoman Conley, Councilwoman Ellenburg, and I attended the Senior Games at the Burton Senior Center. The event was packed. Our Chief was a judge, and the desserts looked wonderful and tasted delicious. It was very nice to see Burton officials and staff there. It was a very positive event, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Mrs. Conley mentioned the precinct consolidation. Everyone is getting a new voter card, and the precinct numbers have changed. I called the Clerk's Office, and we have gone from

twelve precincts down to seven. She asked the administration to provide a reminder.

Mayor Haskins said thanks Mrs. Conley, for bringing this up. The Clerk did give me this information about the consolidation. The Election Commission did this consolidation. Anyone who voted at NTC will now vote at either Atherton or Blessed Sacrament. Those in the Davison School District will vote at Blessed Sacrament, and Grand Blanc School District will vote at Atherton.

Mrs. Conley asked if this would save the city money.

Mayor Haskis said yes,100%.

L. Council Action

1. Approve and Authorize the payment of Attorney Billing (Odette) 1/28/26 to 2/12/26 in the amount of \$2,487.00.

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.

2. Approve and Authorize the appointment of Councilwoman Tina Conley to represent the City of Burton as an alternate to the 911 Consortium.

Motion by Council Vice-President Wines, 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.

3. Approve and authorize the request for Residential Sanitary Sewer & Water Installer's License for Waldorf & Sons, INC. 9118 N. Dort Hwy. Mt. Morris, MI 48458.

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 City Clerk to execute a contract with Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. (OHM), 34000 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150, for Professional Engineering of Court Street Rehabilitation From Genesee to East City Limits, at an amount not to exceed \$145,900.00.

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 the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. (OHM), 34000 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150, for Construction Staking for Genesee Road Sidewalk Project, at an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

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.

6. Approve and authorize the sale of Vacant Lot - Homestead Dr. 59-31-528-040, to give first and final approval for the sale of this improved parcel to Premier Properties Holding, LLC, 7005 North Saginaw St., Mt Morris, MI 48458 for the sum of \$500.00 cash or its equivalent and authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk to execute any and all documents required to effectuate this sale.

Mrs. Miller asked how many bids were received for this project.

Mr. Abbey stated this was part of the tax-reverted properties we received back from the county. This is an old apartment that was behind Winn's Lighting. It went to bid, and we received no bids. Once that happens, it is open on a first-come, first-served basis. This individual is building a new home on Kenneth Street. He is investing in the south end area by buying lots and building new homes. He is the first person in a long time in what is considered a low to moderate-income area who is willing to invest. He plans to subdivide this into three lots and build three new homes. This is a win-win for the city, and it gets this property back on the tax roll.

Mayor Haskins asked for clarification on the ordinance for the sale of city-owned property. The first-come, first-served still requires a minimum bid, correct?

Mr. Abbey said yes. The amount he offered was the minimum bid. Sometimes they may barter for a reasonable price, but that was not the case here.

Mr. Heffner stated that if we were to give this man the \$500, and he built three homes, we would make out like bandits.

Mr. Abbey agreed. Now, we don't have to maintain it and cut the grass. They are a burden to us. We are not in the real estate business. We want them sold and back on the tax roll, especially in that area. It has been years since someone has built something there.

Mr. Heffner said I think this is great, and I applaud Mr. Abbey, the department, and the mayor.

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.

7. Approve and authorize Resolution 2026-03 for Amy Street Capital Project Deficit Elimination Plan.

Mr. Fenner asked whether this plan is about done?

Mr. Abbey stated that we have some years left. It is done in either 2028 or 2032.

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.

8. Approve a budget amendment within the General Operating Fund as follows;
Increase 101-000-569.000 State Grants Other and increase 101-262-818.000 Contractual Service \$4,000.00.

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. Meeting Adjournment

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

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

President Fenner reminded the council to look over the budget meeting dates so we can let the administration know if changes are needed as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]