

Section 5

COLIN BAENZIGER  ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

Section 5

Patrick “Pat” H. Burtch

*Gainesville City Manager
Candidate Report*

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Cover Letter and Resume

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Patrick H. Burtch
903 Union Street
Jackson, Michigan 49203
734-777-0624

July 30, 2019

To whom it May Concern,

Please consider this letter as confidential and formal application for the Position of City Manager of Gainesville Florida. It is my privilege to be considered for this position and believe that as a successful City Manager for almost 32 years I can offer outstanding leadership and managerial efficiency. It is further my belief that my experience and education afford both academic understanding and extensive practical knowledge. Planning and economic development have long been my passion and as a long serving practitioner in local government administration. I decided to pursue a doctoral degree in public policy and administration in an effort to better understand local government effectiveness and how it is moderated by specific leadership strategies. My research and subsequent dissertation explored the relationship between leadership flexibility and effectiveness as primary independent variables, three demographic secondary independent variables and city manager tenure.

My research interests include community economic stabilization and sustainability, local government organizational effectiveness, managerial ethics, and benefits administration as they relate to new State of Michigan initiatives regarding public employee cost sharing. I have guest lectured at the University of Toledo in the field of public administration. I also guest lectured at the Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan on main campus to discuss local government economic development.

I have long been interested in relocating to Florida in an effort continue my career as a city manager and since my youngest daughter is a Doctoral Fellow and is pursuing her PhD at the University of Florida in Higher Education Administration, it is a perfect opportunity to make this inquiry.

I am grateful for an opportunity to further discuss my qualifications. Attached please find my curriculum vitae for your review. As I am still gainfully employed I would appreciate confidentiality as long as possible under Florida law.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick Burtch, City Manager, City of Jackson

PATRICK H. BURTCH, Ph.D.

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SUMMARY

I am a long tenured administrator with over 31 years of city manager experience. My current community is only the second city manager position I have held which signifies my ability to stay focused and avoid political conflicts while properly administering and motivating staff and the community to achieve a greater good for all. I am an innovative and aggressive economic developer who seeks to strengthen the vitality of the communities in which I serve.

- Developing the talent of young management professionals (2 former staff went on to city manager positions)
- Fostering the knowledge base of appointed and elected officials while affording friendship and managerial accountability.
- Assisting my co-workers to build technical and interpersonal skills through appropriate leadership theory and practice (i.e., knowing one's motivation is key to soliciting a unified vision based in diversity and understanding.)
- Grant writing and administration
- Empowering staff with the knowledge and skills to make expeditious decisions based upon established internal policies/plans/ordinances/stakeholder input
- Economic development and land assembly as well as infrastructure construction and financing
- Interacting with individuals and groups in a manner which engages and informs

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

CITY OF JACKSON, Jackson, MI
City Manager

August 2012-Present

Jackson is an older urban core community in the Midwest of just under 34,000 residents. It is located in south central Michigan, has a staff of 218 and an annual total budget of \$131,000,000 and operates under a Council/Manager form of government.

- Reorganized City's administrative structure and all City departments in an effort to invigorate and lead the economic resurgence in Jackson.

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- Successfully negotiated a myriad of large urban core downtown development projects that include but are not limited to: New world headquarters for Commonwealth Associates, (\$23,000,000) starting construction in Spring of 2020; New downtown mixed-use market rate residential loft project totaling (\$6,000,000), (Lofts on Louis) opened Spring of 2018; New downtown mixed use market rate residential loft project totaling (\$13,200,000), (Jackson Downtown Partners 86 units) commencing construction spring of 2019, New (\$13,000,000) Miller Valentine senior housing loft project (Francis Lofts); New (\$18,000,000) Downtown mixed-use LIHTC project, (Albert Kahn Flats), (General Capital 73 unit); and negotiated (\$15,000,000) (Commonwealth Properties 53 unit residential property).
- Negotiated and currently implementing the renovation and rehabilitation of the historic Hayes Hotel into 95 boutique hotel rooms, 20,000 square feet of executive office space, and restaurant space. This project funded through MEDC's Community Redevelopment Program (CRP) program, Federal Historical Tax Credits, Brownfield Redevelopment Funds, and private financing will total \$38,000,000 and is set to begin in spring of 2020.
- Negotiated the purchase and public redevelopment of the Historic Jackson Masonic Temple Circa 1904. Subsequently, planned the reconstruction of this 70,000 square foot historic building for use by not only Jackson School for the Arts, but also two large, publically owned commercial kitchens and related accelerator space. The first commercial kitchen will be utilized as an incubator for upcoming entrepreneurs and the other is a small bistro kitchen and restaurant to house an annual food contest award recipient for one dollar per year.
- Negotiated and authored grant, development, and construction agreements with downtown building owners to constructed 15 upscale residential apartments above historic downtown buildings (City bid and constructed).
- 2017: Completed a significant rebuilding of downtown streets and underground infrastructure. Completing a \$16,500,000 street project around downtown to convert a long-standing one-way pair for the I-94 business loop to two-way traffic in December 2017.
- Developed new fund balance policy in 2012 with the principle imperative of decreasing the City's reliance on cash reserves. Fund reserves increased over the last five years from 5% to just over 30%.
- Negotiated all Union Contracts including but not limited to International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Michigan Association of Public Employee (MAPE), and Police Officers Labor Council (POLC). Further consolidated all active and retiree healthcare benefit plans to a single provider, self-funded plan saving the City of Jackson approximately 10 million dollars over the past five years.
- Authored and facilitated a new health care incentive program that reduced the number

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of people in City who identified as smokers from approximately 11% to 1% over three years.

- 2016 successfully negotiated: increased years of service requirement for City defined benefit pensions, instituted annuities withdraw restrictions, reduced OPEB future liabilities, and substantially decreased future unfunded pension liabilities through a number of administrative policy changes.
- Authored and sustained the Jackson Overall Economic Development Strategy (JOES), which includes a multifaceted approach to managing Jackson's correlative perspective and subsequent decisions in regard to service delivery, housing supply balancing, infrastructure planning, economic structuring, and infrastructure right-sizing.
- Started an aggressive blight reduction program charged with the demolition of all vacant and abandoned residential structures within seven years. To date, almost 80% of all such dilapidated housing has been eliminated; 10% of the City's total housing stock was originally vacant.
- Recently awarded an additional \$250,000 grant to continue vacant and abandoned residential properties demolitions.
- Retained and participated with the Firm of Dynamo Metrics to complete a quantitative publishable study utilizing the main research question of: "Does Jackson's vacant and abandoned residential property demolition program reduce perceived negative economic impacts of abandon residential properties on residual housing located within 500 feet of each demolition" Study is complete and results suggest that the demolition program offset potential devaluation of neighboring properties by over \$35,000,000. This is not to be confused with the overall increase in property market values achieved in Jackson since the demolition program commenced which are based on actual increased market sales from each initial property value baseline. The City's demolition program resulted in an average 93.2% increase in City property values over all and more than 120% increase in residential property values in wards most devalued during the 2008 downturn. (Figures based on actual average sales per home statistical analysis March 2016). Value offsets confirmed through an economic and statistical study performed by Dynamo Metrics for a similar study performed for Congressman Kildee to submit as support for soliciting federal funding for Help for Hardest Hit (H4HH) with U.S. Treasury.
- Currently working with Dynamo Metrics to finish an inclusive, interactive, large data base program capable of statistical predicative modeling to test specific municipal policy and program interventions' effects against theorized outcomes prior to implementing a specific initiative. Launch is expected by July of 2019.
- Currently working to advocate for an additional grant application from the Federal Help for Hardest Hit (H4HH) Program through the Michigan State Housing Development

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Authority in the amount of \$3,500,000.

- Collaborated and coordinated the submission and award of a \$2,900,000 HUD Healthy Homes Program to remediate and abate lead hazards in residential properties. Program is currently underway.
- Finalized the City's 2019/20 Fiscal Year Budget commencing July 2019. The general Appropriations Measure is balanced for the eighth consecutive year demonstrating another projected fund balance increase totaling 30%, far ahead of the required policy achievable limit.
- Authored new Personnel Policy for the City of Jackson, including updated language to accommodate the Affordable Care Act and other statutory revisions, required. Also, provided for specific staff incentive, inclusivity, and other diversity programs. Training in both "Bridges out of Poverty" and "GARE Civil Rights" training through the Michigan Department of Civil Rights is now a requirement for all City employees. Policies approved by the City Council December 2014, 2015, and October 2017 respectively.
- Appointed to and participated in a pilot program curriculum committee by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and Department of Education along with five others to author a race and equity curriculum called "*Socially Conscious Strategies Through An Equity Lens: Intentional Strategies To Dismantle Barriers To Inclusion*". The six-week program, aimed at educating city managers and other appointed leaders in City and County government about race, inclusion, and equity finished successfully. The six-week pilot program finished in March of 2019 and included over 45 participants.
- Currently serve on the State Council for Government and Education on Equity and Inclusion, a council charged with a statewide integration of equity promotion through all levels of government in the State of Michigan.
- Authored new Purchasing Policy Manual, which includes flexible options for negotiating low bid, contracts to achieve savings and alleviate irregularities in the bidding process. City Council approved March 2015.
- Created and currently administering the State of Michigan's first open data portal ordinance. The portal is utilized in an effort to promote greater transparency and effectuate enhanced data transference with the public we serve.
- Authored a new, innovative downtown loft rental rehabilitation program utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation. This program provides financing and construction services to develop and restore the residential component of historic downtown buildings in an effort to promote residential opportunities for baby boomers and **millenials** alike. Once the affordability period of five years expires the units will be available as market rate units.

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- Maintain a collaborative, healthy relationship with the Jackson Chamber of Commerce and Anchor Initiative, a concept inspired by Harvard Economist, Michael Porter who posited the concept that community anchor establishments, universities and businesses and employers take more collective responsibility for the urban core of their communities in an effort to rebuild core of communities and work outward.
- Negotiated five MSHDA tax credit development projects utilizing National Historic Building designation and lucrative PILOT agreement, which afford significant additional housing for underserved populations within the community.
- Recently developed a public relations campaign to inform Jackson residents of the dangers of lead contamination in light of Flint, Michigan's trials in terms of galvanic corrosion and water based lead contamination.
- Prescribed to and implemented a program for, the utilization of Academic Search Premier, (EBSCO), a large research data base to require staff support recommendations with defendable research to provide the City Council evidenced based decision modeling.
- Personally delivered over 100 presentations to the public and civic organizations during my tenure in Jackson. These presentations are principally dedicated to the Jackson Overall Economic Development Plan, which focuses on an inside out approach to Jackson's economic resurgence and through which every policy proposal brought before the City Council is assessed and evaluated.

CITY OF JACKSON, Jackson, MI
Deputy City Manager

May 2011-August, 2012

- Redirected the city's economic development paradigm starting with the restoration of inner city and blighted neighborhoods. The second initiative is to facilitate the location of innovative and unique businesses into the city's industrial parks.
- Reinvented the city's program for restoring underutilized housing through a better strategic use of Federal CDBG funds and Michigan State Housing Development Authority.
- Authored and implemented a proposal to increase the city's efforts to retain highly trained and educated staff.
- Authored and finalized the Jackson Overall Economic Stabilization Program. This program is the most comprehensive data collection and economic effort ever undertaken by the City of Jackson and is an integrated effort to stabilize housing values

through leveling supply and demand in the housing market.

- Restructured the Department of Community Development, now the Department of Neighborhood & Economic Operations, (NEO) leading the economic resurgence in Jackson. The department is now wholly responsible for all housing programs including federally funded programs, building services, engineering, and infrastructure investment services, and Non-Owner Occupied Housing inspections.
- Coordinated and presented a statistical analytic program for utilizing excel, SPSS and GIS in an effort to assist elected officials make more informed policy decisions.

VILLAGE OF DUNDEE, Dundee, MI
Village Manager/Chief Administrative Officer

December 1988-May 2011

Dundee is a rapidly growing community of just under 5,000 residents. It is located in southeast Michigan and in 2011 employed a staff of 28 and an annual budget of 18 million dollars.

- Established a cooperative effort with Monroe Bank and Trust to market the village owned industrial parks. The end goal was to locate innovative and unique businesses into the park within which all requisite infrastructures are presently available along with access to an active rail line.
- Expend nearly 10% of the annual budget on economic development initiatives to advance the village into the new market economy while utilizing all available local, state, and federal tools.
- Coordinated Emergency Response to a High Grade EF-2 135 mph winds tornado in 2010. Coordinated State of Emergency declaration from Governor's office. Private damage estimates exceeded 100 million dollars. Public cleanup cost exceeded the entire annual fiscal year budget. Coordinated the replacement of thousands of street trees after tornado eliminated almost 50% of the village's total tree canopy.
- Granted an E-Cities Award for two years by the University of Michigan for the entrepreneurial, economic development, and job growth initiatives of the village. The Entrepreneurial Cities Index supported by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, Ann Arbor Spark, and Michigan Suburbs Alliance, awards communities for best practice approaches towards expansion and diversification of the regional economy.
- Applied for and received Tree City USA designation in 2007, 2008, and in 2008 received a growth award for completing activities to strengthen the local tree care programs.

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The National Arbor Day Foundation recognized the recently instituted aggressive reforestation program, which utilizes various zoning ordinance tools to realize the benefits of the Foundation (i.e. quality of life, increased property values, etc.)

- Successfully negotiated with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Daimler Chrysler Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Hyundai Corporation for the location of a new \$1.2 billion engine manufacturing plant in the village's industrial district.
- Formulated and administered an aggressive economic development program that resulted in the establishment of eight (8) tax increment districts with total annual income of over \$4 million.
- Successfully aided in the management of an aggressive downtown revitalization plan totaling almost \$3.5 million. The project included the installation of a paved and landscaped river walk, boat launch, and development of two (2) passive parks with gazebos. The project leveraged the development of a multi-story mixed-use building immediately adjacent to the recently completed multi-story village hall, both of which are replications of the historic building styles prevalent within the downtown. The upper story of the village hall is intended to be the future home of a business incubator, university branch campus, or other similar uses.
- Negotiated the purchase and administered the establishment of four (4) of the village's industrial parks which has resulted in over \$1.4 billion in investments between 1989 and 2011.
- Negotiated the attraction and land purchase of one of the worlds largest \$78 million Cabela's outdoor stores, which resulted in the location of a myriad of additional businesses, and thus, additional investment to the community. Also, managed an additional \$12 million in public infrastructure to facilitate the location of this store.
- Successfully assisted in reducing the tax rate millage by thirteen (13) mils between the years of 1989 and 2011, 22 years (effectively a local municipal tax rate cut of over 65%).
- Utilized budgetary controls and strategic economic development initiatives to decrease the village's dependence on its fund balance appropriations to zero. As of March 2011 the village's fund balance totaled almost double its annual expenditures.
- Managed numerous public construction projects totaling \$32 million, the majority of which were completed ahead of schedule. All achieved under budget.
- Developed and managed six private construction projects totaling \$10.5 million as well as constructed and financed over 100 single-family homes and residential condominiums.

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- Managed the combined sewer overflow and street rehabilitation project totaling \$6.8 million.
- Subcontracted and managed the construction of a new historically identical village hall on the River Raisin that was funded partially by the Downtown Development Authority tax capture and the general fund. The project increased the taxable value within the downtown, demonstrated the ability of a governmental agency to construct a below market cost building, demonstrated the ability to replicate the historic architecture of the downtown with modern amenities and materials, and leveraged the construction of a comparable building across the river.
- Prepared applications and administered \$1.65 million in low interest sewer revolving fund loans through Michigan Department of Natural Resources to eliminate combined sewer overflows.
- Prepared and administered over thirty grants totaling more than \$27 million from organizations such as the U.S. Community Development Block Grant program, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Commerce, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Arts and Culture Affairs, and the Energy and Efficiency Conservation Block Grant awarded in 2010.
- Successfully negotiated sixteen Public Act 425 Conditional Land Transfers totaling approximately two square miles, and negotiated and implemented three Progressive Urban Cooperation Act Agreements with the adjacent township. These 425 Conditional Land Transfers represent the highest number of land transfers completed by any community within the State of Michigan (Michigan Secretary of State, 2010).
- Negotiated and coordinated twelve petitions for boundary adjustments (annexations) totaling just less than two square miles.
- Utilized a team approach to all development initiatives by which all internal and external parties worked together to ensure an expedited review process in exchange for an enhanced aesthetic and infrastructure criteria.
- Successfully negotiated numerous union contracts with the International Union of Operating Engineers between 1989 and 2011.
- Authored and administered municipal personnel policies as well compensation regulations related to all employees.
- Implemented an expansive educational reimbursement policy to ensure that the staff has the opportunity to seek higher education during their tenure, which in turn ensured that the village remained on the cutting edge of the various fields of study, and facilitated stronger technical expertise among staff.

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- Mentored several key staff members to be able to assist in discussions/decisions regarding the myriad of economic development initiatives and marketing efforts completed over my career with Dundee.

LENAWEE COUNTY, Adrian, MI

April 1988 - December 1988

Budget/Finance Analyst, Acting Assistant to the County Administrator, Public Information Officer, and Labor Standards Administrator

- Monitored the \$12 million general fund budget by utilizing various fiscal and policy analysis techniques.
- Developed general fund budget in preparation for the 1989 Budget Workshop.
- Prepared a \$300,000 housing grant through the Community Development Block Grant program.
- Monitored the State and Federal grants to verify accurate financial reporting.

CITY OF MONROE, Monroe, MI

May 1987 - April 1988

Administrative Assistant to the City Manager

Founded in 1785 and the site of a War of 1812 battlefield, Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. Monroe is also Michigan's third oldest community. With a population of nearly 20,000, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit.

