



CITY OF BURTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 6, 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: Councilwoman Ellen Ellenburg

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

LED BY: Councilwoman Ellen Ellenburg

D. Roll Call

Present: Council President Gregory Fenner, Council Member Candice Miller, Council Member Steven Heffner, Council Member Ellen Ellenburg, Council Member Kris Johns, Council Member Tina Conley, Council Member John Wright

Absent: None

E. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Council Member Ellenburg, second by Council Member Conley, to Approve.
Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, Tina Conley, John Wright
Voting No: None
Motion 7 - 0.

F. Staff Present

Duane Haskins, Mayor
Racheal Boggs, City Clerk
Charles Abbey, DPW Director
Ted Valley, HR Director
Amber Abbey, Deputy DPW Director
Brian Ross, Police Chief
Kirk Wilkinson, Fire Chief
Amanda Odette, City Attorney

G. Approval of Minutes

1. City Council Special Meeting, July 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
City Council Regular Meeting, July 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, Tina Conley, John Wright

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

H. Administrative Reports

Mayor Haskins gave the following report:

Genesee Road is open in both directions now. There are just a few punch-list items to do, but the road turned out very nice. The water letter that was sent out recently was done by EGLE. We could not change the letter to state that it was only a bad probe on the testing machine that caused the reading. Our water is safe and has always been safe. Our Water Superintendent did a great job of answering questions on the news. We apologize for the confusion. Election Day was a very busy day. Great job to our Clerk and the election workers. They are top-notch; the best in the state if not the country. Thank you. We got a grant for \$651,837.00. The city's portion is 10%, which is \$65,184.00. The funding should be available in 2028. This is for a project at Belsay and Potter Road to clean up the intersection and provide lighting and should begin in 2028-29. Also, there is a typo in the MAFF contract that is on the agenda. The date is 2026-2029.

I. Committee Reports

Mrs. Miller spoke about the Friends of the Library picnic this past Saturday. There was entertainment and food, and it was a good time for all.

Mrs. Conley stated the test sirens went off during the picnic, and everyone had to cover their ears. It was loud.

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.

City council received public comments from the following:

Patrick Dargel of 6119 Hugh Street spoke in favor of approving Zoning Case 339.

Rick Fuhst of 1072 Forest Ave spoke in favor of approving Zoning Case 339.

K. Council Discussion

Mrs. Conley asked about the status of Southmoor Golf Course, including why the city did not close on the property and how much the city has paid toward the purchase.

Mayor Haskins stated the seller backed out and refused to set up a closing date. I have already asked our City Attorney to file a lawsuit to go after the money that our taxpayers have paid them. We have spent about \$300,000 which doesn't include the maintenance and other things we have done.

Mrs. Conley said you're suing them to try and get the money back, correct?

Mayor Haskins said, 100%.

Mrs. Conley asked if we can have Nathan come in, the one that we hired to do our grants for us to tell us where he is with that and if he got us any grants?

Mayor Haskins stated I have a full report that I can share with you. I made the announcement a month ago that he got the Police Department \$176,000. He helped us with the grant I just mentioned for the MDOT project. He has already got us more money than Retail Strategies, so we are doing good.

L. Council Action

1. Approve and authorize the payment of Attorney Billing (Odette), 7/16/26 to 7/30/26, invoice # 1111 & 1112, in the amount of \$3,841.00.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, Tina Conley, John Wright

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

2. Approve and authorize the request for Residential Sanitary Sewer & Water Installer's License for Johnson & Sons Excavating, Inc. 10025 Gale Rd. Goodrich MI, 48438.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, Tina Conley, John Wright

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

3. Approve and authorize the acceptance of the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters (MAFF) Collective Bargaining Agreement effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Mr. Heffner asked why the labor attorney isn't there to discuss this with council.

Mayor Haskins stated that it is very simplistic, as you can see. They are part-time firefighters, not full-time employees. The attorney was in on the original negotiation. This is pretty cut and dry.

Mr. Heffner stated it is if you have been in on all the conversations and know what's going on. I would really like to talk to Attorney Leadford about this. Every contract we have approved, we have gone into closed session to get our questions answered.

Mayor Haskins stated that, as Mr. Leadford has said, paying him \$400 an hour for something as simplistic as this, is unnecessary. We followed his directives. You have the changes. Ask any questions you have.

Mr. Heffner stated he would like to make a motion to table this until Mr. Leadford can go over this with the council. This is a three-year contract.

