THE ELECTRONIC REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020 BY MAYOR TERBRACK

PRESENT:  
Steve Baker  
Jack Blanchard  
Dennis Hennen  
Bridget Dean  
Natalie Price  
Ross Gavin  
Daniel Terbrack

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Councilmember Gavin moved to approve the Agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Baker
Ayes: Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

INVOCATION: Pastor Zack Dunlap

PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
No one wished to speak.

Consent Agenda
Councilmember Blanchard moved to approve the following Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Price:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 38th City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.
Ayes: Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, Blanchard, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

MOTION NO. M-16-20: Matter of approving the appointment of Jason Cauley to the Historical Committee.
Councilmember Baker moved to approve Motion No. M-16-20
Seconded by Councilmember Hennen
Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, Blanchard, Dean, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R-05-20: Matter of approving a Resolution of the Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan establishing an “Ad Hoc Woodward Dream Cruise Committee” coordinating the 2020 Cruisefest events for the City of Berkley.
Mayor Pro Tem Dean moved to approve Resolution No. R-05-20
Seconded by Councilmember Gavin
Ayes: Hennen, Price, Baker, Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-06-20:** Matter of authorizing the amendment of the FY 2019/2020 Operating Budget as presented.
Councilmember Price moved to approve Resolution No. R-06-20
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dean
Ayes: Price, Baker, Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No one wished to speak.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**COUNCILMEMBER BAKER:** thanked Council for its decision last week to name Jennifer Finney as the new Downtown Development Authority executive director. He stated Ms. Finney is transitioning into the role and is already busy. He stated she has been communicating with the public and the local restaurants and businesses that are open during this time. He stated if residents feel comfortable and are able, please support local restaurants. He described best practices that have been adopted for safety. Councilmember Baker stated the Technology Advisory Committee has not met, but we can see the notion of using technology to help us stay connected is strong. Councilmember Baker stated the Historical Museum is closed, but the work continues. He stated members continue work remotely on a scanning project. He stated a sidewalk slab stamped 1915 was discovered at the corner of Brookline & Beverly. He explained this is the oldest sidewalk and it predates the official formation of the City of Berkley. He explained the Historical Committee will work with the Department of Public Works to remove and preserve this piece of history. Councilmember Baker recited a quote by Bob Marley, “You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice.” Councilmember Baker thanked residents for taking the COVID-19 situation seriously and doing their part and thanked city employees for keeping Berkley going. He thanked Public Safety and EMS first responders. He said to remember you are not stuck at home, you are safe at home.

**COUNCILMEMBER PRICE:** began with a quote by Viktor Frankl from his memoir about surviving the Holocaust, “Life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by lack of meaning and purpose.” She stated her husband is an emergency physician and she can’t imagine what he goes through as his purpose is to save the lives of those infected by COVID-19. She stated her family is following strict social distancing procedures not because they are afraid of being exposed to the virus, but because they know they will if they haven’t already. She said they don’t want to pass it on to others before showing symptoms. She said everyone should assume they have been exposed or are a carrier. She stated this is her current purpose. Councilmember Price said it warms her heart that Berkley residents are finding additional meaningful ways to spend time at home and provided examples. She stated people are checking in with family and friends via Zoom meetings, which is the safest way to interact. She stated the most meaningful thing we can all do right now is to follow the Governor’s guideline to stay home, stay safe, save lives. She said she knows this is against human nature, seems to infringe upon basic freedoms and feels extreme, but it is so necessary. She encourages people to find their purpose and that staying home is a meaningful and life saving act.
COUNCILMEMBER BLANCHARD: stated the Berkley Area Chamber of Commerce has been very busy. He said if you visit the Chamber’s website, berkleychamber.com, you will find a list of businesses that are open during this time of COVID-19 along with operating hours. He stated the Chamber has been working closely with the new DDA executive director on this matter. Councilmember Blanchard spoke about the Passover event at Yad Ezra. He said over two days, 1,000 meals were distributed. He stated it was a bit of a struggle taking into consideration social distancing, but it worked very well and was as safe as it could be. Councilmember Blanchard discussed how serious COVID-19 is and said people have to follow the guidelines that Councilmember Price discussed. He stated to remember, facts not fear. He stated we don’t want rumors out there, we want the facts and for people to stay safe.