- Prepared grants, reports, and proposals pertaining to City Administration and Economic Development.
- Developed the city's 10-point economic development strategy. Large portions of this strategic plan remain in use today.
- Prepared and administered a \$10,000 Community Energy Management Program Grant designed to aid senior citizens home weatherization efforts.
- Prepared and administered a \$75,000 Michigan Equity Grant to renovate the old Monroe Theatre.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Graduate Assistantship, University of Toledo** 1986-1988

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Emphasis: general administration and policy analysis, local government management, and state and local politics

- **Adjunct Professor, University of Phoenix** Nov. 2010 to 2012
Emphasis: Management and public administration and policy analysis, state and local politics. Certified to teach upper level management, public administration, state and local government, political science, critical thinking and logic, philosophy and governmental budgeting.
- **Guest Lecturer, University of Toledo** Fall Semester 2011
Emphasis: Statistical methods for local government MPA Program, economic development, housing.
- **Guest Lecturer, University of Toledo** Fall Semester 2011
Emphasis: Public Administration, Pro-Seminar MPA Program.
- **Guest Lecturer, University of Michigan** Fall Semester 2011
Emphasis: Economic Development/Economic Balancing.

EDUCATION

- **Doctorate of Philosophy, (PhD) in Public Policy and Administration, Walden University**, Minneapolis, MN June 2011
Emphasis: General Administration and Policy Analysis. Dissertation explored situational leadership and city manager tenure; specifically how the demographic variables of gender, age, and racial homogeneity of the community a manager served mitigated or informed his or her success as a leader and the style of leadership they employed. Other research interests include sustainable economic development programs, brownfield redevelopment, and tax increment financing tools. 4.0 Grade Point Average with honors.
- **Masters of Public Administration (MPA), University of Toledo**, Toledo, OH 1988
Emphasis: General Administration, Personnel and Policy Analysis.
- **BA in Political Science, University of Toledo**, Toledo, OH 1986
Emphasis: Public Administration, Economic Policy Analysis

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Michigan Municipal League annual conferences (1988 to present)
- Michigan Municipal League Capital conferences (1988 to present)
- Michigan Association of Planning annual conference (periodically over the past 24 years)
- Ongoing training for builder's licensure, various workshops regarding leadership strategies, public policy initiatives, and economic forecasting. (Licensed Michigan Builder)

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- Twenty years of presenting the State of the County address for Monroe County Chamber of Commerce
- ICMA training and conferences
- Center for Community Progress conference attendance and training 2016, 17, and 18.
- National Brownfield conferences and training
- "Socially Conscious Strategies Through An Equity Lens: Intentional Strategies To Dismantle Barriers To Inclusion". Training and facilitator.
- Facing Race National Conference
- White Privilege Conference

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- International City/County Managers Association (ICMA)
- Michigan Municipal Executives Association (MME)
- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
- National Association of County Administrators (past member)
- Michigan Development Financing Association - former Chair of Executive Board, and former Vice-Chair of association
- American Society of Public Administration (ASPA)
- Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) - Former member of the economic development organization funding task force
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMGOG) - member of the Infrastructure Funding Task Force
- Region II Planning Consortium Executive Board Member
- American Planning Association (APA)
- Michigan Association of Planners (MAP) Current presenter
- Michigan Downtown Association (MDA)
- Jackson Chamber of Commerce Executive Board Member
- Jackson Anchor Initiative Executive Board Member
- Council for Government and Education on Equity and Inclusion (Michigan Department of Civil Rights.
- International Economic Development Council

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS

- Michigan Jaycees, Tom Pope Award for outstanding Young Governmental Leader (1997)
- State of Michigan Governors Outstanding Young Governmental Official Commendation (1997)
- Congressman Dingell's award of meritorious service to the Village of Dundee, Michigan (April 2011)
- Honorable service award from Michigan State House and Senate for outstanding service to the Village of Dundee, Michigan. (April 2011)

COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Dundee Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Board
- Dundee Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board
- Dundee Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Board
- Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board
- Dundee Historical Commission
- Dundee Old Mill Restoration Committee
- Dundee Rotary Club
- Dundee Area Jaycees
- Western Monroe County Ambulance Board
- Dundee Area Senior Citizens Center Board
- American Cancer Society, Dundee Relay for Life Co-Chair 2007 – 2010
- Dundee Youth Services Organization (DYSO) Charter Board Member
- Dundee Relay for Life Chairperson
- Dundee Emergency Management Task Force (Tornado Response)
- Sons of the American Legion
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
- Jackson Citizens for Economic Growth. (JCEG)
- City of Jackson Building Authority Board Member
- City of Jackson Planning Commissioner
- John George Home Board of Directors (Jackson)
- Jackson Friendly Home Board of Directors (Jackson)
- Jackson Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors (DDA)
- Jackson Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board (BRA)
- Jackson Building Board of Appeals
- Jackson Planning Commission member
- Jackson Housing Commission Board Member
- Jackson Snow Response Task Force
- City of Jackson Pension Board Member PA 345 Police and Fire and ERS
- Jackson Financial Stability Network (FSN)
- Jackson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Executive Board Member of the Jackson Anchor Initiative
- Board Member of the Jackson City Arts Commission

Michigan Builders Licensure (1997-Present)

Candidate Introduction

Patrick Burtch

EDUCATION

BBA Bachelors of Arts, Political Science

MPA Masters of Public Administration

PhD. Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy & Administration

EXPERIENCE

City of Jackson, Jackson, Michigan

City Manager, Deputy for the first year

May 2011- Present

Village of Dundee

Village Manager

Dec. 1988- May 2011

Lenawee County Michigan

Budget/Finance Analyst

April 1988- Dec. 1989

City of Monroe, Monroe, Michigan

Administrative Assistant to the City Manager

May 1987- April 1988

University of Phoenix, Adjunct Instructor

2010-2012

BACKGROUND

The City of Jackson, Michigan a community of almost 34,000 is located in south central Michigan. The City is located at the intersection of US 127 and Interstate 1-94. Consumers Energy, once the largest energy company in the United States, is a large natural gas and electric supplier that has a new corporate headquarters in downtown Jackson.

The City operates under a Council-Manager structure where all other non-appointed staff report to the City Manager. The City of Jackson has 10 Department Heads who manager a myriad of functions from police and fire services to potable water production and distribution. Other staff includes 200 full-time and over 250 part-time staff.

The City's General Fund Budget totals 28 million and a total overall budget of over 135 million.

The three most significant issues facing the City are:

- ***Long-term infrastructure maintenance and/or replacement:*** The City of Jackson is facing a large infrastructure problem considering the fact that most of our infrastructure was constructed before 1900. Exacerbating this difficulty is a new law in Michigan which requires the replacement of all lead and galvanized service lines within 20 years, an endeavor that will cost city water rate payers over \$234 million dollars.

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- ***Transition to form base zoning from Euclidean zoning and rebuilding of urban core while continuing neighborhood investment:*** The City needs to and is affording a more conducive and friendly regulatory environment, which promises “use by right”. It provides added opportunities for property owners to comply because of structure conformity rather than use segregation has proven very successful. Furthermore, downtown commercial redevelopment in Jackson has struggled for many years yet has been rebounding for the last 5 years culminating new private investment totaling \$100 million in over 25 projects. While the City continues to enjoy moderate restaurant and housing growth within downtown loop, it still needs to reach a number of loft building construction that which promises additional demographic for additional retail, office and housing development. Particularly challenging is the pursuit of a balance between market and low-moderate income housing residential development and how best to communicate with residents and businesses, the need for additional tax base while at the same time providing hope to those persons typically marginalized in society. Intent and impact of policies are sometime disparate and not easily discernable for some.
- ***Large underfunded pension liability in the PA 345 police and fire pension fund:*** The City of Jackson struggled historically to keep the funding levels of the above referenced plan above 50%. Even though the pension plan is now funded at 53%, it has a long way to go to achieve Michigan State Treasury’s 80% requirement. As a pension board member, I was able convince the rest of the board to close it rolling 23-year amortization and raise the annuity discount to “cost neutral” so as to fully fund the plan by 2026.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE

Gainesville’s strive for citizen-centric, service-oriented governing born out of the simple question of, “how do we make Gainesville more competitive?” is the very reason I applied for the City Manager position. It is my intention to aid the Mayor and City Commission in building a citizen experience that affords Gainesville nationwide recognition for not only being one of the best cities in the nation in which to reside, but appreciation and respect for how the community-wide collaboration achieved such a standing. I am also drawn to Gainesville’s move forward on climate maintenance initiatives while at the same time maintaining excellent financial management.

As a long serving city manager, I embraced economic development in traditional ways and while it proved successful, I now consider a more intersectional approach which utilizes strategies of inclusion and economic gardening as well as soliciting outside investment. Being able to work in an environment where these approaches are not only accepted but also justly pursued is exciting.

Gainesville, while larger than Jackson, Michigan, has similar challenges in terms of race and poverty. As a white male, I believe it is not only important to understand systemic inequities, but also to work to educate others in societies who have not been systemically or historically marginalized. In keeping with Gainesville’s strive for citizen centered service delivery, I wish to

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spend the balance of my career helping to build Gainesville's economic strength recognizing both positive and negative economic externalities of market interventions aimed at increasing people's standard of living. It is clear that populations now move to areas that provide a safe sense of place and hope.

I subscribe to three basic theories of leadership: The first, conceived by Fiedler, suggests that leadership style is contingent on situational pressure (Contingency Theory). The second is Hersey/Blanchard's Situational leadership model. Under this model, managers choose the leadership strategy that more closely reflects a particular subordinate's relational style, and lastly the LMX theory or leader/member exchange whereas the leader focuses on building high quality relationships. In turn, positive follower outcomes are achieved through ownership of ideals and vision. Communicating organizational vision is not enough in a modern organization in an age when citizens and staff are demanding more ownership of and transparency within their government.

I utilize these strategies on a regular basis by trying to understand each staff member's motivation and how it aids in their understanding of what we are attempting to accomplish in terms of rebuilding a diverse, inclusive and economically strong community. I believe my most important skills as a City Manager are taking the time to listen first, subsequently fashioning my response in a way that aids a particular staff member's understanding of how their style compliments our overall organizational vision. I hold two different types of staff meetings. The first is a mandatory for department heads where the Council agenda is reviewed and revised. The second, non-mandatory, monthly, and open to all is held at 6 am. It started in an effort to educate and receive feedback from staff at all levels. For all those that attend, we review a peer-reviewed journal article, or book on affordable housing, social and racial equity, or economic and environmental justice that have been previously introduced. Staff discusses challenges they are experiencing and construct solutions even if those offering help are not in their department. Breakfast and daycare reimbursement are available so as to make the opportunity available to more. Only five individuals attended the first meeting over seven years ago while over 50 staff attended our last just 4 weeks ago. My co-workers feel empowered to help the community through the collaborative efforts conceived through these meeting.

My staff would suggest that I am a visionary manager who leads by example and works diligently to engage their efforts for the betterment of the Jackson community.

My elected officials would say that I am passionate, directed individual who works continually.

My strengths include compassionate leadership that focuses on engaging staff and consultants toward a higher vision for the community. Passion, while it may not likely be learned, can be embraced. To the contrary, my passion may sometimes be overwhelming, and I may need to scale it back slightly so as to allow others to shape and sustain their own passions.

Patrick Burtch

I employ face-to-face meetings and implement performance reviews that engage my co-workers in providing opinion as to their own performance and whether they believe they and we as a city are championing and achieving organizational goals. The Mayor and City Commission sets broad metrics and staff must be empowered to be honest with supervisors as to what roadblocks must be overcome to achieve Commission and administration's vision.

Among facilitating the location of a 1.6 billion dollar Chrysler engine manufacturing facility in Dundee, Michigan, I consider the retention and participation with the firm Dynamo Metrics to complete a quantitative publishable study utilizing the main research question of: "Does Jackson's vacant and abandoned residential property demolition program reduce perceived negative economic impacts of abandon residential properties on residual housing located within 500 feet of each demolition?" The Study is complete and results suggest that the demolition program offset potential devaluation of neighboring properties by over \$35,000,000. This is not to be confused with the overall increase in property market values achieved in Jackson since the demolition program commenced which are based on actual increased market sales from each initial property value baseline. The City's demolition program resulted in an average 93.2% increase in City property values over all and more than 120% increase in residential property values in wards most devalued during the 2008 downturn. (Figures based on actual average sales per home statistical analysis March 2016). Value offsets confirmed through an economic and statistical study performed by Dynamo Metrics for a similar study performed for Congressman Kildee to submit as support for soliciting federal funding for Help for Hardest Hit (H4HH) with U.S. Treasury. I am currently working with the same firm to build a large data based to be utilized for predicative model financial decision making. It is our intention to enable staff to statistically test specific economic interventions to determine the efficiency of project and financial allocation.

An additional success was negotiating all Jackson union contracts including but not limited to International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Michigan Association of Public Employee (MAPE), and Police Officers Labor Council (POLC). Further consolidated all active and retiree healthcare benefit plans to a single provider, self-funded plan saving the City of Jackson approximately 10 million dollars over the past five years. These same changes have afforded the City of Jackson to begin funding its large OPEB liability.

Perhaps the biggest failure I made in my career was to not embrace a clearer understanding of systemic oppression on groups and individuals and an inadequate effort earlier in my career to more fully understand and act on equity disparities faced by black and brown people in our communities. I continue to learn how everything I do and say must be filtered through an equity lens. I have learned that I must continue to educate myself and others regarding privilege and how my privilege may undermine my interactions with marginalized communities I am charged with aiding.

One of the most difficult duties I have experienced is terminating an individual's employment. Regardless of the reason for discharge, it is always challenging to provide unsettling news.

Patrick Burtch

The challenges I perceive the City of Gainesville may be experiencing are:

- Continued engagement of stakeholders in providing a more citizen centric experience. Residential property value enhancement and energizing economic sustainability, including both commercial and retail. Ongoing community visioning is imperative in order to further explore the dynamics between resident stakeholder level of engagement and policy maker's and staff's expertise relative to smart growth strategies and property value enhancement while accelerating economic gardening in terms of affordable housing and minimizing potential gentrification;
- Preserving Gainesville's quality of life by respecting Gainesville's beauty of and sustained livability;
- Continued evaluation and examination of City contracts to ensure the best, most economical service is being afforded residents of Gainesville;
- Related to the challenges above and considering the previous and current residential high growth nature of Gainesville, it is essential to research methods by which the City can unite efforts within the community to shape its economic future and strike a balance between pro-growth initiatives and those that concern the community in terms of possible negative affects of said growth. The value of the housing stock in any community is one of the single most powerful drivers of community value. However, that stock must also provide affordable options so as to minimize potential displacement;
- Continual citizen engagement in an effort to always answer the question of how we design Gainesville as a competitive community.

My efforts in the first six months will involve:

- Meeting with staff, the Mayor, each City Commission member, resident groups in an effort to gain a better understanding of the costs and efficiencies of City operations;
- Learning the Mayor and City Commission's paradigms and goals through continual non-formal meetings. It is impossible to truly operationalize where a community is heading without first understanding the vision of its elected representatives and the people they serve;
- Assessing the City's financial position and reviewing anticipated future trends;
- Researching and acquainting myself with the laws and codes that which provide the regulatory framework governing Gainesville.

Social media has made it somewhat more of a challenge than ever to portray and communicate an accurate message. However, I work well with the media and attempt to ensure accurate information as part of the City's dissemination effort. Alternatively, the City needs to continue to embrace all types of social media in an effort to reach every segment of its population. Facebook, while critically important seems to be waning as principle outlets for college students, who seem to prefer Snap chat, Instagram, Twitter etc. Since college age adults are a very large part of Gainesville's population, the city needs to continue it efforts perhaps in continuing white board

Patrick Burtch

videos and other tools that tell a story quickly. Furthermore, as an administrator I suggest City elected officials to regularly engage the press on a regular basis, as they are the individuals charged with such efforts. I will be available at the Commission's discretion for press engagement and other citizen initiatives.

I suspect there may be several who may contact the City with negative comments about me. In fact, an individual who clearly has faulty information already has.

Specifically, my wife and I filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in 2009 and were fully discharged in 2010. I am a licensed residential builder in the State of Michigan and was partial owner in two residential subdivisions. We were very successful from 2002 to 2008 when the national real estate market collapsed. Banks across the Country started calling notes on many and after attempting to negotiate several forbearance agreements with two financial institutions, it became clear that Chapter 7 was our only option. Banks no longer wished to carry commercial real estate debt unless those outstanding liabilities could be reduced at least 50%. My wife and I made sure we paid all personal debts to suppliers and the IRS. We rebuilt our credit and continued to help our children pursue advanced graduate studies successfully. We are financially stable.

As you are aware, allegations and subsequent investigations are pretty common for anyone in the political arena. City managers are certainly no exception. Decisions made each and every day by managers or the communities in which they serve become the impetus for unfounded accusations. This happened to me approximately 17 years ago. I was accused by a township supervisor in a competing jurisdiction of spending public funds in a manner that did not reflect City Council priority or approval. City Council members interviewed defended my actions and while the investigation was a difficult process no charges were ever filed because my actions were known and supported by the Mayor and City Council. After the investigation, I enjoyed 6 contract extensions up until the time I left. The community employed me for almost 23 years as their manager.

As a long serving City Manager who facilitated many changes and spent his career implementing sometimes-controversial policies it would be uncommon to suggest otherwise. Managing a community where there is so much income disparity there is likely to be those who believe decisions could be made more in their favor.

In my spare time, I read and research journal articles with my daughter Taylor who is a doctoral fellow in the Higher Education Administration and Policy Program at the University of Florida. I also enjoy watching movies with my wife and enjoying outdoor activities. I am especially fond of gardening, landscaping, and woodworking as I am also a licensed residential builder.

Patrick Burtch

SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF

- Driven
- Intuitive
- Rational
- Empathetic
- Sincere
- Passionate

REASON FOR DEPARTING CURRENT POSITION

Having served over 31 years as a City Manager in the State of Michigan, it is my intention to pursue another challenge and spend the rest of my career supporting a community that adheres to a philosophy similar to my own in terms of economic development, social and racial equity, and service excellence.

CURRENT / MOST RECENT SALARY

My current annual compensation with the City of Jackson is \$170,250 plus a generous residency stipend and a health savings account. The City contributes 15% of percent of my compensation to ICMA 457 deferred Compensation plan and well as 3% toward a Michigan Employee's Retirement system 457 deferred compensation plan. My vehicle stipend is \$400, and the phone stipend is \$100 per month respectively.

