

Present: President George, Members: Abboud, Hrydziuszko, Kecskemeti, and Mercer

Absent: President Pro Tem Drummond and O’Gorman

Also Present: Village Manager, Rothe
Village Attorney, Kolb
Planning & Economic Development Director, Stec
Finance Director, Kutey
Public Safety Director, Arnold

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. Stec called the roll. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON PUBLISHED AGENDA

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, commented on an electrical fire at her house caused by an improperly secured mast that detached during a windstorm. Gilbert stated that poor workmanship by the roofing contractor and a missed inspection issue were the main causes and urged better contractor standards and more thorough inspections and noted that a whole-house generator helped them manage the situation.

Dale Young, Riverside, opposed the proposed improvements to Riverside Park, stating that there’s little public demand compared to other local issues. Young stated that the planned upgrades (like benches and a kayak launch) are unnecessary, impractical due to shallow water, and possibly not ADA-compliant. Young also questioned investing in Riverside Park while a separate dam study could significantly affect the park and raise concerns about limited parking and increased traffic. Young recommended that the Village delay or reconsider the project.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved.

1. Approve March 3, 2026, Council Minutes
2. Review and File Bills as of March 16, 2026
3. Receive and File Zoning Board of Appeals 2025 Annual Report
4. Approve Birmingham Youth Assistance Funding Request
5. Approve Purchase of Public Safety Radios
6. Approve Lions Club White Cane Collection Request
7. Approve Lions Club Memorial Day Fun Run Request

Roll Call:
Motion passed (5-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

APPROVE BS&A CLOUD SOFTWARE PROPOSAL

Rothe explained that the Village's current BS&A software, largely unchanged since 2008, is old and relies heavily on manual processes. Rothe stated that the new cloud-based system would help modernize operations, add features like purchase order tracking and employee self-service portals, and eliminate the need for on-site servers. Administration and Council discussed cybersecurity measures, costs, improved workflows and better tracking.

Motion by Abboud, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby accepts the proposal from BS&A Software LLC as presented.

Roll Call:
Motion passed (5-0)

APPROVE FY 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Rothe gave an overview. Kutey explained that the budget amendments focus on simplifying the accounting structure, reducing unnecessary accounts, and improving clarity in financial reports. Kutey reallocated expenses, like equipment and vehicles, across funds based on actual usage. Administration and Council discussed the cost allocation method and how cost-sharing works.

Motion by Mercer, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved, D, the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby adopts the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget amendments as prepared by the Finance Director.

Roll Call:
Motion passed (5-0)

CONSIDER INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL FUND BALANCE POLICY

Rothe introduced creating a formal fund balance policy to provide guidelines for how much money the Village should keep in reserves for emergencies and stability. Rothe explained that most communities aim for about 16–20% of operating expenses, but for the Village that would only be about \$800K, which is too low given risks like storms or unexpected costs. Rothe proposed 20% of general fund operating expenses plus the value of 1 mill in tax revenue. Administration and Council discussed preparedness vs. over-saving, fund balance categories, benefits such as improved bond rating and financial credibility and using the policy as a guideline so Council retains flexibility. Administration will work on the policy and further discussion will take place during budget workshop.

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A DNR TRUST GRANT APPLICATION

Rothe stated that the Village is seeking approval to submit a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for improvements at Beverly Park. Rothe stated that these improvements would implement elements of the Beverly Park 2050 plan which includes improving drainage, trail

connectivity, ADA-compliant paths and upgrading wooded areas. Administration and Council discussed long term costs and projections from the Beverly Park 2050 Plan.

George opened the public hearing at 8:14 p.m.

David Tobaben, Orchard Way Court, thinks it is a good idea to ask for the funding; however, he raises caution about cost overruns and not having a clear, detailed plan. Tobaben also stressed the importance of doing work in the right order, particularly fixing the drainage issues before building trails to avoid having to redo work later.

George closed the public hearing at 8:16 p.m.

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, now therefore be it resolved, that the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby authorizes submission of a Natural Resources Trust Fund Program Application for \$300,000, and further resolves to make available its financial obligation amount of \$300,000 of a total \$600,000 project cost, during the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

Motion passed (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dale Young, Riverside, stated that inspections are inconsistent and sometimes miss issues, and calls for clearer expectations, standards and more thorough checks.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Rothe went over the Manager's report as provided in the regular Village Council meeting packet.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mercer noted more active patrolling in the Village and appreciates the increased visibility. Mercer also encouraged young adults involved in community service, parks, or volunteer work to apply for the Pat and Don Greening scholarship. Lastly, Mercer acknowledged Huntington Woods Public Works Supervisor Doug Chmiel killed on the job during storm clean and urged caution for Village employees during public work or patrol duties.

Kecskemeti extended thoughts and support to the family, friends, and colleagues of Doug Chmiel. Kecskemeti addressed the recent anti-Semitic attack at Temple Israel, emphasizing support for the congregants and the broader Jewish community. Kecskemeti praised on-site security, local law enforcement, and the FBI for their quick response and protection of children, teachers, and community members and noted the miraculous outcome that no one else was harmed besides the attacker.

Hrydziuszko reminded everyone about the upcoming Parks & Recreation meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and commented on the danger municipal employees face during storms and their vital work. Hrydziuszko emphasized that everyone should be able to live, worship, and serve without fear and urged community members to respond to frustration or hurt by doing good deeds, spreading kindness, and supporting others, as small positive actions can influence outcomes.

Abboud praised the Chaldean Chamber and Shenandoah for sheltering 140 children during the Temple Israel incident, providing food, water, and safety. Abboud will be attending SEMCOG general assembly on March 19th and Cable Board on March 18th. Abboud attended the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference in Lansing where he met six of the gubernatorial candidates and received updates on housing shortages, stormwater utilities, infrastructure funding, senior services, cyber security, and balancing local versus state control. Abboud also gave an update on Next's move to 400 Lincoln and Senior Advisory Council where they discussed isolation and low-income senior affordability.

George discussed improving inspection consistency, supporting annual park grant applications, a recent \$250,000 award for park improvement, emphasizing proactive tree maintenance and ensuring parks remain accessible and appealing. George encouraged community support for the family of Chmiel. Finally, George highlighted the importance of neighborly communication and engagement, stressing that dialogue helps address shared challenges and strengthen the community despite tense times.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Abboud, second by Hrydziuszko, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
President

Carissa Brown
Village Clerk