MAYOR PRO TEM DEAN: took a moment to recognize first responders, healthcare workers and the sacrifices they make every day. She also recognized their families. She stated as we move into Easter and Passover for those who celebrate, she would like to suggest you say an extra prayer of thanks to those on the front lines and their families. Mayor Pro Tem Dean thanked Parks & Recreation Director Theresa McArleton, Berkley Public Library Director Matt Church and Public Safety for quick and thorough responses for her request of a list of Berkley residents that live alone, are isolated or are senior citizens. She provided information, along with phone numbers, regarding the City Wellness Checks. Mayor Pro Tem Dean and city staff members have been making wellness checks. The phone numbers if you would like to be added to the calling list are 248-930-0544 or 248-672-0295. Mayor Pro Tem Dean stated she enjoys making the phone calls and has had great conversations with residents. She stated people are very appreciative. She said the most meaningful aspect is talking to people feeling isolated. Mayor Pro Tem Dean said most people, no matter who, are walking around with some degree of fear. She suggests focusing on what can be controlled and how we manage our fear and anxiety is what will propel us forward. She stated anyone who needs help during this time can contact Common Ground for mental health assistance at 800-231-1127 or HAVEN, a center for domestic and sexual violence, at 877-922-1274. She said to remember that this too shall pass and we are Berkley strong.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN: thanked those who reached out to him and his wife to wish them well and offer their support when finding out about their potential Coronavirus exposure. He said it really means a lot to them. He said last week was the end of their quarantine, they are both fine, and the person he knows that contracted the virus is also now at home recovering. He said like his fellow councilmembers, he wants to underscore the importance of staying home. He said as time moves on, it will be tempting to bend the rules or rationalize what they are doing is essential, but it’s that kind of thinking that will cause new spikes in infection and prolong this. Councilmember Hennen said as long as the order is in place, please stay home, stay safe, save lives.

COUNCILMEMBER GAVIN: thanked Mayor Dan Terbrack for his emergency declaration, city staff for its quick action and nimble response to the everchanging situation, public safety for being on the front lines, and residents who are pulling together each with a role to play in keeping everyone safe and staying home. He thanked the healthcare professionals, including Councilmember Price’s husband; grocery store clerks; and other essential services. Councilmember Gavin said to keep the faith, listen to the experts and come out of this more united. He hopes everyone stays well and stays safe.

CITY MANAGER BAUMGARTEN: stated it is fantastic to see such dedicated public servants that he has the pleasure of working with. He said staff members continue to do their jobs in what has been the most adverse set of conditions we have had in a generation. He stated not a single staff member has said he or she is not comfortable doing their job. He said everyone has stepped up and asked how they can help. He said from public safety to public works to across all spectrums, including calling seniors, it is fantastic to watch and fitting of a City that has the motto, "We Care."

CITY ATTORNEY STARAN: remarked that like everyone else, his world has turned somewhat upside down. He said instead of going to meetings, the office and court, he is in his home office. He stated he is adapting well and has a good communication arrangement with the City and his colleagues. He stated he
is keeping the City apprised of legal developments arising out of this pandemic and the emergency executive orders issued by Governor Whitmer. He stated operating in a long-term state of emergency is a first and there is no precedence to research or look to for guidance. He stated areas that they are looking at include how to run digital meetings; interpretation and enforcement of the stay home, stay safe order; and as recent as last night when an order was issued regarding relaxing Freedom of Information Act request requirements. He stated his experience with other communities, Berkley is as much, if not more, on the ball in navigating its way through this crisis while maintaining transparency and good governance for the community.

**MAYOR TERBRACK:** said he would not comment further as his councilmembers did an eloquent job of not only telling stories, but also sharing critical information and keeping everybody on the same page. He said the only thing that he could add is to introduce everyone to the newest addition to the Terbrack family, his daughter Olive. Olive was wearing her favorite Berkley shirt. He said everyone is doing a tremendous job and thanked all of the councilmembers and city staff for being adaptive and making sure we are able to hold these meetings and continue to keep the city functioning.

**ADJOURNMENT**
Councilmember Baker moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:44 p.m.
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dean
Ayes: Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.