CB&A Background Checks

**Background Check Summary for
PATRICK H. BURTCH**

Criminal Records Checks:

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Jackson County, MI	No Records Found
Monroe County, MI	No Records Found
State	
Michigan	No Records Found

Civil Records Checks:

County	
Jackson County, MI	No Records Found
Monroe County, MI	No Records Found
Federal	
Michigan	No Records Found

Motor Vehicle

Michigan	No Records Found
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Credit

Very Good Since Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy

November 2009 - Chapter 7
Disposition: April 2010, Discharged
June 2011, Terminated
**See personal disclosure for candidate explanation for record found.*

Education

Confirmed

Employment

Confirmed

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern.

**Background Check Summary for
PATRICK H. BURTCH
Personal Disclosure**

Personal Disclosure Questionnaire

Name of Applicant: Patrick Burch

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?
Yes No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?
Yes No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?
Yes No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
6. Have you ever been convicted of driving while intoxicated?
Yes No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?
Yes No
8. Do you have a personal My Space, Face Book or other type of Web Page?
Yes No
9. Do you have a personal Twitter Account?
Yes No
10. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?
Yes No
11. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.

Attested to: 
Signature of Applicant

Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to Lynelle@cb-asso.com or via fax to (888) 539-6531 no later than 5:00 PM PST 08/12/19.
(Note: Please be sure to sign the form with your actual signature if you are sending Fax or PDF Document)

**Background Check Summary for
PATRICK H. BURTCH
Personal Disclosure Explanation**

Personal Disclosure Sheet Addendum For Patrick Burch

3. My wife Holly and I filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in 2009 and were fully discharged in 2010. I am a licensed Residential Builder in the State of Michigan and was partial owner in two residential subdivisions. We were very successful from 2002 to 2008 when the national real estate market collapsed. Banks across the Country started calling notes and after attempting to negotiate several forbearance agreements with two financial institutions, it became clear that Chapter 7 was our only option. Banks no longer wished to carry commercial real estate debt. Holly and I made sure we paid all personal debts to suppliers and the IRS. Holly and I rebuilt our credit and continued to help our children pursue advanced graduate studies successfully. We are financially stable.

CB&A Reference Notes

**Reference Notes
Patrick Burtch**

Wendy Clow – Director, Habitat for Humanity, Jackson, MI 517-358-2812

Ms. Clow has known and worked with Mr. Burtch since she became the Director in 2017.

Mr. Burtch is a brilliant thinker and is passionate about what he does. He has an excellent vision for the City and has worked hard to have others accept that vision. People are starting to realize that he knows what he is talking about especially in terms of moving the City in the right direction.

Mr. Burtch is an excellent speaker especially during Council meetings. He speaks well off the cuff without hesitation or reservation. He is intelligent and a wonderful person to talk to and from whom to learn.

In terms of decisions, Mr. Burtch always fully vets each idea before coming forward with them. He ensures he has the best information to back up any decision made. Ms. Clow and her board quite often defers to his opinions and ideas as they always come from a place of knowledge.

Ms. Clow would characterize Mr. Burtch as a change agent and someone who maintains an organization at a high performance level. He desires to move the City forward, but also does the work to ensure that happens. From what she has seen he leads his staff by example. His energy is such that they desire to work hard for their leader.

When it comes to working and interacting with the public, Mr. Burtch does well. He is good at keeping a level, even tone even in the face of tension and conflict. He never gets excited or upset. At times their council meetings can become heated and he does well diffusing those situations and keeping the peace.

Mr. Burtch is good at solving problems. With her organization he has done a fantastic job of bringing people together and working smarter. They had a neighborhood they were getting ready to construct which required meeting with him and his staff to determine the look of the neighborhood. People had several questions especially in terms of some new ordinances that had been put into place since the last project. Instead of going back and forth over several months, he pulled all of the key players together for one meeting where everyone could look at different ideas and inspiration on the plan. The outcome was that everyone was happy and satisfied with the results.

Ms. Clow is not aware of anything controversial involving Mr. Burtch. She has no knowledge about any item from his background that would be construed as detrimental to his character. She would hire him in a heartbeat if she were given the chance.

Reference Notes
Patrick Burtch

Words or phrases used to describe Patrick Burtch:

- Persistent,
- Tenacious,
- Resourceful,
- Intelligent,
- Pushes through any situation, and
- Does not take things personally.

Strengths: A passionate and intelligent leader who makes decisions based on the good of the community.

Weaknesses: At times it is hard to sway him from his ideas if he feels they are the correct ones.

Mike Overton – Administrator, Jackson County, MI. 517-206-5864

Mr. Overton first met Mr. Burtch in approximately 1999. They have been peers serving in the same area since that time, however, for the past eight years they have worked closely collaborating on various items within the County.

Mr. Burtch has been transformational for Jackson and his prior assignment in Dundee. He has accomplished much in terms of economic development and has remade the entire downtown area. Change is always difficult and some controversy has ensued. The community can be somewhat volatile but he has done quite well dealing with all of that.

Mr. Burtch is a man of conviction. Once a course has been laid out he will move it forward. He has a sticktoitiveness that is amazing. He is the kind of person people want in their team, especially when the going gets tough.

Mr. Burtch is a good speaker and works well with people in the community. He has worked to bring much racial equality to their community. He is well respected in their area.

When faced with decisions, Mr. Burtch does well. His decisions are generally data driven which leads to better and smarter decisions. He is also innovative and a change agent ensuring that the community is moving forward in a positive direction.

Mr. Burtch and Mr. Overton see each other on a regular basis and therefore have a well established line of communication. They talk in groups involving the County stakeholders as well as meet one on one.

Mr. Overton is not aware of Mr. Burtch being involved in anything controversial since he has known Mr. Burtch. In his last area Mr. Burtch was working as a builder at the same time as he served as City Manager, however it was sanctioned by the Council. Mr. Overton knows of nothing

Reference Notes
Patrick Burtch

from Mr. Burtch's past history that would be thought of as unflattering. He would definitely hire Mr. Burtch if he had the opportunity.

Words or phrases used to describe Patrick Burtch:

- Change agent,
- Innovator,
- Leader,
- Determined,
- Fun, and
- Scholarly.

Strengths: A strong leader with conviction in his values and who moves his community forward in a positive direction.

Weaknesses: At times he does make some enemies because he stands strong in his convictions.

Dan Greer – Former Council Member, City of Jackson, MI 517-787-4607

Mr. Greer first met Mr. Burtch in 2011 during the City Manager search. He worked with Mr. Burtch as a Council Member until 2017. They continue to stay in contact as Mr. Greer serves on a few committees at the City.

Mr. Greer has done an excellent job for Jackson. They have been very fortunate to have him as their manager. His leadership skills are off the charts and he has changed the culture in the rank and file at City Hall. His staff is motivated to work hard for him and the City.

Mr. Burtch is creative and innovative, especially with economic development. He also has excellent negotiating skills with union contracts and his collective bargaining skills are fantastic. They had some struggles with their health insurance and benefits and he deserves much of the credit for restructuring the qualifications for retirement tenure.

Mr. Burtch is a hard worker who is very involved in his work without getting stressed out. It can be challenging having seven bosses at times, but he deals with that part of his job well. He always presents the best recommendations for the taxpayers, however he has had some difficulty convincing the Council on some ideas.

Over the years Mr. Burtch has built several relationships with the major stakeholders in the community. He works well with the people in the public even if he had been misunderstood over the years for his innovative ideas.

**Reference Notes
Patrick Burtch**

Mr. Greer is not aware of any controversies involving Mr. Burtch since he has known him. During the process of interviewing him in 2011 he had reported filing personal bankruptcy because of his construction business. The reason behind that was most likely due to the economic downturn.

Words or phrases used to describe Patrick Burtch:

- Dedicated,
- Hardworking,
- Driven,
- Team builder,
- Extremely knowledge, and
- Committed to the taxpayer's interests.

Strengths: A creative and innovative leader who does what is best for the community.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Penny Gutierrez – Former Village President, Village of Dundee, MI 734-735-5368

Ms. Gutierrez has known Mr. Burtch since 1998. They worked together for about 6 to 8 years as she was not in office the entire time he was with the City. They continue to stay in contact even though they no longer work together.

Ms. Gutierrez particularly appreciated that Mr. Burtch got right on any project that was given to him. He was proactive rather than reactive. He is passionate, knowledgeable, and his mind is like an encyclopedia. She continues to reach out to him about issues from time to time.

Mr. Burtch was always out and visible in the community. He genuinely likes to share insight with others and teach people about what he knows. He wants the community to understand where he is coming from with his decisions. Because of this practice he was always well liked in their community.

When problems arose Mr. Burtch was a real problem solver, especially when people were divided. He ensured to educate people on both sides of an issue in order to find the best resolution.

Ms. Gutierrez is not aware of anything controversial relating to Mr. Burtch. She does not know of anything embarrassing from his past that would come to light if the press were to go digging. Any organization would not regret hiring him.

Reference Notes
Patrick Burtch

Words or phrases used to describe Patrick Burtch:

- Innovative,
- Always looking to be ahead of the eight ball,
- Passionate about his work,
- Honest,
- Intelligent, and
- Involved.

Strengths: A dedicated and hands on leader who is knowledgeable and passionate.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Shane LaPorte – Retired Police Officer and Current Director of Housing and Code Enforcement, Jackson, MI 517-740-6881

Mr. LaPorte first met Mr. Burtch in 2012 when he came on board at the City. They have worked together in various capacities over the years and have extremely close business interactions.

Mr. LaPorte would grade Mr. Burtch's job performance as an A+. He sees the big picture and has moved the City forward and put them on the map. It is now a place where people want to live and come enjoy entertainment. Their community needed someone who took decisive action and with a vision, collaborating with the key stakeholders, he did just that.

Mr. Burtch collaborated and connected quickly with business people in the community and got them excited about the changes and implemented the master plan. He is the only city manager who has actually done that.

When it comes to communication Mr. Burtch wants everyone to know what is happening at every turn of projects from the vision to the middle through to completion. He is constantly trying to educate people so that they can take that knowledge to make the community a better place.

When it comes to solving problems Mr. Burtch is masterful and one of the best. Legislation is constantly under attack in their state and he is always up on the changes at the state and federal levels. He is not singular in his approach in government and management and he is good about getting ahead of problems before they arise.

Mr. LaPorte is not aware of any controversies involving Mr. Burtch. The only thing that might come to light if he were researched by the press could be his financial situation as a developer. He was a successful developer who was bitten during the economic downturn. As a manager he is the full package and would do wonderful things wherever he goes.

Reference Notes
Patrick Burtch

Words or phrases used to describe Patrick Burtch:

- Measured in his approach,
- Charismatic in a positive manner,
- Educated,
- Driven,
- Visionary, and
- Clear, concise communication.

Strengths: A humble, intelligent leader who can get people on his side to move things forward in a positive direction.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Kelli Hoover – Director, Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries, Jackson, MI 517-861-7135

Ms. Hoover has known and worked with Mr. Burtch since he arrived at the City in 2012. She reports directly to him in her duties there.

Mr. Burtch has done a great job of moving the City forward since he has been in charge. His greatest strength is seeing what needs to happen for the City to move it forward and make it grow. He is innovative and willing to look outside the box to accomplish the goals of the organization.

Mr. Burtch is a leader who is active in the departments and the City. He makes good decisions and communicates well with everyone on staff. He makes sure that people understand the policies and ordinances. He does what is necessary to figure out issues with the team.

Ms. Hoover does not know of anything in Mr. Burtch's background that would be considered embarrassing if the press were to investigate him. She is not aware of any controversies involving him either. He has worked extremely hard to take care of everything he can for the City.

Words or phrases used to describe Patrick Burtch:

- Caring,
- Community minded,
- Wise,
- Friendly,
- Outgoing, and
- Intelligent.

Reference Notes
Patrick Burtch

Strengths: A hardworking, innovative, and intelligent leader who knows what needs to be done for an organization and community to move it forward.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Prepared by: Heather Linares
Colin Baenziger & Associates

CB&A Internet Research

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Grand Rapids Press, The: Web Edition Articles (MI)
May 28, 2019

Jackson City Council needs to wake up and rein in raises

Author: Citizen Patriot

It's hard to say what's worse. The fact that Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** secured himself \$34,000 in raises over three years or that City Council was apparently unaware of it. A recent Citizen Patriot/MLive investigation into the city's process for awarding annual pay raises to key leaders uncovered several issues — both with the process and lack of oversight. Per the city's charter, the city can set pay for its top leaders — the manager, attorney, clerk and assessor — either through contract negotiations or through city ordinance.

For years, council approved raises for those officials via contracts, presented and voted on in public. This format is common among many municipalities, school boards and other local bodies of government. However, the city quietly shifted to a new system in 2015, opting instead to set and approve raises via ordinance. Under this approach, the city's top leaders receive the same rate increases as other nonunion employees. This includes both an annual step increase and a cost-of-living boost.

Raises are now approved by council through a vaguely-worded ordinance in the spring. There is no public discussion, and it's difficult to even find salaries without filing a Freedom of Information Act request. Subsequently, **Burtch's** salary jumped from \$130,000 in 2015 to \$164,000 in 2018. He's now the highest paid city manager among urban Michigan cities of similar size – a fact few seemed to be aware of until our story published May 22.

It appears our reporting has already had an impact in one area: **Burtch** will not receive his step increase – about \$6,000 – this year. Prior to the story's publication, **Burtch** told reporter Taylor DesOrmeau he would not receive a cost-of-living increase but would receive the step increase. During an email exchange, **Burtch** replied to DesOrmeau's question on the step increase: "Correct ... the only thing I budgeted, which I have no authority to change is the experience step." City spokesman Aaron Dimick later confirmed via text that **Burtch** would receive the step increase. However, hours after the Citizen Patriot/MLive article published, **Burtch** texted DesOrmeau, asking why the article indicated he would receive a step increase. He suggested there was a miscommunication and added that his pay would remain flat at \$164,000. "I did not budget a step increase or a cost of living increase. You are correct that step are automatic but I (have) the ability to reject," **Burtch** texted. That's a start.

However, Mayor Derek Dobies, Vice Mayor Arlene Robinson and the rest of council also need to step up and be better stewards of tax dollars. For starters, we believe it should revert to its former system, whereby the city manager's salary and benefits are negotiated via contract, based on an evaluation and voted on in public. Such a move would help to restore transparency and trust between top city officials and the residents who pay their salaries.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Web Edition Articles (MI)

May 16, 2019

Residents angered over new \$4.6 million DPW building in Jackson city budget

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI – Nearly three hours of the Tuesday, May 14 Jackson City Council meeting was spent on residents saying how upset they are with how the city is spending its funds. The city's 2019-20 budget proposes tax and bill increases that residents weren't pleased about.

Yet, after the public comment ended, the council voted to spend \$4.6 million on a new department of public works building – one of the sticking points for the frustrated residents. "It's just kind of ridiculous," resident Barb Shelton said during the public hearing. "We're told our rates are going to double, but then we're paying \$4.5 million for a new water building. Now how does that seem, to you guys, to make sense?"

Construction for the new building starts immediately through contractor R.W. Mercer and it's expected to open in early 2020, city officials said. The money comes from a \$16.5-million bond the council took out in 2018 – which included some money for streets. While the funds could be spent on streets, the city street fund would have to pay back the debt and interest. Water, sewer and public works funds will pay back the debt for the new building.

The current DPW building is being torn down on Water Street to make way for the new structure. Among other issues, the current building can't store equipment properly because the ceiling is too low, City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said. It's "beyond antiquated," he said. "If anybody's been down there in the morning when you're trying to pull these trucks out, you're cramming every piece and there's still equipment sitting outside," **Burtch** said.

Councilman Jeromy Alexander was the only no vote, saying there are higher priorities for this money – as the city projects a \$184-million price tag to repair lead service lines in the city, as mandated by the state. A look at what the inside of the new DPW building will look like, in Jackson. Courtesy of the City of Jackson

Amending the city budget

The council also discussed changes they'd like to see to the budget, before it's up for approval at the May 28 council meeting. The 2019-20 fiscal year begins July 1. One suggestion, from Councilwoman Colleen Sullivan and Mayor Derek Dobies, is to add three firefighters. The city could lose nine firefighters later this year when a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response federal grant expires.

Burtch was told to bring back a proposal May 28 that could fund three firefighters through the general fund. The city should negotiate with the firefighters' union about contract details before

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

approving anything, **Burtch** said. "I guarantee if you say, 'We're going to do this,' ahead of time, there's going to be nothing negotiated at that table if you've showed your hand," **Burtch** said.

While finding funding in the current budget is possible, **Burtch** said the agreement needs to be sustainable long term. The council also motioned to have **Burtch** bring back details on funding for gunshot detection technology and programming like Detroit and Kalamazoo are using to reduce gun violence through law enforcement and social services.

During the public hearing, along with complaints on the DPW building, residents also complained about spending on downtown development, and demolitions – advocating for more money going toward addressing crime, streets and poverty. "In a city where we continue to lose our homes to property tax foreclosures, where we can't fix our streets without imposing special assessments on residents ... is it really reasonable to build a spanking new building at a cost of \$4.5 million?" resident Cindy Eby said. "I would love to see some imagination used to develop our budget."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Fox47news.org
February 21, 2019

Dobies addresses health, safety, security in State of the City address
Author: Kellan Buddy

JACKSON, Mich. — When Mayor Derek Dobies and City Manager **Patrick Burtch** came to Jackson close to 10 years ago, there was a lot of work to be done. Now, the city is in the midst of its own renaissance. "We're seeing it now," said **Burtch**, "but I think you'll see the fruits of that labor in terms of how many people we're seeing downtown and the kind of support services we see to balance those things." Mayor Dobies addressed the city at the King Recreational Center. The neighborhood it sits in, as well as many others, will get some much-needed improvements.

Dobies says he'll focus on health, safety and security. "It's a component of economic development. No matter how hard my staff and I work, if the community isn't safe, people don't locate here," said **Burtch**. Vice Mayor Arlene Robinson says she counted more than 120 people at the address, but that more need to be involved to help improve the city. "Our neighbors and friends ... we're all one, we're all individual, we're all Jackson," she said. "We need to come together and make sure that we see progress, make change and participate in what we want to see happen in our city."

