PRESENT: Bridget Dean  Ross Gavin  
          Dennis Hennen  Natalie Price  
          Jessica Vilani  Daniel Terbrack

ABSENT:  Steve Baker

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Zack Dunlap

PUBLIC COMMENT
Twenty-seventh District State Rep. Regina Weiss introduced herself as this was her first in-person meeting. She provided an update and asked if anyone had any questions. She said she serves on the Appropriations Committee; as the minority vice-chair for the Subcommittee for School Aid and the Department of Education; and serves on the Subcommittees for Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, and for Insurance and Financial Services. She said she is the secretary of the Legislative Labor Caucus. She said she also serves as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Caucus. She recognized this has been a rough year and a rough time in this area, especially with the recent shooting at Oxford High School. She said through the Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, they have introduced more than 30 pieces of legislation. She introduced House Bill 4871 that would ensure a universal background check for firearms purchases along with other pieces of legislation regarding red-flag laws and safe storage. She said all of the bills introduced are sitting with various committees and as of yet, have not had any hearings. She also provided a budget update. She highlighted the 2022 budget provides for historic investments in child care and as well as fully funds the Michigan Reconnect and Future for Frontliners Programs. She said the budget provides new investments in drinking water and contaminated site cleanup. She said the budget also funds lead service line replacements, community revitalization grants, investments in infrastructure and local bridge projects, a wage increase for direct care workers, and increased revenue sharing by 2 percent. She said revenue sharing has been cut through the years so she knows that the City would like more. She said other budget highlights include support for senior facilities and senior care options; investments in safety by funding local and state first responders; billions of dollars for mortgage assistance programs; and funding for the Clean Slate Program to help individuals expunge their records in order to have a better chance at future employment and education. She said there are also new healthcare disparity initiatives and expansions in Medicaid funding for diseases such as sickle cell. She said for the first time ever the funding gap closed between the least funded and most funded K-12 districts. She said the budget includes Increases in per-pupil funding. She said she looks forward to working on the 2023 budget. She said she met with City Manager Matt Baumgarten to elevate some of Berkley’s funding needs. She said there have been various proposals to spend federal money such as a climate resiliency plan for infrastructure along with teacher and public safety recruitment and retention. She said the most critical suggestion is to make sure the hospitals have what they need as they face the worst part of the pandemic. She provided her email address, reginaweiss@house.mi.gov; her phone number, 855-737-8488; and her website, Weiss.housedems.com. She said residents may sign up for email alerts.
Councilmember Price thanked State Rep. Weiss especially as a former councilmember and teacher/educator.

Mayor Terbrack thanked State Rep. Weiss for coming.

Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Mike McGuinness thanked City Council and the Berkley community for supporting the downtown. He said a lot of the businesses are counting on this time of year for sales so they can maintain their businesses throughout the year. He said they have a lot of wins to celebrate including more grand openings. He said residents really rally around the businesses to invest and choose Berkley as home. He encouraged everyone during the final shopping days of the Holiday Season to do what they can to either support or promote the businesses in the downtown area. He said they are hearing media coverage and a lot of positive feedback turning into actual sales for the businesses. He stated that Thursday, December 23rd is the final Merri and Bright Shopping Night and the Merry Fairies Scavenger Hunt is still going on which is a remote, family-friendly activity. He thanked everyone and said that by shopping local, there are a lot less supply chain or delivery issues.

*City Clerk Victoria Mitchell read into the record the following synopsis of an email that was received:*

Joel Ulferts, Berkley, stated he is looking for a response to correspondence sent earlier this month to one of our consultants asking for a “schedule for road improvements.” He said his street was on the Phase 2 list for completion in late fall.

**Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Price moved to approve the following Consent Agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dean:

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Matter of approving the minutes of the 39th Regular City Council meeting on Monday, December 6, 2021.

**WARRANT:** Matter of approving Warrant No. 1369.

Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Price, Vilani, Dean, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.

**Regular Agenda**

**RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS:** Matter of any recognitions or presentations from the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION NO. M-77-21:** Motion to approve the appointment to various boards and commissions.
Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-77-21
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dean
Ayes: Hennen, Price, Vilani, Dean, Gavin, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.

**MOTION NO. M-78-21:** Matter of considering an update to Berkley’s Merit System of Human Resource Management.
Councilmember Vilani moved to approve Motion No. M-78-21
Seconded by Councilmember Gavin
Ayes: Price, Vilani, Dean, Gavin, Hennen and Terbrack
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.

