



CITY OF BURTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

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 Candice Miller

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

LED BY: Councilwoman Candice Miller

D. Roll Call

Present: Council President Gregory Fenner, Council Vice-President Greg Hull, Council Member Candice Miller, Council Member Christina Hickson, Council Member Steven Heffner, Council Member Vaughn Smith, Council Member Gary Wines

Absent: None

E. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve the agenda as presented.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

F. Staff Present

Duane Haskins, Mayor

Racheal Boggs, City Clerk

Charles Abbey, DPW Director

Ted Valley, HR Director

Brian Ross, Police Chief

Kirk Wilkinson, Fire Chief

Amanda Odette, City Attorney

G. Approval of Minutes

1. City Council Regular Meeting of September 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

H. Administrative Reports

Mayor Haskins reported on the following:

Project Heats On applications need to be submitted by Thursday, September 25th. Applications are online and at City Hall. The Fire Prevention Open House is on October 8th from 6:00-9:00 PM at Fire Station 2. Please keep Jean Johnson and her husband Steve in your prayers and thoughts. We have had another successful year of road projects. We are very proud of the work we have done over the last six years. Genesee Road is finishing up and, aside from some chip sealing, that will complete the construction season. Thanks to council and the administrative staff.

1. Financial Update through 07.31.25

I. Committee Reports

Mr. Wines stated the Trick or Treat event is on October 18th at Bentley Middle/High School from 12:00 -2:00 PM. We are still looking for sponsorship, due by October 15th. If you would like to sponsor, please see Amy Clous. Those wishing to participate in the Halloween Decorating Contest, please register by October 21st at 2:00 PM.

Mrs. Miller stated the library has a book sale this Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Everybody come out and get your bargains.

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 spoke about the closure of the Genesee County District Courts. He asked the council to request that the Police Chief provide an estimate of the costs the city may incur due to the closure. He also discussed zoning in the city master plan.

Jim Craig of 6295 Hidden Trails stated the Veteran's Honor Run is the first Saturday in November. We have room for sponsors and volunteer groups for water stations. Go to www.burtonraceseries.com to sign up. It's an 11K run or 5K walk/ruck. If you have any questions, you can email veteranhonorrunk@comcast.net.

K. Council Discussion

Mr. Hull asked about the District Court closing. Do we know when this will happen?

Mayor Haskins stated the last we heard, Burton was no longer included in this. They brought the Mount Morris and Flushing courts downtown. I voiced my concerns when it was going on and haven't heard more about it since.

Mr. Fenner asked if the City Attorney has heard anything more.

Attorney Odette stated I was told this summer that Burton would be moving. I was told later that it had been postponed.

Mr. Hull stated from what I have heard from the public, they don't want any more gas stations. When we are looking at the city master plan, maybe the zoning is something we need to discuss.

Mr. Smith stated I called a member of the Planning Commission about this. The state has increased the amount of money that a gas station can charge for a gallon of gas. This is part of the reason we are getting so many gas stations. These properties were zoned that way because in a lot of cases, there used to be gas stations on these properties many years ago. We cannot stop them. We will end up in court, we will lose, and it will cost us a lot of money.

Mr. Heffner stated the city is taking shape on our ditches all over the city. They are doing a fine job.

Mr. Fenner stated the hall at Bristol and Fenton Road has declined again. We gave him a chance to get it cleaned up. We need to take another look at the property. Also, Consumers has placed patches all over Bristol Road after we spent millions to get it fixed. Are we going to hold them accountable to our standard?

Mayor Haskins stated it is impossible to babysit Consumers on every single patch. We will probably need to go to litigation. Some patches are still temporary.

Mr. Abbey stated between Dort and Saginaw, they are temporary. Everything west of Saginaw are probably permanent patches.

Mr. Fenner stated it is frustrating to spend this kind of money on our roads and have them come behind and dig them up.

Mr. Abbey stated they use subcontractors, some are good and some are not. We stay on this. We stop and talk to the foreman on the crew and address our concerns.