To **Burtch** and other elected officials, the progress the city has made shapes up for a bright future. "I think that Jackson has come a long way, and truly believe that what we're trying to accomplish in terms of economic and racial equity and all things we're trying to do to give people opportunity is working. We're going to see this more and more in the future. This town has just changed."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com

January 30, 2019

Government shutdown aid resolution voted down in Jackson for being ‘political stunt’

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI – A resolution offering help to federal employees furloughed during the recent government shutdown was nixed by the Jackson City Council. The resolution was voted down 4-3 at the Tuesday, Jan. 29 meeting, with Councilmembers Craig Pappin, Jeromy Alexander, Freddie Dancy and Arlene Robinson voting no. “In reality, this doesn’t do anything that we don’t already have on the books,” Pappin said. “I’m going to call it for what it is. This, to me, is just a political stunt. Plain and simple.” The resolution, proposed by Mayor Derek Dobies, would have allowed City Manager **Patrick Burtch** to find all legal ways to help affected federal workers, including deferring payments due to the city. **Burtch** agreed he has the power to do this, regardless of a resolution being passed.

Mayor Derek Dobies argued the resolution isn’t a political stunt. The resolution shows the city’s compassion and understanding for federal workers’ situation and lets them know help is available, Dobies said. “I think it’s a bit shameful that we couldn’t pass a simple resolution expressing our understanding and compassion for those that were required to work without pay,” Dobies said. Councilmembers said they couldn’t determine if there are any federal workers affected by the shutdown in the city. The resolution is unfair to others in the city with financial hardships, Pappin and Alexander said. “As a council, we have to work equally and effectively for all of our citizens,” Alexander said. “Not just one or two.”

Any federal workers living in Jackson affected by the shutdown can reach out to the mayor or city manager for help, Dobies said. “I think it’s kind of disingenuous for us to not do our job,” Dobies said. “That is our job, to work to alleviate hardship where we find it and help our residents that we serve. Unfortunately, that point got lost tonight.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

October 22, 2018

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FULL-TEXT PUBLICATION

File Name: 18a0523n.06

No. 17-1386

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT**

**TERRENCE HILL,
Plaintiff-Appellant,**

v.

**CITY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN; JACKSON
COUNTY, MICHIGAN,
Defendants-Appellees.**

ON APPEAL FROM THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE: GIBBONS, WHITE, and STRANCH, Circuit Judges.

JULIA SMITH GIBBONS, Circuit Judge. This appeal concerns the demolition of a home at 1010 Maple Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as a part of the efforts of the City and County of Jackson to remove blight. Terrence Hill purchased 1010 Maple Avenue via quitclaim deed at a public auction held by the County, but he did not receive the required seller's notice that the property was condemned. The City then demolished the home subject to an existing demolition order that had been issued while the County was the property owner. Hill argues that this unnoticed demolition was without due process of law and violated his equal protection rights. We conclude that the district court correctly held for the City and the County on Hill's claims.

[CB&A Note: The remainder of the case can be read here:

<https://cases.justia.com/federal/appellate-courts/ca6/17-1386/17-1386-2018-10-22.pdf?ts=1540227641>

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com

September 21, 2018

Criminal history won't be included on city job applications anymore

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - Past arrests and criminal convictions may no longer jeopardize a person's chances of getting a city of Jackson job. Applicants are no longer being asked about their criminal history when applying for a city job, thanks to an administrative order this week from City Manager **Patrick Burtch**. This means applicants will not be automatically removed from consideration for a past arrest or criminal conviction, a city press release states. The new policy is meant to increase the pool of qualified applicants and remove initial barriers to employment. "I welcome the city manager's move to revise his hiring practices to be more inclusive," Councilwoman Colleen Sullivan said in the release.

Criminal history won't be ignored throughout the hiring process, however. Once **Burtch** determines an applicant is qualified for a position, the city will do a background check. The nature of the crime and length of time since the conviction will be taken into account. The change mirrors a move at the state level. Gov. Rick Snyder announced earlier this month that state of Michigan job applications will no longer include questions about criminal backgrounds.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com
July 19, 2018

'More than a Band-Aid,' City plans \$1 million in street projects

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - It's no long-term fix, and it won't help the worst streets, but the city of Jackson is trying a new strategy to address a handful of its below-average streets. If approved later this summer, the city will resurface four streets on Jackson's west side for nearly \$1 million. City Council unanimously accepted the engineer's reports for the projects at its Tuesday, July 17 meeting. "This project is kind of a pilot program," City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said. "Our intention is to do a pavement repair that will last six or seven years - this is not a long-term fix." When reconstructed, asphalt streets are built to last about 15 to 20 years, **Burtch** said - and come at a far higher cost.

Adding asphalt overlays with 1 to 1.5 inches of asphalt is something the city hasn't done lately, Assistant City Engineer Troy White said. "I'd call it a little bit more than a Band-Aid, but it's also going to have a limited lifespan," White said. The roads to be tested first aren't the lowest-rated roads on the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating scale, City Engineer Jon Dowling said. When the base of a road is too unstable, resurfacing projects don't last as long, **Burtch** said. These roads rank between a 3 and 6, with a 10 being a brand new road. Here's the streets that would see resurfacing through this project - likely to occur in the fall, **Burtch** said.

-Thompson Street, from the south end to Wildwood Avenue: \$251,000 (\$139,000 for assessments, \$112,000 local street funds)

-Higby Street, from south end to Daniel Road: \$278,000 (\$158,000 for assessments, \$120,000 local street funds)

-Durand Street, from Morrell Street to Wildwood Avenue: \$185,000 (\$97,000 in assessments, \$88,000 in local street funds)

-Grinnell Street, from Gettysburg Avenue to Michigan Avenue: \$266,000 (\$149,500 in assessments, \$116,500 in local street funds)

The council also approved a \$1.1 million contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation on Tuesday, for road improvements on Fourth Street between Horton Road and Audubon Boulevard. More than \$900,000 comes from federal funds, while the city picks up the rest. A new roundabout will be added in front of Ella Sharp Park at Hickory Avenue, during the project. Construction on this will likely begin later this year, **Burtch** said. New asphalt and reconstruction on the roundabout at West Avenue will come in 2019, **Burtch** said. The city also approved a \$527,000 for various lot and sidewalk replacements in downtown Jackson - including the lots around the old Vermeulen's building and Masonic Temple, sidewalk at Bucky Harris Park, landscaping around the Consumers Energy substation and curb and gutter replacements next to a parking lot on E. Washington Ave.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

K105.3.com

July 3, 2018

City Of Jackson Recognized by GFOA

The City of Jackson received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Financial Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting, the city said in a press release. The city has continually received this award for the past fifteen-plus years. Mayor Derek Dobies said in the same press release, “Our annual report is a huge priority for us. It demonstrates both a significant effort on behalf of administration officials and the culmination of months of interdepartmental collaboration. This award reflects a City Hall working on all cylinders to achieve the common mission of redeveloping Jackson.”

City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said, “(City Finance Director) Phil Hones is an invaluable asset to the municipal operations. His role is more than the management of city finances. Phil’s lifetime of experience and attention to detail enable him to clearly communicate our economic situation to municipal leaders for the long-term benefit of the community.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Jackson Magazine

May 29, 2018

City of Jackson receives certification as Redevelopment Ready Community

MAY 29, 2018 – For establishing a solid foundation to attract private investment and further build on municipality assets, the city of Jackson has been awarded Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) certification, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced. Jackson is in full alignment with the RRC best practices and the city is poised to attract and support private investment. The MEDC will hold a formal presentation of the RRC Certification Award during a city council meeting which begins tonight at 6:30pm, at Jackson City Hall, 161 West Michigan Ave.

Jackson joins 21 other communities that have qualified as “thoroughly prepared” when it comes to planning, zoning along with other key features that remove traditional barriers and promote opportunities for prospective investors. Other certified RRC communities include Allegan, Battle Creek, Boyne City, Dearborn, Eastpointe, Escanaba, Ferndale, Grand Rapids, Hudsonville, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Lathrup Village, Manistee, Marshall, Middleville, Muskegon, Pinckney, Roseville, Southfield, Traverse City and Ypsilanti. “Our mission at MEDC is to empower communities so they can proactively shape their future; a future built on a solid foundation of retaining and attracting business investment and talent,” said MEDC Senior Vice President of Community Development Katharine Czarnecki. “We look forward to building upon our relationship with the city and supporting them in their local efforts.”

Jackson received a formal RRC baseline report in April 2017 and worked to achieve certification in just less than one year. In this time Jackson has strengthened its master plan, begun annual reviews of its economic development strategy and created an overarching marketing strategy. Jackson has positioned itself to improve the quality of life of its residents and attract investment from across the country. Achieving RRC certification is a statement to the private sector that the city has a clear vision for the future and the development process is streamlined, predictable and user-friendly.

“Over the past several years the city of Jackson has updated its ordinances and procedures to demonstrate to the region and the world that we are ready, willing, and able to accommodate new and expanded endeavors,” said City Manager **Patrick Burtch**, PhD. “The city has actively embraced, and even initiated, the utilization of a variety of economic development tools to ensure the success of the recent and pending redevelopment activities. The Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification is an additional means of publicizing the potential that exists for business owners, developers and investors to become partners with the city to enhance the ever growing sense of place.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com
April 11, 2018

With contested appointment of city manager, Jackson's DDA is up for retooling
Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - Some argued the city manager has too much on his plate to serve as a member of Jackson's Downtown Development Authority. Others argued he'd have too much control. Ultimately, City Manager **Patrick Burtch** was still appointed to the Jackson DDA on a 4-3 vote at the Tuesday, April 10 Jackson City Council meeting. Councilmen Freddie Dancy, Jeromy Alexander and Craig Pappin voted no. "Essentially you and (**Burtch**) share the same vision," Alexander said to Mayor Derek Dobies at the meeting. "So by placing (**Burtch**) on the board rather than an outside person, aren't we just getting a double-dose of your agenda at the loss of the public opinion?"

Dobies, automatically a member of the DDA as mayor, appoints people to the board but council must approve the appointment. Multiple DDA members - including Executive Director Nathan Mack - didn't know of the appointment until it was added to the council agenda on Tuesday. "It's the mayor's appointment, it's up to him who he wants to appoint," Mack said. "I work for the people who are on the board." DDA Secretary Kathryn Snyder spoke against **Burtch's** appointment at the council meeting. American 1 Credit Union President and CEO Martha Fuerstenau had also submitted an application to be on the board. "I'm concerned that this appointment will continue the focus of the DDA solely on downtown, again excluding the east half of our district," Snyder said. "I'm concerned with the complete lack of open government and transparency surrounding this appointment."

The DDA district encompasses the downtown loop in Jackson, space north of the city center and E. Michigan Avenue down to Henry Ford Allegiance Health. Dobies and **Burtch** spoke Tuesday about their plan to expand the scope of the DDA, to help with economic developments projects. "This is not a festival committee. And it shouldn't be that," **Burtch** said. "It should be a group of people that come together to market a downtown." **Burtch** said he brings technical expertise to the group to help it accomplish more of the things its allowed to do, per state law. Dobies said he wants to "retool" the DDA to help bring things like business incubators, downtown kiosks, a bike-share program and other development. "Quite frankly, it loosens up my time when the DDA starts doing more of what DDAs typically do," **Burtch** said.

Mack hasn't heard talk of making changes within the DDA. The group's next meeting, which is open to the public, is at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, on the 10th floor of City Hall. There is another vacancy still to fill on the board, Dobies and Mack said. **Burtch** also serves on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority board, the Public Arts Commission, various city pension boards, the Planning Commission, the Jackson Anchor Initiative and the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce board, among others.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

March 21, 2018

MORALEZ v. MOORE

Case No. 17-10567.

ABELARDO MORALEZ, Plaintiff, v. MICHAEL SHANNON MOORE, et al., Defendant.
United States District Court, E.D. Michigan, Southern Division.

March 21, 2018.

Editors Note

Cause: No cause code entered

Nature of Suit: 890 Other Statutory Actions

Source: PACER

Attorney(s) appearing for the Case

Abelardo Moralez, Plaintiff, Pro Se.

Michael Shannon Moore, Robert D. Moore & Sheridan Surveying PC, Defendants, represented by Brendon R. Beer , Abbott, Thomson, Mauldin, Parker & Beer, PLC.

Thomas Wilson & Amanda Riska, Defendants, represented by Patrick A. Aseltyne , Johnson, Rosati & Victoria L. Convertino , Johnson, Rosati, Schultz & Joppich PC.

Jason Ganzhorn, Richard Michael Klimmer, **Patrick Burtch**, Jenny Morris, Thomas Tinklepaugh & Adam Brooker, Defendants, represented by Audrey J. Forbush , Plunkett & Cooney & Rhonda R. Stowers , Plunkett & Cooney.

Gerald Whalen, Defendant, represented by Felepe H. Hall , MI Dept of Attorney General & Jason A. Geissler , Michigan Attorney General.

Glenn J. Page, Defendant, represented by Elizabeth R. Husa Briggs , MI Dept of Attorney General.

Michigan Liquor Control Commission, Defendant, represented by Jason A. Geissler , Michigan Attorney General.

OPINION AND ORDER ADOPTING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION [102] AND GRANTING MOTIONS TO DISMISS [17, 18, 28, 31, 71, 75]

LAURIE J. MICHELSON, District Judge.

Abelardo Moralez keeps two homes. During the winter, Moralez says he lives at 729 Page Avenue, Jackson, Michigan. (R. 1, PID 5.) Come summer, he moves down the street to 705 Page Avenue. (Id.) Whatever the season, Moralez spends all year as a neighbor to Keeder's Show Bar (R. 1, PID 12) and Mooreski's Pub (R. PID 18). Moralez says Mooreski's Pub is not the best neighbor and a chief cause of this litigation.

[CB&A Note: The remainder of the case can be read here:

<https://www.leagle.com/decision/infdco20180321h77>

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Michigan Capitol Confidential
February 5, 2018

**City’s Politicians Strive To Beat The Clock Spending Federal Money
‘We are trying very desperately to save this money’**

Author: Tom Gantert

This is the vacant lot the city of Jackson considered spending \$260,000 to build a home with federal dollars. City council members are scrambling at the last minute to think up a project so they can beat a deadline for spending \$260,000 in federal money may not be the best example of good stewardship of tax dollars. But that’s what happened in one Michigan city when elected officials considered spending that \$260,000 to build a new home on vacant property, even though a house just two blocks away was sold for about \$11,000 last year. After the council rejected the proposal by a 4-3 vote, it scheduled a special meeting and approved spending most of the federal money instead on a lighting project for a park in a historically high crime area. Jackson Mayor Derek Dobies told the news site MLive that when council members rejected spending \$260,000 to build the home, they had no alternative plan for how to spend it. The mood of some participants was reflected by City Manager **Patrick Burtch**, who was quoted as saying, “We are trying very desperately to save this money.” Dobies didn’t respond to an email seeking comment. **Burtch** told the council on Jan. 30 that the city would likely lose the federal money if they didn’t approve building the home, according to MLive. The council rejected the plan anyway. The money is part of the Community Development Block Grant program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants are allocated to cities to provide affordable housing for low- and moderate-income people. MLive reported this grant money had to be spent by April 1 or returned to the federal government.

Tad DeHaven, a research analyst for the free-market nonprofit Mercatus Center at George Mason University, said the situation in Jackson highlights the problems that can happen when local officials are invited to spend federal dollars. He said the rush by officials to spend on any project that fits the bill illustrates a lack of accountability in such situations. Instead, DeHaven recommends, local projects should be funded by local tax dollars to provide a transparent, direct link between officials collecting and spending the money, rather than through a convoluted federal process. “There is absolutely no reason someone paying taxes in Pennsylvania or California should be involved with the building of a house in Jackson, Michigan,” DeHaven said. City Council Member Colleen Sullivan voted in favor of spending the \$260,000 on building the home. Sullivan was asked if the City Council would have considered spending that much to build a single home if the money came from local taxes instead of the federal government. Sullivan said in an email, “There are far too many moving pieces in this particular scenario for me to give you a simple answer.” Sullivan said there are very strict guidelines and deadlines governing how the federal grant money can be spent. The city was in a bind, she said, because the federal money for the original project was delayed. “This vote didn’t take place in a vacuum, it was directly linked to a myriad of factors including the desire to not jeopardize future funding,” Sullivan said. “Ensuring fiscal responsibility both long term and short term while being responsive to the intent behind dollars raised/granted and community needs are paramount.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

MLive.com

November 10, 2017

Guns, jobs for felons, broken families discussed at meeting addressing violence

Author: Danielle Salisbury

JACKSON, MI - They talked about drugs. There was mention of gangs. Many discussed the difficulty of felony offenders obtaining jobs. Tyqurrius Hardman, 23, stood and told the group the issue begins at home. He said he was a product of a broken one; his father was in prison. His mother had "her own issues" and his grandmother raised him. "Listen, you all reach out. Your brothers, your cousins, your nephew down the street," he said, as the crowd cheered, applauded and rose from chairs.

"Go pick them up."

Hardman, an East Jackson High School graduate now working for a roofing company, was one among many who filled the gym at the Martin Luther King Jr. King Center, 1107 Adrian St., to discuss the recent Jackson violence and possible solutions. People, interested and eager with questions, filled the chairs and lined the walls. Six people have been shot and killed in or near Jackson since July 19. Four of them, all men aged 18 to 34, have died since Sept. 24.

From May to November, the city has investigated 19 shootings that injured or killed people. In the previous six months, there were 12, said Elmer Hitt, Jackson police and fire services director. Of the five homicides within the city limits four of them are correlated, Hitt told the crowd. Some involve the same groups, people or associates, though police do not have information that one is directly in retaliation to another. Hitt was one of several law enforcement authorities and politicians who sat on a panel gathered at the front of the gym. They were asked for their thoughts on the root cause of the violence. Jackson County Sheriff Steve Rand pointed to the drug trade. He estimated 80 to 90 percent of the shootings are tied to this in some way.