**MOTION NO. M-79-21:** Matter of considering participation in the National Opioid Settlement and authorize the City Manager to sign the Participation Agreements on the City’s behalf.
Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-79-21
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dean
Ayes: Vilani, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price and Terbrack
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**MAYOR PRO TEM DEAN:** announced some updates for the Parks and Recreation Department. She said they are offering a vacation camp staring the week of December 20th through December 30th and registration is still open. She mentioned there is a lighted archway near the Community Center that anyone can take a stroll through. She said the new play equipment for Community Park should be installed by the end of the week. Mayor Pro Tem Dean wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

**COUNCILMEMBER GAVIN:** stated the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for December 21st has been cancelled. He said the next Planning Commission meeting will be Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He stated the Environmental Advisory Committee has its next meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the public safety building. Councilmember Gavin wished everyone a wonderful holiday, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

**COUNCILMEMBER VILANI:** mentioned the Merry Fairies Scavenger Hunt offered by the Downtown Development Authority. She thanked all of the volunteers and the people who lead the Berkley Community Food Pantry. She said they were giving out their regular donations as well as the holiday food boxes that helped more than 26 families. She talked about how her family enjoyed helping to put the boxes together. She reiterated her thanks for all the hard work by the food pantry volunteers and said how the food boxes will help out many families this year.

**COUNCILMEMBER PRICE:** extended a thank you to all City staff members who are wrapping up another year during a global pandemic. She said some things have changed since this time last year. She talked about how now everyone is eligible to receive the COVID vaccine, public buildings are open, and many people are working in person. She said that thanks to the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, we don’t have the same fears for the City’s budget as we did this time last year. She mentioned how COVID cases have not fallen and the weaknesses in the health care system are now more apparent than ever. She said she is grateful for all the work the City staff has done this year that has involved more than their job descriptions. She wished the state of the world did not require staff members to have done so. She said that her holiday wish is for everyone to have genuine restorative peace. She wished everyone to have rest that is needed so that everyone and the City will be stronger for it. Councilmember Price wished everyone a happy, restful holiday break.
COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN: stated that there was nothing new from the Tree Board. He said at the last Zoning Boards of Appeals (ZBA) meeting, there was a case regarding a duplex that was grandfathered in but had allowed its status to lapse. He said the City does have an ordinance that only allows a six-month time limit for its status to lapse, but the restriction is not consistent with case law so it was allowed to be a duplex again. He mentioned this is something that will need to be revisited in the zoning ordinances. He said the next ZBA meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11th at 7 p.m. Councilmember Hennen provided a city vaccination update. He said that as of November 8th, 83 percent of Berkley adults have had a first dose. He said that is a 2 percent increase from the previous month.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER: provided a prerecorded update. He quoted Ginger Rogers, "Looking back at my life's voyage, I can only say that it has been a golden trip." He said the Historical Committee had a historic year by celebrating its 30th anniversary, scanning hundreds of documents, introducing another holiday ornament, hosting countless visitors, and accepting credit cards. He thanked the Committee volunteers and city staff. He said the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) had a tremendous developing year and mentioned the great progress on wayfinding signs. He said they thanked outgoing Executive Director Jennifer Finney and welcomed the City’s new Executive Director, Mike McGuinness. He talked about how the City had its first Boo!kley events during October and the current Merri Month events for December. He thanked the DDA board, volunteers of the subcommittees, and city staff for keeping the downtown vibrant. Councilmember Baker reminded everyone that downtown has free parking and they should visit to do some last-minute shopping or to walk around. He wished everyone happy holidays and to stay safe.

CITY MANAGER BAUMGARTEN: thanked City Council and Councilmember Price’s kind words for staff. He said it has been a trying two years and we could not have done it without the support and flexibility of City Council. He said he sincerely hopes this will be the last year we will have to thank City Council for extraneous circumstances. He said since it is the last meeting of 2021, he wanted to mention that next year the options to watch meetings will be to attend inside City Hall, the city’s cable channel, and via livestream. He noted the City will not be offering hybrid meetings any longer. He said he would have liked to see more people take advantage of that opportunity, but there are still other ways to participate. He said he is hopeful about the changes coming in 2022.

CITY CLERK MITCHELL: echoed the words of thanks and wanted to wish everyone a happy holiday and healthy new year.

ATTORNEY STARAN: said he was reflecting on everyone’s comments. He said that it seems only a year ago that he couldn’t wait for 2020 to end and now he is waiting for 2021 to end. He wished everyone a merry, safe, and healthy Christmas and he hopes for bigger and better things for 2022.

MAYOR TERBRACK: said that 2021 wasn’t worse, but it wasn’t a whole lot better either. He mentioned the virus continues to find new ways to disrupt normalcy. He said on a positive side, we persevered through 2020 and 2021 and will continue to do so in 2022. He wanted to make sure we maintain the business of the City and high-quality services even if they look a little different. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and safety this holiday season. He said we will see everyone sometime in January. He mentioned that if the University of Michigan wins on December 31st, the City Council meeting on January 10th will most likely be rescheduled. Mayor Terbrack wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year once again and said he will see everyone in 2022.

ADJOURNMENT
Councilmember Vilani moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:46 p.m.
Seconded by Councilmember Price
Ayes: Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, Vilani, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Absent: Baker
Motion Approved.