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

Voting Yes: Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Tina Conley

Voting No: Gregory Fenner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, John Wright
Motion Failed 3 - 4.

Mrs. Ellenburg asked how many part-time firefighters the city has.

Chief Wilkinson stated approximately 39 firefighters.

Mrs. Ellenburg asked if we were still giving them an incentive to stay with us.

Mayor Haskins stated, for clarification, the incentive is what council approved for hiring and retaining. That is not in the union contract; this is something separate.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, John Wright

Voting No: Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Tina Conley

Motion Passed 4 - 3.

M. First Reading of Ordinance

1. Case No. 339 City of Burton, Michigan

The City Planning Commission will review and amend chapter 157,

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, CHAPTER 157 OF THE CODE OF
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BURTON BY THE AMENDMENT OF THE C-
2 GENERAL BUSINESS PERMITTED USES AFTER SPECIAL APPROVAL.

Mr. Heffner discussed the wording of the motion; the word amend should not be included in the motion.

Mrs. Abbey stated that wording was from the Planning Commission's Public Hearing.

Mr. Abbey stated you can strike that sentence, but defer to the attorney for the proper way to do so.

Attorney Doyle agreed that council can strike the sentence "The City Planning Commission will review and amend chapter 157".

Motion by Council Member Ellenburg, second by Council Member Johns, to Approve as amend.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, Tina Conley, John Wright

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

President Fenner asked if there is any discussion on the amended motion.

Mr. Heffner stated that this is giving the authority to a non-elected body who responsible to no one except to the administration. This should be a review of the City Council. It is the council's decision.

Mrs. Abbey stated the Planning Commission does the Public Hearing, which was done. They make a recommendation to the council, and the council makes the actual

amendment. That is not set or decided by us. It is set by the State of Michigan through the Planning and Zoning Enabling Act.

Mrs. Ellenburg said Mr. Wright handed out a packet with a lot of good information about this ordinance. I would like to thank him for doing that, and we should be more diligent about doing things like this. We always get people that complain about another gas station going into Burton. This will stop that. We all want businesses to come here, but we want businesses that are going to last and not contaminate our city when they leave. I would like Mr. Wright to share the information he found, so it can be read into the minutes.

Mr. Wright stated that currently in the City of Burton, we have 17 fuel stations, which puts us at 38% above the national average. With what is currently proposed in planning, we will be at 25-26 fuel stations. If we hit 26 stations, we will be at 98% of the national average. This is two times more than what we should have based on our population. When a gas station fails, if it does, the remediation of that land is costly; anywhere from \$500,000 to \$6-\$7million. We don't have the federal funds anymore to support that. The Special Use Permits give the power back to the council to decide if these proposals make sense in an area. This should help with future blight concerns. If a retail store fail, it's not the same. The environmental impacts are too big to have gas stations popping up everywhere.

Mrs. Conley asked if we have any tanks in the ground right now that have not been removed from previous gas stations.

Mrs. Abbey said no, the state went through years ago and had them removed. There was a lot at that time and it was very expensive.

Mr. Fenner stated those funds are all dried up now.

Mrs. Conley said two gas stations are going up right now that aren't completed, correct? I know that there are a lot of places that people think are going to be gas stations, but we don't know that for sure.

Mrs. Abbey said that is not true. We have lots of permits that are under review by the state right now. There are two in process on Center Road, and one on Center Road that just got done. There is one on Saginaw Street. There is one at Belsay and Lapeer. There is one at Fenton and Bristol; Davison and Belsay just submitted plans. These are the ones just off the top of my head.

Motion by Council Member Ellenburg, second by Council Member Johns, to Approve.
Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Candice Miller, Steven Heffner, Ellen Ellenburg, Kris Johns, Tina Conley, John Wright

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

Mr. Heffner said good job at fixing the sidewalk at Court and Genesee.

Mrs. Ellenburg reminded everyone of the Legislative Meeting on September 10th at 6:00 PM. The topic will be travel.

Mr. Johns invited everyone to the Ice Cream Social at the Senior Center sponsored by the Burton Rotary. It is August 27th 6PM-8PM.

Mayor Haskins requested a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the updated fee schedule that the administration has been working on.

Discussion ensued about potential dates for the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Johns will work with the administration to set the meeting up.

Mr. Heffner stated that Back to the Bricks starts next week.

Mr. Johns stated the DDA banners have gone up for the event.

N. Meeting Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 17, 2026 @ 7:00 PM.

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

President Fenner adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]