Attorney George Lyons, to loud agreement, blamed firearms and suggested measures to curtail weapons possession. "The problem is: Why are kids firing guns? Because they got guns." First Ward City Councilwoman Arelene Robinson's thoughts were more abstract. She sees despair. "My feel is that our young people have lost hope." They do not believe they can succeed, she said. Dominique Galloway, 30, complained of a lack of employment for men with criminal records. He told the crowd he is tired of words. "Let's do something about it."

His brother, Ronald Demetrius Owens, 32, was shot and killed Oct. 27 outside their mother's house on W. South Street. He was hit once in the head. Owens went to prison at 19 and there were not opportunities for him upon his return. Their mother, a single parent, needed help. "My brother went out and did what he had to do." It should not be so difficult to find work Galloway said.; there is a reason people are released from prison. If they are irredeemable, why not leave them there? "We don't get the chance to prove ourselves again," said Galloway, who now is working on oil and gas pipelines.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Hitt, acknowledging that he had arrested Galloway in the past, expressed his condolences and gave Galloway a question to ponder. "What could have helped you, at that young age especially?" For Hardman, now active in his 1-year-old daughter's life, said he found uncles at the King Center. Youth programs pulled him from the "street life." As he talked, a woman who had worked with him through the Salvation Army approached and embraced him.

Jackson leaders have some plans in the works, City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said. There are discussions about reviving a police officer residency program that places officers in neighborhoods they patrol. It was cut years ago for budgetary reasons. John Willis, director of the King Center, talked about an intention to employ 20 people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in the city parks, police and inspection departments. **Burtch** said he sees the issues of poverty. "The things I've learned through serving here, it is not about educating people of color. It's really about educating people like me," he said. People do not understand the idea of economic privilege, let alone white privilege, he said. "We have to understand that we are in this together. It's not a black problem. It's not a white problem. It's a community problem."

Lee Hampton, director of multicultural affairs at Jackson College, and meeting organizer, promised the ideas expressed would not be merely those. He is, again, giving a eulogy this weekend, at the funeral of 24-year-old Malik Rodriguez, shot multiple times Friday, Nov. 3, in the Shahan apartments off Blackstone Street. It might not be possible to cease the killings. "But we can address the concerns that are causing the issues."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com

September 14, 2017

Author of email labeled threatening by city officials won't be prosecuted

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - An email deemed threatening by Jackson city officials recently led to a police investigation, but will not result in criminal charges. The July 29 email -- authored by local landlord Robert Tulloch and sent to Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** and the seven City Council members -- referenced events relating to the inaugural Jackson Pride Festival Aug. 5. The email reads: "I saw something on a site about marching to Blackman park and raising a flag? I hope they are not planning to raise a gay flag. That is an in your face declaration of war and will be met with a violent response. This IS the queer agenda," according to an Aug. 1 Jackson Police Department report. On July 31, Jackson Director of Police and Fire Services Elmer Hitt met with **Burtch** and City Attorney Bethany Vujnov to discuss the July 29 email and three others written by Tulloch and sent to city officials earlier this year, the report said. The content of the emails related to the city's non-discrimination ordinance, the Jackson Pride Festival and Tulloch's views on homosexuality in general, the police report said. Hitt assigned a lieutenant to investigate the July 29 email, the police report states. "My interpretation of the email was that it was of a threatening nature," Hitt wrote in a supplemental report.

Hitt said he sent a warrant request to the prosecutor's office for a misdemeanor charge for the malicious use of a telecommunications service. Prosecutor Jerry Jarzynka denied the request, saying the evidence did not prove Tulloch guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. "Citizens have the First Amendment right to voice their opinion, their free speech rights to public officials. That's what he did," Jarzynka said. "You have four emails over the course of almost seven months. That's not going over the line. That's not a lot." Not all warrant requests are granted. Of the roughly 6,000 warrant requests Jarzynka's office reviewed in 2016, the office authorized about 4,600 of them, he said. "Typically we can't prosecute threats alone," Jarzynka said. "The only threat that can be prosecuted, just the threat alone, is a threat against the President of the United States. For other citizens, you need something else." A specific threat would have been treated differently, Jarzynka said. "Specifically saying, 'I'm going to shoot up a school' or 'I'm going to use weapons,' that is something a lot different than we have here," Jarzynka said. "We don't have any of that. We have four emails and only one of them you might look at as being a potential threat."

Though several city leaders said they believed the email was threatening in nature, they acknowledged that the decision to issue charges lies with the prosecutor. "I think that (Jarzynka's) a good guy," said City Councilman Derek Dobies. "But I think it's important for leaders to stand up and stand against that sort of behavior because it doesn't represent Jackson." In an interview with the Citizen Patriot/MLive, Tulloch said he did not intend the email as a threat, and was just voicing his opinion. "How's it a threat?" Tulloch asked in the interview. Tulloch, former president and current advisor of the Jackson Area Landlords Association, said he sent the email because he wanted **Burtch** to tell event organizers they couldn't fly the LGBT

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

flag. He said he has nothing against LGBT people, but opposes what he describes as their "recruitment agenda." "I am a landlord. I have gay tenants. I rent to gays. I don't discriminate against anybody like that," Tulloch said. "I'm not against gays. I'm against what I perceive as a gay recruitment agenda." Tulloch said he believes the police investigation and the public distribution of his email, which he says was sent to online publications, was politically motivated by Dobies -- who is running for mayor in November against incumbent Bill Jors. Tulloch said he believes Dobies gave the email to LGBT publications like pridesource.com and eclecticblog.com after Jackson Pride Center Director Nikki Joly's home burned down Aug. 10. Tulloch calls Dobies an "arch enemy," and said the councilman has suggested that Tulloch's email led to the suspected arson. That case remains under investigation, and no information on potential suspects is being released at this time, Hitt said.

"(An) implication was made that somehow my letter - which wasn't made public until after the fire - somehow instigated the fire," Tulloch said. "The whole issue, I think, boils down to a political witch hunt by people who are afraid that I - and others who feel the same way I do - might be able to launch a devastating opposition campaign against Dobies." Dobies would not say whether he shared the emails with the LGBT publications, but noted his emails can be obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. He also declined comment on Tulloch's "political witch hunt" theory. The email incident comes a few months after the city passed a non-discrimination ordinance - which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations. The city also passed a hate crime resolution Aug. 22, promising to seek maximum penalties for those who commit hate crimes. "When we have individual bad actors that spew hate and issue (Tulloch's) sorts of threats, it's important for city leaders to stand up and say 'This doesn't represent us and we're not going to tolerate it,'" Dobies said.

Both City Manager **Patrick Burtch** and Mayor Bill Jors agreed with Dobies, saying they viewed the email as threatening. "That kind of talk has a tendency to embody other people of what they think they can get away with," **Burtch** said. "If you do nothing and something happens and you had that email and should have said something, that's when it becomes a real problem." Grassroots group Jackson Together is calling on the JALA to remove Tulloch from his position, according to a press release. The group also is encouraging businesses advertising with the JALA to remove funding until he's out, the release said.

"These comments don't represent the majority of landlords, and they certainly don't represent the values of the people in Jackson," landlord Gae Winn said in a Jackson Together press release "Landlords and tenants must stand up, call out this behavior, and insist that the Jackson Area Landlord Association disassociate itself from Mr. Tulloch and his bigoted remarks." Some groups have already removed funding from JALA's monthly newsletter, Tulloch and another board member confirmed. "The purpose is political damage," Tulloch said. "This is a political witch hunt. Once the police report's out (on the fire), nobody can make any claim that my email had anything to do with this fire."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

MLive.com

June 23, 2017

City embezzlement case 'doesn't smell right,' judge says while giving jail sentence

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - In an unusual move, Jackson County District Court Judge Joseph Filip Friday disregarded a recommendation from the county prosecutor's office of no jail time in a high-profile embezzlement case. Instead, Filip sentenced Sheila Prater, a former city of Jackson employee, to 365 days, with 29 days to be served immediately, 29 days in community corrections, with the balance being suspended, assuming she adheres to the requirements of her probation. "Something is going on here that doesn't smell right," said Filip, who had some tough questions for the county prosecutor's office and some harsh criticism of city leaders. Prater, 41, admitted to stealing the funds through her role as the records management supervisor in the city's Neighborhood and Economic Operations department from June 2015 through September 2016 when she left the city to take a job at Consumers Energy. On May 8, she pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge as part of a plea deal that included a recommended sentence from the prosecutor's office of no jail time, two years probation, intensive gambling counseling and payment of interest on the stolen funds.

County Prosecutor Jerry Jarzynka said in a May 19 interview that City Manager **Patrick Burtch** and City Attorney Bethany Vujnov requested Prater be charged with a misdemeanor, rather than a felony. "It's my understanding that it was clear that in this case, (the city) didn't want the defendant to have a felony record," Jarzynka said at the time. He reiterated that point twice more in the interview, but has since not responded to repeated telephone calls and emails for follow-up interviews. **Burtch** has maintained the city did not ask for a reduced charge or a lighter sentence for Prater, since restitution was made. "They called and asked as a victim, how we felt," **Burtch** said in an earlier interview. "We said 'You've got to treat it like anybody else.'" At the sentencing Friday, Filip referenced stories he'd read in the Citizen Patriot/MLive about the discrepancy between Jarzynka's and **Burtch**'s comments. "This smells because of the finger-pointing the court has seen," Filip said. "You wonder why there's games here." Neither Jarzynka nor **Burtch** were in court Friday morning, but Filip pointedly questioned Assistant Prosecutor Kelsey McKinnie on what was said when she met with **Burtch** and Vujnov to discuss the case. McKinnie initially indicated that **Burtch** and Vujnov did not request special treatment. However, when pressed further by Filip she added more specifics to the exchange.

"If they got to wave their magic wand, (**Burtch** and Vujnov) would suggest about not wanting a felony, but then not wanting us to treat her any differently," McKinnie told Filip. "And not wanting her to go to jail, but not wanting us to treat her any differently. Her not wanting to lose her job at Consumers, but not wanting us to treat her any differently." In a previous interview, **Burtch** said it wasn't the responsibility of the city to let Consumers, which hired Prater in September, know about the charges against Prater. Her employment with the utility ended on May 18, a few hours after a Citizen Patriot/MLive reporter called a spokesman for comment on the first story. On Friday, McKinnie told Filip: "They had some things out there that they wanted

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

to see if that was a doable thing. But they were very clear that they did not want us to do anything that we wouldn't do to general Joe Shmoe walking down the street." Filip asked McKinnie who specifically made the comments, and McKinnie said she could not recall if it was **Burtch** or Vujnov.

It's normal procedure for the prosecutor's office to consult victims and seek their recommendation. But Filip indicated Friday that **Burtch** and Vujnov were not the best candidates to speak on behalf of the victim, which in this case is the city taxpayers. The City Council probably should have been the one to make a recommendation, Filip said. Filip referenced another MLive article about an April 11 closed session of the City Council, in which the council discussed the Prater case. Filip said he distributed the meeting minutes and two Citizen Patriot stories to both the prosecutor and the defense counsel prior to the sentencing. He said he interpreted that the City Council was not in agreement based on the minutes and their comments made to MLive. It was clear some members thought Prater should have been charged with a felony, Filip said. "I didn't agree with it, I didn't think it was right," City Councilman Freddie Dancy told MLive in reference to Prater receiving a misdemeanor. "Regardless that the money got paid back, it's still a crime that was committed. I just think it sets a precedent." Continuing his blistering indictment of how the case was handled, Filip said, "It's obvious that Mr. **Burtch** and the city attorney (Vujnov) didn't understand criminal law." On Friday, Prater and her attorney, Ken Hotchkiss, told the court that Prater has struggled with a gambling addiction for 18 years.

Prater would frequent the casino four to five times a week, which led to three bankruptcies, the depletion of her retirement savings and putting her in debt to her family. She estimated she's lost \$100,000, but said that isn't an outstanding gambling debt like the police report states. "She has paid a significant price for her actions and this ripple effect will forever haunt her," Hotchkiss said. Prater hasn't been to a casino since March, he said. Prater attends Gamblers Anonymous, attends counseling and started taking classes at Baker College on Thursday to further her education. "What I've done was wrong," Prater said. "I let the community down, I broke everybody's trust." She took money 255 times over a 15-month span, according to the audit report. "It's also egregious that you took \$150 the day you left," Filip told Prater. He then asked what she did with those funds, and Prater said she went to the casino the following day.

Filip was also concerned that it took the city more than six months to discover the missing funds and report it to police. Prater left in September, and the embezzlement was reported to Jackson police on March 30. Filip also questioned why her city coworkers didn't come forward despite knowing of Prater's money problems, per the police report. Filip said if they did go to their superiors, nothing was done about the issue. He added he was "baffled" that Prater hadn't had a work evaluation at the city since 2013. The city no longer does annual evaluations for employees, **Burtch** said previously; he called it an outdated method of correcting issues. "We accept the judge's sentencing today and have no other comment at this time," the city's Public Information Officer Will Forgrave said in an email.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

MLive.com

June 16, 2017

City Council discussed embezzlement case in April 11 closed session

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - The Jackson City Council had a closed meeting on April 11 where it discussed potential charges against a former city employee who embezzled \$28,884, according to the meeting minutes obtained by the Citizen Patriot/MLive.com. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss a written legal opinion regarding a "potential civil lawsuit against a former employee," the minutes state. The discussion centered on the city's "options outside of litigation to resolve the matter," and "discussion of additional options, including referral to county prosecutor with recommendation," according to the minutes.

The April 11 meeting was the first the City Council learned that Sheila Prater, a former employee, had embezzled nearly \$29,000 from the city's Neighborhood and Economic Operations department. Prater worked as a supervisor in the department. The minutes of the closed meeting then go on to say, "Council(man) (Craig) Pappin recommends delayed sentence with reduced charge to misdemeanor." The minutes were confirmed as accurate by Councilman Freddie Dancy. He said Pappin, who is also an attorney, outlined some possible charges. "That's what he recommended, to be charged as a misdemeanor," he said. Pappin did not respond to requests for interviews.

The City Council did not make any decisions on a recommendation during the closed session or afterward, according to four of the council members at the meeting and City Manager **Patrick Burtch**. Prater left the city in September to take a job as a zoning and permit agent with Jackson-based Consumers Energy. City authorities discovered the missing funds earlier this year, and a Jackson Police Department investigation was launched on March 30. Prater admitted to police April 3 to stealing the funds, according to the police report. The city was reimbursed the full \$28,884 on April 11, the same day as the city's closed session.

She pleaded guilty May 8 to a misdemeanor charge of taking funds equating to between \$200 and \$1,000, according to the criminal complaint. She is scheduled to be sentenced June 23. County Prosecutor Jerry Jarzynka said in a May 19 interview that it was his understanding that City Manager **Patrick Burtch** requested a misdemeanor charge. He said that, and the fact that she made a full restitution, were key factors in his office's decision to charge the case as a misdemeanor, rather than a felony. Per the Michigan penal code, embezzlement at or above \$20,000 is a felony.

Burtch, however, said he never made such a request. He said he and City Attorney Bethany Vujnov met with Assistant Prosecutor Kelsey McKinnie, but said they did not make a recommendation. "The council wanted to make sure she was treated no differently. We felt the same way," **Burtch** said. "We wanted to make sure that everything was done appropriately." McKinnie did not respond to a request for an interview. Jarzynka has not responded to repeated

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

requests for interviews over the last four weeks. He referred questions to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Kati Rezmierski, who could not answer any specific questions. Dancy said he thought Prater's initial charges should not have been reduced. "I didn't agree with it. I didn't think it was right. Regardless that the money got paid back, it's still a crime that was committed," Dancy said. "I just think it sets a precedent."

The Citizen Patriot/MLive.com sought comment from all council members, but both mayoral candidates - Bill Jors and Derek Dobies - didn't respond to multiple interview requests. Councilman Andrew Frounfelker said, "I wanted her to (be) fully prosecuted." He added that, ultimately, the decision was up to the county prosecutor. Councilman Daniel Greer said he believes the city handled the case as well as could be expected. "(It was) a very unusual situation. No one could have ever guessed that this particular employee would have done such a thing," Greer said. "But good people make bad decisions all the time."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com

May 19, 2017

City official recommended leniency for employee who embezzled \$28,000, prosecutor says

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - City Manager **Patrick Burtch** asked the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office to be lenient on a former city employee who embezzled \$28,000 from the city, county Prosecutor Jerry Jarzynka said Friday. Embezzlement of \$20,000 to \$50,000 typically carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and/or up to \$15,000 or three times the amount taken. Former city employee Sheila Prater's embezzlement of city funds was reduced to a misdemeanor, due in part, to a recommendation from **Burtch**, Jarzynka said. "It was clear that they (**Burtch**) did not want -- given that they had the full restitution and that the person didn't work there anymore, and they didn't have any prior criminal record or history -- that they did not want to have a felony record on the person," Jarzynka said. "Given all of that and the circumstances, that's why it was charged as a one-year misdemeanor."

Consulting the victim, and taking his or her wishes into consideration, is a common practice, Jarzynka said. In this case, the city of Jackson is the victim and **Burtch** spoke on behalf of the city, he said. In an interview Friday with the Citizen Patriot/MLive.com, **Burtch** confirmed that he and City Attorney Bethany Vujnov met with an assistant prosecutor to discuss the case, but he refuted other parts of Jarzynka's statement. **Burtch** said that he did not recommend Prater only be charged with a misdemeanor; they did not ask for "special consideration," he said. "We don't determine who goes to jail and who doesn't," **Burtch** said. "The police simply investigated, finance did the audit and that's what they found. When the police handed it over to the prosecutor, we had nothing to do with that."