Mayor Haskins stated the disheartening part is when they patch, they are flush, but at the end of the season, they sink. Also, we made sure that when we started our projects we talked to them about when they would be coming to do work.

Mr. Abbey stated we plan these a few years in advance, and we talk to them about what is on their forecast and all of a sudden they find funding and move the dates of their projects.

Mr. Heffner asked the attorney if we could write an ordinance that if a certain amount of a public road is cut into, the road has to be replaced.

Discussion continued about Consumers projects in the city and the need for additional DPW staff to oversee their projects.

Mr. Heffner stated if we write a law, we will have a better chance of winning in court against them. It may preserve a road or two in the future.

L. Council Action

1. Approve and Authorize the payment of Attorney Billing (Odette) 8/25/25 to 9/10/25 in the amount of \$4,994.00.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

2. Approve and Authorize the City Treasurer to pay Municipal Employees Retirement System a lump sum of \$1,000,000 via wire transfer by October 15, 2025, to be applied to the unfunded liability of the City of Burton pension plan.

Mr. Heffner asked if we know how much longer we will need to make this extra payment.

Mayor Haskins stated for the well-being of the pension system, I don't know if we will want to stop it. If we continue, we are forecasting to be fully funded by 2030. We can reevaluate at that time. I think the last report we got, we were 65% funded.

Mr. Smith stated when we started this, we were 38% funded and we were headed south of that. It has taken since 2013 to get to this point. It's like having a credit card where you pay interest every month. We had to make tough decisions, and we are in a better place because we are not paying the interest, so to speak. We have finally been able to give back to the employees. The residents stepped up, and I would like to thank them.

Mayor Haskins stated the previous state house and senate also stepped up with funding that helped.

Mr. Smith recommended the council look at the revenue and expenditure reports quarterly.

Motion by Council Member Wines, second by Council Member Hickson, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

3. Approve and Authorize the acceptance of the demolition low bid of 2444 N. Center Rd., and allow the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a contract contingent upon the submittal and approval of the required bonds and insurance documents on behalf of the City of Burton with Bartman Excavating 4065 Dowdall St. Flint, MI 48506 in the amount of \$12,000.00.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

4. Approve and Authorize the acceptance of the demolition low bid of 3158 Ludwig , and allow the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a contract contingent upon the submittal and approval of the required bonds and insurance documents on behalf of the City of Burton with DR AC Enterprise Maintenance Contracting 3533 Flushing Rd. Flint, MI 48504 in the amount of \$7,900.00.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

5. Approve and Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with J. Ranck Electric, Inc. 1993 Gover Parkway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 for the Bristol at Fenton Road Improvement Project for the amount of \$60,783.80.

Motion by Council Vice-President Hull, second by Council Member Hickson, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

6. Approve and Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to approve the contract with Stantec Consulting Michigan Inc., 3754 Ranchero Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2771. To provide professional engineering for the Sanitary Sewer study of Atherton Road upgrade project at a cost not to exceed \$61,429.00.

Motion by Council Vice-President Hull, second by Council Member Hickson, to Approve.

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

7. Approve and Authorize the draft City of Burton Master Plan for public hearing by the Planning Commission and that the notices required under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act be sent and published.

Mr. Fenner asked if we need to move the time from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Discussion about the appropriate time to have the meeting.

Mr. Heffner stated this is the Planning Commission's decision, not ours.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

8. Approve and Authorize a budget amendment within the Major Street Fund as follows: Add 202-451-802.631 Bristol/Fenton Intersection Upgrades by \$67,100. Funds to be used from Fund balance.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

9. Approve and Authorize a budget amendment within the Local Streets Fund 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget as follows: 203-451-802.630 HARMONY/MELODY

SAD \$356,438; 203-463-815.400 ROAD REPAVEMENT -\$356,438.

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

Voting Yes: Gregory Fenner, Greg Hull, Candice Miller, Christina Hickson, Steven Heffner, Vaughn Smith, Gary Wines

Voting No: None

Motion Passed 7 - 0.

M. Meeting Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 6, 2025 @ 7:00 PM.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:44 PM.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]