Prater could have been charged with felony if **Burtch** had not requested leniency, Jarzynka said. Also, if it had been a much larger sum, the same leniency wouldn't have been afforded, Jarzynka said. The city requested Prater be put on probation, he said. The embezzlement was reported to Jackson police on March 30. The city began finding discrepancies in its books after Prater left the city position. Prater refunded the city April 11 and pleaded guilty to embezzlement of public property on May 8, according to a Jackson Police Department report. She left the city's Neighborhood and Economic Operations department in September 2016 to work at Consumers Energy. On Thursday, the Citizen Patriot/MLive.com called Consumers Energy regarding the embezzlement charge against Prater. A few hours later, she was no longer employed by the utility, a spokesman said. Jarzynka stressed that the fact Prater made a full restitution very early in the process helped her cause. "It's very unusual that a person who's a suspect would make full restitution up front, even before we get a warrant request," Jarzynka said. "You just don't see that very often." Jarzynka also said that **Burtch's** position with the city did not influence the office's decision. **Burtch** was given the same consideration any victim would be given, Jarzynka said. "I certainly don't want to be looked upon as we're favoring somebody," Jarzynka said. "This is how we handle this type of case."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com
January 18, 2017

Jackson visionaries say downtown will be unrecognizable in 3 years
Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - A handful of Jacksonians - current and former - have adopted a common phrase to describe their thoughts on the future of the city. "Last one out, turn off the lights," the saying goes. But that's not the attitude of most city officials or Jackson entrepreneurs. And they're putting up the investments to prove it. The collective focus is on downtown - with hopes that a vibrant downtown eventually spurs growth throughout the area. "Attracting and keeping millennials and educated people is key," said Mindy Bradish-Orta, president/CEO of the Anchor Initiative, Experience Jackson and the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. "Having an urban core that's vibrant is going to help do that. The core of any community has to be strong in order for the rest to be strong." How does Jackson change its fortunes and become a thriving, desirable city of the 21st century? There's already a plan in place.

Jackson's downtown past

In Jackson's heyday - the mid-1900s - people dressed up to come downtown. Residents frequented department stores like Fields, JCPenny and Jacobson's and dined at places like the Rose Room and the Cortland Room. "It was a reason to come downtown," said Wendy Clifton, owner of A Frame Above and 180 Chic Boutique, 180 W. Michigan Ave. "You didn't just get in your car and go. You actually got dressed up. It was just a magical place to be - especially at Christmas time." But across the country, department stores relocated to malls and restaurants closed down, leaving downtown cores barren and lifeless.

Jackson was no exception. You could roll a bowling ball down Main Street without hitting a car, said Rick LeMaster, who owns several downtown properties. A shrinking city didn't help matters. Employment declined in Jackson, with companies like Goodyear and Clark Equipment moving out of town in the 1980s. Over the years, the national perspective on downtown areas began to change. Slowly, urban cores across the country became assets again. "The most successful places right now in the entire country are walkable, urban places," said Shannon Morgan, who's leading the redevelopment project for the Hayes Hotel with HRS Communities. "We need to focus on infrastructure that's in a small, dense area."

Is it time to invest in Jackson?

Just like the shift from downtowns, Jackson didn't escape effects from the 2008 recession. Unemployment peaked at 15.7 percent in the metropolitan area in July 2009, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor of Statistics. "People relied on their homes for retirement," said Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch**. "When the recession hit, some lost 70 percent of the value and owed more than it was worth. People started walking away from their homes." The vacant, dilapidated houses diminished home values across the city. While values have started an upward trajectory again - which **Burtch** credits to the demolition of nearly 700 homes in Jackson - residual consequences remain. "If I just wanted to make the most money I could, we'd be

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

building something in Ann Arbor or Lansing or Grand Rapids," said John Burtka, CEO of the Grand River Brewery and developer of the Lofts on Louis. "You have a higher rate of return on your investment there." To help finance some larger projects, the city of Jackson has offered tax abatements - allowing select new developments to be property tax-free for a few years. A vacant plot of land doesn't bring in any property taxes at all and does little good for the city, LeMaster said. "There're three types of people: The people that make things happen, the people that watch things happen and the people that say, 'What happened?'" LeMaster said. "You've got to be the people that makes things happen, and I think we've got a city government that is trying to make things happen." Other business owners agree the city is on the right track, saying the tax breaks allow structures to get off the ground while creating a larger, long-term tax base with new businesses and residents. Though some downtown projects - including the Lofts on Louis - are receiving tax abatements to build, other developments are budding without help. LeMaster, who first opened a business in downtown Jackson in 1998, owns the properties of three new restaurants in downtown Jackson - The Dirty Bird, Junk Yard Dog and The Chase. He's also putting apartments above multiple downtown businesses - of which the demand is so high, LeMaster stopped adding names to the waiting list. After years of urban decline, he sees the perspective shift - citing excitement among millennials to live, work and play in downtown cores. "I think there's more money to be made in downtown Jackson than anywhere in the United States," LeMaster said. "I just think it's undiscovered, and we're finally starting to see that spark."

While the Jackson skeptics remain, the city of 33,000 people has watched its unemployment rate drop to a 10-year low in September, to 4 percent. "There's no way we're going to get back to 60,000 population, in yours or my lifetime," **Burtch** said. "The manufacturing base is different now. People don't employ 7,000 people to build 200,000 engines a year. They employ 500 people to build one million engines a year." As downtowns look to rebrand, the future has a different look than successful downtowns of the 20th century. A handful of redevelopment projects downtown will set the standard for future success - replacing the department stores and manufacturing jobs that previously propped up the town.

A catalyst for growth

One such redevelopment project is the Hayes Hotel. The downtown landmark opened in 1926 as a first class establishment in the heart of downtown. It has sat vacant since 2003, after serving multiple uses. HRS Communities has a \$27 million plan to revitalize the historic building as hotel, retail, restaurant and apartment space. "Right now, the data is saying the time is right to see this spur in Jackson," Morgan said. "When you start to see the employment sector surge, as we did in Jackson, with the right developments in place - even in economically distressed cities that have seen crime and had other challenges - we've seen it happen again and again." HRS Communities leads projects across Michigan, including some of the first condominiums in Royal Oak. While they could have picked from a number of projects to invest in, they chose Jackson, Morgan said. Their goal is to start a snowball effect of downtown investment, she added. "One project can have tremendous impact," she said. "(It can) also impact on other projects to come after this into redeveloping and revitalizing a downtown. We think the Hayes is certainly the poster child for that." While downtown Jackson can be hopping at lunchtime as employees take a break from work, city visionaries say it's crucial to get people living downtown - inspiring

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

nightlife. Business and city leaders also consider Burtka's Lofts of Louis project a catalyst for future growth. The \$5.4 million project at 209 W. Louis Glick Highway broke ground in November, and tentatively includes an urban grocery and 30 apartments. Burtka also owns the Grand River Brewery, 117 W. Louis Glick Highway, and plans to develop the former One Five One restaurant at 151 W. Michigan Ave. Following early successes at the brewery, other downtown eateries sprouted up. Burtka hopes the Lofts on Louis project has similar development-driving results. What is the vision and how long will it take? The resounding hope from Jackson entrepreneurs and city officials is for more - more restaurants, more living space and more entertainment. It's not a dog-eat-dog atmosphere among downtown Jackson business owners. They shop at each other's stores, lend napkins to neighboring restaurants and actually hope for additional competitors. While they may not get the same percentage of "the pie," LeMaster said additional businesses bring additional business. "If you've got a pie and you've got it sliced in so many slices, then you add another restaurant, it makes that slice smaller," he said. "But in the big scheme of things, it brings more people downtown, so now you have a bigger pie. So now it benefits everybody." In the mid-1900s, people came downtown simply to "come downtown." There were enough places to shop, eat and be entertained, without needing a plan in advance. By creating enough individual destinations, Jackson itself becomes the destination, Bradish-Orta said. "We want Jackson to become the destination," Bradish-Orta said. "No one entity can do it alone." How long does this process take? Bradish-Orta, Burtka and Clifton all believe the vision for downtown Jackson will be realized within three years. "I'd say within three years - four years for sure - you're not going to recognize downtown Jackson," Burtka said. "It's an exponential change, it's not an incremental change." Burtka's vision has inspirations from Ann Arbor, where the streets filled with people on a regular basis. "That's what I see. People on the streets walking, going to shops, going to restaurants," Burtka said. "Walking the parks. Families, individuals, students, millennials, Gen-Xers, baby boomers all there."

Downtown amenities aren't far off, either. CP Federal City Square is already on its way up - offering a community gathering space for movies, concerts and other events. City and county officials are also discussing a proposed downtown launch site to the Grand River Water Trail, allowing kayakers a break on the trail spanning from Vandercook Lake to Lake Michigan. Other ideas include a bike-sharing program, expanded downtown park area and the proposed independent league baseball team and stadium.

On the business end, more than 18 businesses have either opened or announced progress in downtown Jackson since December 2015. With the recession over, housing values on the rise, businesses opening and ideas flowing, **Burtch** believes it's time to be positive about Jackson again. His plans aren't trivial - as he shoots for 200 to 300 people moving downtown within five years and another 10 to 15 restaurants. He's been criticized since starting as city manager in 2012 for pushing out the old to start the rebuild. "When a community has gone down as fast as Jackson has - it's taken 70 years to get here - but once it gets to a certain point, it keeps spiraling," **Burtch** said. "If you don't do something to interrupt it now and move fast in the other way, the momentum is just too far against you. "We can't be our own worst enemy. We've got to start thinking positively."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

September 30, 2016

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

Kimberly Truman,
Plaintiff,
Case No. 13-13446
v. Hon. Denise Page Hood
Jackson, City of, et al.,
Defendants.

_____/

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS’ MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT (DOC. # 31 AND DOC. # 32)

I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Kimberly Truman (“Truman”) is suing Defendants City of Jackson (the “City”), Jackson Housing Commission (“JHC”), Jackson Housing Commission Board of Directors (“JHC Board”), former Mayor Martin J. Griffin (“Mayor Griffin”), and JHC Board members James Starks, Gerald Montgomery, and Michelle L Pultz-Orthaus (“JHC Board Members”) (collectively, “Defendants”). Truman alleges violations of her First Amendment rights, along with violations of the Michigan Whistleblower Protection Act (“WPA”) and Michigan public policy. Defendants filed Motions for Summary Judgment. The Motions for Summary Judgment are fully briefed and GRANTED.

[CB&A Note: The remainder of the case can be read here:

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCOURTS-mied-2_13-cv-13446/pdf/USCOURTS-mied-2_13-cv-13446-0.pdf

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com
July 13, 2016

\$624,330 Glidden Parker Mural construction contract approved by city council

Author: Taylor DesOrmeau

JACKSON, MI - In a 4-3 vote, Jackson City Council on Tuesday, July 12, approved a \$624,330 bid from O'Harrow Construction Company for the construction of a building to house the Glidden Parker Mural. The city currently has \$394,000 in funds for the project, although Councilman Derek Dobies is continuing to meet with groups to raise the additional \$230,330 needed. The city's general fund will cover the cost differential, with the hope for reimbursement, City Manager **Pat Burtch** said. The structure will be on the north side of Horace Blackman Park, just south of Pearl Street. It was originally estimated to cost \$389,980. "The bids came in a little bit higher than anticipated just because I think of the design of the roof," Dobies said. "We're currently working with the construction company to see what we can do."

The city hopes to negotiate the contract, with an expected savings of around \$25,000 already, **Burtch** said. The city received bids on Thursday, July 7. O'Harrow has until Nov. 15 to complete the project. "I'm confident that we have the ability to go out and find some other resources to contribute to the gap that you see," Dobies said. "I have some meetings this week for that purpose."

The structure

The building, to be known as CP Federal City Square, originally was designed to house the Glidden Parker Mural. The 9-foot-by-28 foot mural was commissioned for \$35,000 in 1969 by Consumers Power Company - now Consumers Energy - for display in the lobby of the headquarters. The colored, faceted glass on a steel frame illustrates the history of power generation and distribution, according to the city council agenda. "Eight hundred lights behind the mural flash in sequence, giving the appearance of power from a central reactor moving through a heat exchanger and turbine," according to the agenda.

It was saved when the Consumers Energy headquarters was demolished in 2013. The plan is to have the mural in the urban core park that replaced the old headquarters. The project since has developed beyond just the housing of the mural, with **Burtch** saying the mural makes up about 40 percent of the project's focus now. The building will include an area for art displays, a large stage and amphitheater area and a 30-foot screen that can come down in front of the mural for summer movie nights by the Jackson Downtown Development Authority. **Burtch** calls it a "multi-use performing arts and visual arts pavilion." "The stage is designed so the entire JSO could have a full symphony orchestra," **Burtch** said. "It's a multi-use structure now; it isn't the same as it was when we first designed it."

The supporters, opponents

While the city has \$394,000 in received revenue for the project, multiple grants totaling more than \$100,000 will expire at the end of the year. Current funds come from the National

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Endowment for the Arts 2014 "Our Town" Grant (\$50,000), the City of Jackson Public Improvement Funds Contribution (\$119,000), the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs Capital Grant (\$75,000), the CP Federal Credit Union Grant (\$100,000) and the Weatherwax Foundation Grant (\$50,000). Dobies also gave a list of groups that support the building, including the Downtown Development Authority, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, Spring Arbor University, the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Ella Sharp Museum, Consumers Energy, the Jackson District Library and Henry Ford Allegiance Health among others.

The four council members who supported the approval were Dobies, Daniel Greer, Craig Pappin and Mayor Bill Jors. Arlene Robinson, Freddie Dancy and Andrew Frounfelker opposed the contract approval. "It is more than we had anticipated, but I am confident in other fundraiser efforts and working with the contractors to cut as many corners as possible without jeopardizing the integrity of the structure," Greer said. "I will be voting in favor of this this evening, with the faith that other donations will be raised."

Four of the seven public commenters also spoke on the topic, with two people for and two against. "If the council feels it can afford to spend the (money) on this downtown mural, then hopefully each council member who will favor this mural can justify their vote on this non-essential spending instead of spending tax dollars on the essentials," said John Wilson. "Like adding patrol officers to the dangerous streets of Jackson." The main concern of the opponents was not the project itself, but the funding for it. "I think the project's a great project, I want it to go through, I'm totally supportive of the concept and what's happened thus far," Frounfelker said. "But I want to make sure that we show better steps and progression in cutting back on the overages and also locking up some more additional funding."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Article found here: <https://www.si.umich.edu/news/students-address-jackson-community-issues-small-business-startups-snow-removal>

Si.umich.edu

December 11, 2015

Students address Jackson community issues from small business startups to snow removal

UMSI students outlined solutions to community issues and discussed their impact at the Civic Tech Exposition in Jackson, Michigan, in December. The projects, part of the Citizen Interaction Design (CID) initiative directed by UMSI associate professor Cliff Lampe, partnered teams of students with local government and community groups to identify specific problems and develop solutions based on information resources. After working for a semester on the projects, students presented their solutions to community members at the expo and received feedback from three panelists. One team partnered with the Jackson Interfaith Shelter on a project titled I Can't Prove I'm Me.

Katie Anderson, the shelter's manager, said the project tackled a problem commonly faced by their clients, who often lack one or more of the three forms of identification—birth certificate, social security card and state ID card—needed to apply for Section 8 housing. “That’s a big barrier for anyone who’s trying to get a house, trying to get a job, trying to vote,” she said. People with various comfort levels with technology had tested the students’ system and given positive feedback, she added.

MSI student Erol Basusta’s team, Access For All, partnered with disAbility Connection, an organization that works on behalf of area residents with disabilities, to create a searchable interface for the results of a survey on the accessibility of local businesses. Basusta said he enjoyed the CID course because whereas other classes mostly involve professors and books, “in this one, you’re actually working with people. You’re actually thinking of limits on resources or time.”

Han Na Shin, a BSI junior who worked on the Welcome to Jackson team in partnership with the City of Jackson, had a similar experience. “It’s exciting to be able to actually shape a project that people are actually using,” she said. BSI senior Melissa Weintraub’s group partnered with B2 Watchers, a neighborhood watch group, to increase the group’s visibility. She valued the opportunity to work with residents, police and others. “I learned a tremendous amount about what it means to work with communities and the value that good information resources can give to communities,” she said. On the technology side, she learned that “it’s important to design something that’s sustainable,” she said. “An easy, simple solution is more important than a fancy solution that won’t be around after this semester.”

Lampe echoed this view. “It’s the capability to carry the projects from term to term that lets them have more impact than the typical student project does,” he said. To this end, Weintraub’s group designed a logo to clearly represent the group and made stickers, flyers and T-shirts with the logo. After learning that 82 percent of Jackson residents were active on Facebook, they created a

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Facebook page, which will be easy to maintain. For people who are less comfortable with technology, they also utilized the bulletin board outside the community center, which has 100 visitors a day. A combination of online and offline efforts was also adopted by the Making History group, which worked with the Ella Sharp Museum on local history preservation. Postcards will be sent to city residents throughout 2016 asking about different aspects of their family's past in Jackson. Citizens can respond through post or e-mail, and the stories will be posted online, said MSI student Elizabeth Gadelha, a team member.

The panelists praised this two-pronged approach. "I love the idea of taking the postcard and making it interactive. I saw that in a few projects," said panelist Garland Gilchrist II, deputy technology director for civic community engagement for the City of Detroit. "You were able to bridge the physical and online in a very creative way," said panelist Mary Morgan, founder, executive director and president of The CivCity Initiative, a nonprofit that focuses on fighting civic apathy and increasing community engagement.

The third panelist, Grand Rapids city treasurer John M. Globensky, said his experience in city government brought home the potential of the Jackson Snow Squad project, which allows citizens to report sidewalks that have not been cleared of snow and volunteer to shovel for neighbors. "When you think about it, the last thing I want to do is bill somebody because I had to send a snow plow to clean their sidewalks," he said. Other 2015 CID projects included Business Connect, part of a \$50,000 Small Business Administration grant to streamline the process of obtaining local and state permits for people who want to start small businesses, and Breadcrumbs Nature Guide, a phone application designed to enhance the experience of blind people on the city's nature trails. Lampe says Jackson has been a good partner city for the program because "it's big enough that there's enough going on," with a strong civil society layer, but not too big.

City manager **Patrick Burtch** told the crowd that at the beginning, he didn't know how the city would come up with enough projects to keep the students busy. "I'm here to say that it worked out far better than I ever expected," he said. After three years and 24 projects in Jackson, CID will move on to other partner cities next year. Several of this year's projects had the potential to impact City Councilman Freddie Dancy, who lives in the B2 neighborhood, owns a small business and is on the board of disAbility Connections in addition to representing Ward 2. The students' projects had a lot of great information that could impact the city once people find out about them, he said. "I wish it was televised," he added.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com
February 4, 2015

City Manager gets retirement pay raise during special noon meeting
Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON, MI - Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** will earn an extra \$4,000 in yearly retirement pay after city officials quietly approved the change during a special lunchtime meeting in December. The raise increases **Burtch's** retirement annuity from \$14,940 to \$18,675 per year, reflecting a jump from 12 percent to 15 percent of his salary. **Burtch** is paid \$124,500 per year after his contract stipulated an automatic raise in July 2013. The meeting agenda and minutes were not posted on the city's website until after the minutes were accepted by council more than a month later. City officials commonly provide this information online prior to council meetings.

The Citizen Patriot filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the city Jan. 28 for "a copy of the agenda and council packet" from the special meeting. City Council approved the special meeting minutes Jan. 27. The minutes read simply that council members voted to "approve amendments" to **Burtch's** contract Dec. 19. The city sent the information requested by the Citizen Patriot on Feb. 4. City Council approved the raise to **Burtch's** retirement pay via a 4-1 vote on the 10th floor of City Hall at noon Dec. 19. Councilwoman Kimberly Jaquish, 2nd Ward, voted against the raise. Council members Arlene Robinson, 1st Ward, and Derek Dobies, 6th Ward, were absent.

Councilwoman Laura Dwyer Schlecte, 4th Ward, told the Citizen Patriot prior to the FOIA fulfillment that council members voted to "change some of the language" in **Burtch's** contract that was "inconsistent." Jaquish said she was told at the meeting the retirement contribution of 12 percent was a "clerical error," and **Burtch** had been receiving the 15 percent annuity since the city manager was hired in October 2012. According to city budget records, **Burtch** was receiving a 12 percent annual contribution to his retirement funds since he was hired, under the budget line item "Retirement-City Mgr." **Burtch** claims the raise in his retirement pay isn't retroactive, and began Dec. 19. "(The raise) was something I had discussed with council prior to approving my original contract," **Burtch** said. "We were supposed to do it in 2013 and we never did." Mayor Jason Smith and council members Dan Greer, 3rd Ward, Andrew Frounfelker, 5th Ward, and Schlecte voted in favor of the contract revisions Dec. 19.

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Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Web Edition Articles (MI)
September 11, 2014

Jackson's stormwater saga: An in-depth look at nearly four years of illegal taxes and lawsuits

Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON, MI – Embroiled in lawsuits and backlash for nearly four years, the city of Jackson's stormwater fee experiment has cost millions in taxpayer funds, and left city residents with a shell of services once provided. Required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and prescribed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Jackson officials must reduce pollutants such as engine oil and trash that make their way to area watersheds. First using street funds, and then a fee on Jackson property owners imposed in 2011, city crews for year swept streets, cleaned catch basins and picked up residents' autumn leaves, meeting the goals required by federal and state lawmakers. Now – after a 2013 court order ruled the stormwater fee an illegal tax and required the city to stop collecting – those services have all but disappeared, leaving Jackson administrators and city business leaders pointing at one another to find a solution while state agencies take notice. "I think an overview of our current system would reflect poorly (on the city)," said Councilman Derek Dobies, 6th Ward, who spearheaded a failed ballot initiative to reinstate the stormwater fee. "If the EPA or DEQ came in, I don't know what they would do ... but it wouldn't be good." Below is a look at the past, present and possible future of the city's stormwater saga. Click on the links to be taken to each section:

- [Timeline: What is the past, present and future of the city's stormwater saga?](#)
 - [Answer to questions about federal stormwater regulations](#)
 - [How are the city and business community working together on this issue?](#)
 - [What is the city spending to fight the stormwater lawsuits?](#)
 - [What should the city be doing with our stormwater system that it is not?](#)
- [Answers to your questions about the EPA's stormwater mandate](#)

All cities in the U.S. are federally mandated to reduce stormwater pollutants to protect water quality in the country. Here's a look at what's required and how these EPA regulations work. When did these mandates start? The U.S. Congress enacted the Clean Water Act in 1972, a law to restore "all waters of the United States to their fishable and swimmable conditions." Since the law was enacted, it has gone through a number of amendments, some of which pertain to cities and their stormwater systems. Congress broadened the law in 1987 to include industrial stormwater discharges and municipal stormwater systems. It was implemented in two phases – the first was in 1991 and applied to cities with more than 100,000 people. Phase II, enacted in 2003, applied to cities with fewer people, Jackson included. What are cities required to do? In general, the law states that cities must "reduce pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practicable to protect water quality." Doesn't that seem vague? Yes, it does. In addition, cities must provide for public education on stormwater impacts, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control and post-construction management and pollution prevention, according to EPA documents. Michigan DEQ District

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Supervisor John Russell said the requirements are vague to provide his agency with flexibility in implementing and enforcing the act. "On one hand you want certainty and on the other you want flexibility," Russell said. "This law falls somewhere in the middle." I thought it was federally mandated under the EPA? What does the Michigan DEQ have to do with it? The EPA has authorized 46 states and their environmental departments to regulate the law, including Michigan, EPA spokeswoman Phillippa Cannon said. So, if the city isn't following the rules, what kind of penalties can they expect? At this point, the city isn't even getting a slap on the wrist. Russell said his agency is working closely with the city to help them come up with solutions. "At the end of the day, if they can't comply there could be financial penalties, but we're not even close to that," he said. What kind of financial penalties? Like most parts of the law, penalties are ambiguous. "I don't want to say at some point the city will be penalized \$125,000 for every month they're not in compliance, because it's impossible to say what the penalties would be," Russell said. "Every case is different." There are very few cases of cities receiving penalties for violating the stormwater provisions of the Clean Water Act. Mostly, industrial complexes are often on the other side of litigation. In one October 2013 case, the city of Starkville, Mississippi was required to pay the EPA about \$70,000 in fines for stormwater pollutants coming from – ironically – their wastewater treatment plant. Have there ever been any cases of cities or towns getting penalized for not 'reducing pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practicable'? No. Good luck arguing for or against an action being "practicable" in court. Seems like a law without any teeth to me. Cases where cities have been penalized are, like we mentioned, few and far between. Russell said the Michigan DEQ and the EPA are working to implement the law and help cities work toward reducing stormwater pollution instead of enforcing it with a "heavy hand." "We understand where the city is coming from and that they want to comply but are having some issues on how to go about funding it," Russell said. Jackson leaders: We don't have the funds to provide stormwater services. Jackson leaders say without some type of stormwater fee, services won't come back at the level residents had grown accustomed to prior to a 2013 court ruling it illegal. "Without those stormwater fee funds we don't have the ability to do a lot," Mayor Jason Smith said. "We would have to figure out a new funding source or cut other services."

The fee generated about \$1 million per year to provide the stormwater services, such as catch basin cleaning, street sweeping and residential leaf pickup. It cost residents \$8 per quarter when initially implemented, with businesses paying depending on the size and layouts of their parcels. In June, 2012, officials decreased the fee to \$7.50 per quarter for residential properties and cut 7.4 percent off business bills. Following an August 2013 court ruling, the city was ordered to stop collecting the fee. As a result, most stormwater services the city provided stopped. Specific plans on how to fund stormwater services without a fee have been nearly non-existent. Both city and Jackson County Chamber officials, which earlier this summer pledged to work together to find a solution, have said discussions are not materializing. Jackson Chamber of Commerce Director Mindy Bradish-Orta said since voters rejected a stormwater fee Aug. 5, "not a lot" has been accomplished. The city spearheaded a ballot initiative to bring back stormwater services, but vague wording and no concrete cost to voters was a big cause of its failure by a vote of 2,092 to 1,032. The chamber was a vocal opponent of the ballot proposal. "We've repeatedly asked the city how much it would cost to reinstate the services and what is required," Bradish-Orta said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

"We haven't heard anything back from them. At this point we don't have enough information to come up with specific plan. "We had hoped for better cooperation and dialogue." Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch**, on the other hand, lays blame with the chamber. "We haven't been contacted by the chamber since after the election," he said. "We haven't been contacted by them at all." Bradish-Orta said the chamber is working toward a proposal without the city's assistance, while city officials say they're waiting to hear from the chamber. "We're doing our best without information from the city," Bradish-Orta said Sept. 8. "There aren't any dates set to meet with them."

Lawyer bills, legal fees pile up for city of Jackson

When the dust settles from the city's stormwater fee proceedings and consulting costs to implement the utility, officials could find the city's coffers about \$1.32 million lighter. Jackson has paid more than \$516,000 in legal fees and court costs associated with the stormwater experiment. Through August, the city has doled out:

- * \$237,771 to Detroit-based law firm Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone to represent the city in every stormwater suit to date;
- * \$120,418 in reimbursed lawyer fees and court costs to Jackson County;
- * \$69,361 in reimbursed lawyer fees and court costs to Brian Surgener and David Klein;
- * and \$89,000 to Kentucky-based firm Tetra Tech to conduct feasibility study on the stormwater fee in 2010 and consult the city's lawyers in court.

Jackson County sued the city in December 2011, claiming the stormwater fee was an illegal tax. Jackson Coffee Co. and Klein Brothers – two Jackson businesses owned by Brian Surgener and David Klein, respectively – followed suit later that month. The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the city's stormwater fee was in fact an illegal tax Aug. 2, 2013. The city was ordered to stop collecting and was required to pay back Jackson County, Surgener and Klein their legal fees. Now, the city may have to spend another \$811,000 to pay back city property owners a portion of the fee after Jackson County Circuit Judge John McBain ruled in favor of the plaintiffs Oct. 24, 2013, in a class action lawsuit against the city. Jackson resident Philip Panzica – represented by Surgener – filed the class action suit Aug. 15, 2013, in the hopes he and others who paid a total of nearly \$3 million in stormwater taxes would be reimbursed. Due to a statute of limitations, about \$811,500 of the \$3 million will have to be paid back to members of the class – those who paid a stormwater fee after Aug. 12, 2012 and didn't opt out of the lawsuit. But, those stormwater funds – used to provide services to city residents who paid into the stormwater fund – have dried up. There is about \$280,000 left in the stormwater account, city officials said. "We don't know how we're going to pay the money back yet," **Burtch** said. "It's impossible to know at this point." Dobies echoed **Burtch's** remarks. "Nearly \$900,000 is a lot for any city to absorb, let alone Jackson," he said. One option, released by city officials this week as a settlement offer in the suit, calls for the city to refund residents over the course of 10 years, although they claim the vast majority would be repaid in the first two years under this proposal. Another option city officials are discussing is to tax city residents in order to pay them back the stormwater fee. Under the proposal, the city would take the \$811,500 refund owed to taxpayers and divide it equally among the owners of nearly 15,000 parcels billed the stormwater fee, potentially costing residents more than \$50 to be refunded \$28. A hearing to finalize how much the city needs to refund is set for

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Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tuesday, Sept. 16 in front of Jackson County Circuit Judge John McBain. "I question the whole thing," Jackson resident Deborah Reinecke said. "Paying a tax to get refunded is just crazy. I feel like we were robbed and I don't want it to happen again." Jackson leaders also could choose to dip into the city's fund balance or take out a bond to pay residents back – two other options city leaders are considering. Doing so could cause the costs associated with fighting the stormwater fee, and reimbursing plaintiffs and residents would balloon to nearly \$1.5 million.

What still needs to be done

Community members, business leaders and city officials agree stormwater services must be ramped up in the future. "It's not just about picking up residents' leaves," Dobies said. "It's about keeping our environment clean and our streets free of trash. It's important." Prior to the city cutting stormwater services in 2013, services paid for with stormwater tax funds included:

- * sweeping local and major streets within the city three to four times per year;
- * cleaning catch basins on a three-year rotation;
- * picking up residents fall leaves twice per season;
- * maintaining storm sewer lines

Now – after a court order required the city stop collecting the fee and city leaders opted to stop providing the services – Department of Public Works Director Todd Knepper said the features once provided have dwindled to bare bones services. "We just sweep state trunk lines and not local streets now because we're reimbursed by the state to do it," he said. "We now only clean catch basins and repair storm sewers in emergency situations whereas before we were cleaning catch basins all year long and getting ahead on our storm sewer maintenance." Leaf pickup for area residents was also axed by city administrators.

Provided to keep catch basins and storm sewers clear of leaves and debris, the service was valued by many city residents. Jackson resident Noble Conner Jr., 71, said shortly after the city stopped picking up leaves that the decision put him in a tough spot as an elderly resident. "It's been very hard for me to take care of my own leaves and bag them this fall," he said. "I just have to take it day-by-day." City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said the city is likely not compliant with federal regulations regarding stormwater runoff, and said in a perfect world where funding wasn't an issue, city leaders would bring the stormwater tax services back and then some. "We'd bring the services back to where they were before the stormwater fee was shot down," he said. "On top of that, we'd install some state-of-the-art equipment." **Burtch** mentioned catch basins that use gravity to separate stormwater and oil before the water is distributed back into area rivers and waterways. "They are extremely expensive, but it would have been something to consider if we still had the stormwater utility fee," he said. Knepper said he and other city leaders will meet with the Michigan DEQ later this month to go over a more specific proposal to remain compliant with the Clean Water Act – the federally-mandated law calling for municipalities to keep area waterways clean of stormwater runoff. In the meantime, city streets remain relatively unkempt. Councilwoman Arlene Robinson, 1st Ward, said as much at a council meeting Sept. 9, summing up how many people within Jackson feel about the whole situation. "We look a mess," she said. Below is an interactive timeline tracking the history of Jackson's stormwater system and subsequent lawsuits against the city.

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Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

September 10, 2014

MORALEZ v. CITY OF JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Civil Case No. 13-12302.

ABELARDO MORALEZ, Plaintiff, v. CITY OF JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT, et al.,
Defendants.

United States District Court, E.D. Michigan, Southern Division.

September 10, 2014.

Attorney(s) appearing for the Case
Abelardo Morales, Plaintiff, Pro Se.

OPINION AND ORDER (1) ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S MAY 29, 2014 AND JUNE 25, 2014 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS [ECF NOS. 37 & 39]; (2) DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR MORE TIME TO PERFECT SERVICE [ECF NO. 40]; (3) GRANTING DEFENDANT JOYCE DRAGANCHUK'S MOTION TO DISMISS [ECF NO. 46]; AND (4) DISMISSING DEFENDANTS LINDA V. PARKER, District Judge.

On May 23, 2013, Plaintiff filed this civil rights action against forty-five defendants. Plaintiff has filed return of service forms reflecting service on some defendants; he has failed to serve other defendants. Several defendants have successfully moved for dismissal.¹ The matter has been referred to Magistrate Judge Michael Hluchaniuk for all pretrial proceedings, including a hearing and determination of all non-dispositive matters pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A) and/or a report and recommendation ("R&R") on all dispositive matters pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B). (ECF No. 11.) Presently before the Court are the following: (1) the magistrate judge's May 29, 2014 Report and Recommendation ("R&R") recommending that this Court dismiss without prejudice the unserved defendants pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) (ECF No. 37); (2) the magistrate judge's June 25, 2014 R&R recommending that this Court dismiss with prejudice the remaining served defendants for failure to prosecute (ECF No. 39);

(3) Plaintiff's July 11, 2014 motion for more time to perfect service; and (4) Defendant Judge Joyce Draganchuk's motion to dismiss and/or for summary judgment, filed July 21, 2014 (ECF No. 46).

[CB&A Note: The remainder of the case can be read here:
<https://www.leagle.com/decision/infdco20140911975#>

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot (MI)
June 30, 2014

Non-union employees at City Hall to receive raises

Author: Will Forgrave

Non-union supervisors and appointed officials at Jackson City Hall will receive 2.5 percent pay raises a month after city unions agreed to concessions in the face of projected layoffs. Pay increases for city employees not covered by a union contract are set to begin July 24, with retroactive pay starting Tuesday, after City Council approved the second reading of the proposed raises via a 6-1 vote June 24. Councilwoman Kimberly Jaquish, 2nd Ward, voted against the pay raises. "I think there are so many people making so many sacrifices -- other city employees included -- that we should share in that burden," Jaquish said. "As a council and city, we should lead by example. We should be taking hits, too."

Officials voted in the first reading of the raises 6-0 on June 10. Jaquish was absent. "These are simply pay raises that we budgeted for when we passed our budget," City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said. The city's budget runs from Tuesday through June 30, 2015. The possible pay for city administrators -- excluding the city manager, city attorney, city clerk and city assessor -- would range from \$32,295 per year to \$113,964 as part of the city's proposed schedule. **Burtch's** salary would increase to \$127,613 per year. **Burtch** was paid \$117,300 when he was first hired in October 2012.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Web Edition Articles (MI)

May 30, 2014

City of Jackson receives award for 'excellence in financial reporting' for 22nd straight year

Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON, MI – For the 22nd year in a row, the city of Jackson was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting this spring. Jackson is one of 66 Michigan municipalities to receive the award for their 2012 annual financial report. The award is handed out yearly by the Government Finance Officers Association. Reports are judged by a GFOA panel to see if they meet the standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story. "Transparency and financial accountability are among our top priorities as a council, and I'm very proud of (Finance Director) Philip Hones and our finance department," Mayor Jason Smith said.

Other Michigan cities which received the award include Ann Arbor, Lansing, East Lansing and Kalamazoo, among others. "It goes beyond awards, and speaks to the level of talent we have on staff at our city," City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said. "The award shows we are committed to responsible budgeting and accurate reporting of the work we're doing." The GFOA is a nonprofit association which serves and oversees about 17,500 finance organizations including government offices, colleges and school districts across the country. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting, according to GFOA officials.

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Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Web Edition Articles (MI)
November 25, 2013

Pay more, get less: Taxes increase for city of Jackson residents as services get axed
Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON, MI – Fewer police and firefighters, a shuttered city pool, and streets marred by potholes are just a few of the new realities for city of Jackson residents. The once-lauded services that, for years, were a major perk for city dwellers have dwindled, or in some cases, disappeared over the last decade. Unfortunately, city taxpayers' bills have not followed suit; most property owners pay as much, or more, than they did 10 years ago. "The streets are terrible. The police don't do anything," said city resident Karen Sumner, 48. "All the while, we're paying more in taxes. This is ludicrous."

Since 2005, property tax rates for city residents have increased from 13.51 to 15.09 mills, or about \$90 more per year for the average Jackson homeowner should their home's value remain flat. Those taxes pay for police and fire protection in the city, generate revenue for the city's general fund, and pay off debt obligations, including police and fire pensions and City Hall renovations done in 2003. City officials point to declining property values as the main reason services get axed. An analysis by the Jackson Citizen Patriot showed property values in the city have dropped \$272 million, or 31 percent, in the past 10 years. Those property values include residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Meanwhile, costs to maintain services — such as street repair, leaf pick-up and public safety — have remained the same or risen. "We have to shrink government," Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said. "If we don't, we'll end up bankrupt. We'll end up like Detroit."

A SHRINKING GOVERNMENT FOR A SHRINKING CITY

The Citizen Patriot examined 10 years worth of budgets in key service areas including the city's general fund budget, which pays for police and fire; the parks and recreation budget; and the local streets budget, which once included the now defunct leaf pick-ups. Adjusted for inflation, the numbers over the last decade are grim. Income tax revenues have dropped nearly \$1 million, state revenue sharing has taken a hit of more than \$2 million, and property tax revenue has lost \$3 million in funds since 2004.

All budgets have taken a large hit – the city lost 41 percent of its homeowner tax base in the past 10 years as residents moved out of the city or the housing market crash caused housing values to plummet. In 2007, home values in Jackson peaked at \$476 million, according to assessment data. Between 2004 and today, Jackson has lost nearly \$7 million in revenue from the city's income tax, property tax and state revenue sharing, which make up the lion's share of the city's income. "We're having the same problem a lot of cities in the state are having," **Burtch** said. "We're seeing our tax base shrink, our state aid shrink and our costs increase."

In the past 10 years, the city of Jackson has eliminated more than 120 jobs. The police department is down to 46 police officers; there were 68 in 2004. Police department expenditures

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

have dropped more than \$2 million as well. A decade ago, the Jackson Fire Department had 40 full-time firefighters. Today, there are 23, nine of whom are paid for with a federal grant that expires next year. At its peak, the fire department spent nearly \$6 million a year to provide public safety services; now it spends \$3.2 million.

During the same period, city Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation employees have seen a number of positions cut between their departments. For Karen Sumner and her husband, Anthony, 60, the reduction in police is especially disturbing. The couple moved into their two-story home at Fourth and Morrell streets five years ago, and it has been broken into three times since then. The couple lost televisions and a gaming system, but no one was arrested for the thefts. They say the \$400 they pay in property taxes annually should cover the basics; they deserve to feel safe, they said. "They stole a 56-inch television, and nobody was caught," Anthony Sumner said. "You're telling me a kid was walking down Morrell with a giant television under his arm and nobody thought to do anything about it?"

Sumner, who served 27 years in the Air Force and is a Vietnam veteran, was discharged from military service after suffering a stroke that left both legs weakened. He installed a ramp outside his home and often uses a wheelchair to get around. He said he can't count on the Jackson police, and is considering getting a pistol to protect himself and his wife. City officials say the cuts are all in the name of fiscal responsibility. Besides losing revenue in taxes, leaders have spent the past few years building up the general fund balance. In fiscal year 2009, the general fund balance was \$658,000; it now has \$2.2 million. Several residents, though, say a healthy fund balance does not fix roads or extinguish house fires. "I've lived (in Jackson) all my life and the roads keep getting worse and worse," Suzanne Rogers, 58, said. "They do a good job of plowing but when the streets are clear they're filled with potholes ... the city can do better for its residents."

A UNIQUE CITY FACING COMMON PROBLEMS

Adding to residents' frustrations is the fact that Jackson also receives revenue from a city income tax and revenue from a Public Act 345 tax, which collects money for police and fire pensions. Jackson residents pay a 1 percent income tax on their earnings if they work and live in the city. Non-residents who work in Jackson pay half a percent. "I pay Jackson taxes just for working here," Smith, 43, said. "You'd think the roads would be better when I drive in every morning." Jackson is one of only five Michigan municipalities that have both taxes — Albion, Battle Creek, Big Rapids and Springfield round out the group. **Burtch** said without a city income tax and pension millage to help offset declining property values, Jackson would go bankrupt. "We simply wouldn't be able to function," **Burtch** said.

Michael LaFaive, director for the Mackinaw Center's Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative, said Jackson's predicament mimics that of other Michigan cities in the wake of the country's economic collapse. "There's generally a lag time between when the housing market and economy took a dive and when cities begin to cut spending," he said. "It would seem that Jackson is no different." The police and fire pension millage, which was approved by voters in 1974, creates a separate account for pensions — meaning the city does not use general fund dollars to fund those

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

pensions. When property values decrease, as they have for the last 10 years, the millage rate to fund the pension plan increases. When property values increase, the tax rate is lowered.

The Act 345 millage rate now stands at 5.64 mills, up from 4.5 mills 10 years ago.

Emily Keilhorn, a Jackson Lumen Christi High School graduate and employee in the city, recently moved into Jackson with her husband, Nick. The couple say they expect more after paying two sets of taxes.

"We are frankly disappointed that we made the choice to live in the city of Jackson," Keilhorn, 31, said. "We live just inside the city limits and often lament that decision." Keilhorn said despite paying income and property taxes, she has seen city services dwindle. "Obviously, the elimination of leaf pick-up is a hot topic right now," she said. "As for the Ella Sharp pool closure, I am saddened that this occurred. I grew up living in Jackson and taking school trips to the pool. It's one of those amenities that we moved to the city hoping to utilize." Officials, however, point to an increase in income tax revenue in the past few years as a sign of growth. After netting about \$7.1 million in income tax revenue in 2010, city officials expect to garner \$8.1 million in the coming fiscal year, which makes up about 38 percent of the city's \$21.3 million general fund budget. "One of the best indicators of growth is the city's income tax revenue," Jackson Finance Director Philip Hones said. "The property values are much slower to come around."

WEATHERING THE 'RAINY DAY'

A decade ago, city residents didn't necessarily mind paying higher taxes than residents in neighboring townships, such as Blackman and Summit townships, because they were getting a platinum-level service plan. The city picked up their leaves, there were manned fire stations all over the city, and police were a visible presence. Obviously, that's no longer the case. In the wake of dwindling revenues, city officials found creative and controversial ways to raise funds and free up general fund dollars, instituting fees for everything from leaf pick-up to owning a rental home. Both the stormwater utility fee used to pick up leaves and the rental registry fee used to regulate and inspect apartments in Jackson were created in 2011, at the height of cuts to city services.

The city's leaf pick-up program was axed earlier this year after a court found the fee imposed on property owners to provide the service was an unconstitutional tax, and ordered the city to stop collecting. Jackson resident Noble Conner Jr., 71, said the city's decision to eliminate the leaf pick-up service put him in a tough spot as an elderly resident. "It's been very hard for me to take care of my own leaves and bag them this fall," he said. "I just have to take it day-by-day." The city again finds itself in the middle of a lawsuit now that questions the legality of the rental registry fee and subsequent inspection fees on Jackson apartments. City officials maintain the fees serve a regulatory purpose, and without them they cannot provide the services city residents ask for. After the city's decision to cut leaf pick-up, Jackson Mayor Martin Griffin said if city residents were to vote to again pay the fee – about \$30 per year for Jackson homeowners – the city would return the service.

MOVING FORWARD

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson City Councilman Daniel Greer, 3rd Ward, said the city will not use general fund dollars to provide leaf pick-up or others services, at least until the fund balance is restored to even higher levels. "I do not see re-opening fire stations or increasing staffing in public safety services in the near future," Greer said. "It could be a number of years before general fund dollars could be used for road maintenance or reopening the Ella Sharp Pool." A growing fund balance, though, does not provide services to Jackson residents, former City Manager Warren Renando said. Renando, who served as Jackson's city manager from 1996-2004 and from 2010-11, said now that the city has a general fund surplus of more than \$2 million, the debate now centers on what constitutes a "rainy day."

Renando said he thinks cities should have between 10 and 20 percent in their general fund reserves, and any more than 20 percent should be used to provide services to residents. The city has just shy of 20 percent in its general fund balance as a percentage of general fund expenditures. According to budget records, the city will likely have \$2.2 million leftover this spring. City officials have created a policy to increase the general fund reserves to 30 percent by 2025. "At what point do you say 'enough is enough' and begin to again provide people with services after we slashed police and fire budgets," Renando said. "Jackson has always been a high-tax, high-service city that provides excellent parks, police and fire services at the expense of paying high taxes."

The Government Finance Officers Association recommends local governments maintain a fund balance equal to two months of operating costs, or 16.6 percent. A 2012 study by Isabella County Administrator Tim Dolehanty found the average fund balance for cities in Michigan in 2011 stood at 31.21 percent. "It is critical that the general fund continues to get to reserve levels of 25-30 percent," said Jackson City Councilman Andrew Frounfelker, 5th Ward. **Burtch** said with more dollars stashed away in the city's general fund, bond interest rates are lowered and the city's credit rating improves. "The idea is to start investing money to make money," he said. "We don't simply want to throw money at a problem and not get anything in return." LaFaive said it's common for municipalities to save funds as the overall economy begins to turn around, which is what is happening now. This, he said, often leaves residents with the impression that times are tough when, in fact, the overall economy is improving. "Cities tend to begin to save funds when it's not raining," he said. "Jackson's intentions may very well be good, but over time people are going to begin screaming that it's pouring outside."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com
August 23, 2013

Jackson City Manager Patrick Burtch receives automatic \$6,000 pay raise as part of his contract

Patrick Burtch received a pay raise this summer without a City Council vote.

Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON, MI – Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** will earn \$6,000 more a year after quietly receiving a pay raise this summer. **Burtch's** contract, which was approved in October 2012, included a 6.1 percent raise to go into effect July 1. The bump increased his salary from \$117,300 to \$124,500. Typically, a pay raise for city manager is voted on by Jackson City Council members. **Burtch** was hired as Jackson's city manager in October 2012.

Jackson City Councilwoman Kimberly Jaquish, 2nd Ward, said she was surprised by the raise. Jaquish was on council when **Burtch** was hired, and when his contract was approved. "From my experience, he seems to be doing a good job," Jaquish said of **Burtch's** performance. "But I would not have voted to give him the raise back in July." **Burtch** said his contract originally was negotiated to have a base salary of \$124,500, but he lowered it to \$117,300 to give city officials a grace period, saving the city about \$3,500 in the process. "I thought I should be given a trial period before earning the full \$124,000," **Burtch** said.

Burtch was voted on as full-time city manager Oct. 23, 2012, via a 4-2 vote by Jackson City Council. Voting "yes" were Jackson Mayor Martin Griffin and council members Daniel Greer, Laura Dwyer Schlecte and Andrew Frounfelker, from wards 3, 4 and 5, respectively. Jaquish and councilman Derek Dobies, 6th Ward, voted "no." Late councilman Carl Breeding, 1st Ward, was absent at the meeting. Dobies said he voted "no" because Breeding was in the hospital. "I thought it was something that everyone should be present for," he said, adding he would have voted to grant **Burtch** the raise in July given the opportunity. "The city should do everything it can to attract and raise skilled and qualified officials, just like it should attract residents and businesses," he said. "I think **Pat** is a huge asset to the city of Jackson."

Councilwoman Michelle Woods, 1st Ward, agreed, saying she would "absolutely" have voted for **Burtch's** raise in July. Woods replaced Breeding in January after he died in November 2012. "**(Pat Burtch)** is going above and beyond what we require of him," she said. "He's wearing many hats. (His salary) is money well spent." **Burtch** serves not only as the city manager but as the director of the city's Neighborhood and Economic Operations Department. There are no more automatic raises stipulated in **Burtch's** contract, according to city officials.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Jackson Citizen Patriot (MI)

August 21, 2013

Class-action lawsuit seeks stormwater fee refunds from city

Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON -- Lawsuits keep piling up for the city. Following a Michigan Court of Appeals ruling that canceled the city's controversial stormwater utility fee, Jackson resident Phillip Panzica filed a class-action lawsuit against Jackson last week. Panzica -- represented by attorney Brian Surgener -- hopes he and others who fall under the class action's umbrella get reimbursed for their stormwater fees. Surgener said anyone in the city who paid the stormwater fee falls under the class-action lawsuit, including 2,500 commercial properties. Nearly 15,000 parcels were billed, according to the suit.

Jackson officials also were sued Aug. 12 by the former interim director of the Jackson Housing Commission, Kimberly Truman, and another stormwater lawsuit is on the horizon, according to Surgener. Truman sued the city for wrongful termination, and Jackson resident Michael Wisniewski plans to sue the city for the nearly \$3,000 he paid in stormwater fees. Surgener, who sued the city in December 2011 after receiving his stormwater bill at his business, the Jackson Coffee Co., filed the class-action lawsuit in Jackson County Circuit Court on Thursday. "(City officials) have 21 days to respond," he said. "The problem I have with the city waiting to tell residents whether or not they will see a refund is that they're saving money every day they wait to do it."

There is a one-year statute of limitation for a class-action suit, according to Surgener, so he hopes refunds would cover Aug. 15, 2012, to the present because of the filing date of the lawsuit. The city raised nearly \$3 million in stormwater billings since the fee was enacted in 2011. Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said last week residents would have to wait "about two months" before city officials decide whether and how they will present residents with refunds. **Burtch** was not available Tuesday afternoon for comment on the class-action filing. "We'll be talking about ways that we might refund the money, but we can't do it all upfront," he said last week. "If we took it out of general fund, we'd be in dire financial straits."

In a published opinion released Aug. 2, the court ruled the city's stormwater fee, enacted in May 2011, was an unconstitutional tax that violates the Headlee Amendment. The ruling requires the city to pay back the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, including Jackson County, but not other residents or business owners within the city. None of the plaintiffs paid the stormwater fee, including Klein Brothers and the Jackson Coffee Company, but they might be reimbursed court costs. Jackson County sued the city in December 2011 after receiving a \$32,000 stormwater bill before the two Jackson businesses followed suit. "This is critical timing for the city," Surgener said. "Every month they wait is another month they wouldn't have to pay back. We filed the class-action suit to put a marker in time."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Along with owning the Jackson Coffee Co., Surgener has practiced law for 21 years, 14 of which he worked at various Lansing firms. He lives in the Lansing area. "I hope that prolonged litigation will not be necessary, and the city will act quickly to refund the stormwater fees wrongfully collected over the past year," he said. In the wake of the Michigan Court of Appeals ruling, the city transferred about \$240,000 that remained in the stormwater fund into the general fund before the move was nixed by the City Council on Aug. 13. In addition to eliminating 15 Jackson city positions following the court's decision, Jackson Mayor Martin Griffin announced the city also will eliminate services, such as street sweeping and leaf pickup. "In the aftermath of the court ruling ... we must make the difficult decision to eliminate (stormwater utility) services," Griffin said earlier this month, reading from a prepared statement. Jackson resident Phillip Panzica filed a class action lawsuit against the city of Jackson last week, hoping to have residents and businesses reimbursed for stormwater utility fees incurred in the last year.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burtch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Article found here: <https://energynews.us/2013/07/02/midwest/for-cities-solar-benefits-may-not-override-fear-of-the-unknown/>

Energynews.us

July 2, 2013

For cities, solar benefits may not override fear of the unknown

Author: Karen Uhlenhuth

Installing solar panels or wind turbines on city or county-owned property can be fraught with more complexities than doing so on private land. That was demonstrated earlier this month when the City of Jackson, Michigan, opted not to move forward on what appeared on the surface to be a slam-dunk good deal for the municipality. The local utility, Consumers Energy, was offering to pay 23 cents per kilowatt-hour produced by solar panels to be installed at the city’s wastewater treatment plant. That’s close to twice what Michigan utilities typically charge their customers per kilowatt hour. Consumers said it would pay at that rate for 15 years.

The city initially considered spending about \$500,000 to install the panels, then decided it would be hard to make a case. “We’re a financially distressed community – and a very conservative community,” said Jackson city manager **Patrick Burtch**. “We’ve been laying off police and fire department employees.” “Cities always have a scarcity of resources,” said John Farrell, a senior researcher specializing in energy policy for the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. “Even if it’s a short payback, they don’t tend to do it ... it’s competing with police and fire and the library.”

After deciding against paying for panels upfront, the city considered another approach: contracting with a third party that would pay upfront for the panels, collect the tax benefits and payments from the utility. That contractor would then pay a monthly lease to the city for use of the treatment-plant property. Mark Olinyk, a Jackson solar installer who was interested in the contract, said the city would have earned in the neighborhood of \$7,000 a month – simply for providing a space for the panels. And at the end of 15 years, the city would be given the panels, which Olinyk said would have generated power – and income – for another decade or more. Olinyk put the total profit over 30 years at about \$660,000. To paraphrase Olinyk: it was a no-brainer.

Not to Jackson’s city manager, who was skeptical of the \$660,000 estimate. The city solicited lease proposals and decided to scrutinize three of them. “He may be right; he may be wrong,” **Burtch** said of Olinyk. “These leases have an extreme amount of risk. There are a number of hidden costs here.” He was concerned, for example, about whether the city would be expected to mow the grounds, and whether it would be expected to insure the panels, even though it didn’t own them. The city’s policy under such circumstances is to leave the insuring to the other party, he said. All in all, **Burtch** explained, the city had limited time to study the leases and decide on one, and it was worried about the possible unanticipated consequences of signing one of them.

Burtch “absolutely” had good cause to tread carefully, said Casey Johnston, the renewable energy program director for Local Governments for Sustainability, a Washington D.C.-based

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

non-profit. “It comes down to capacity,” he said. “Do they have legal counsel that’s familiar with these contracts? They’re new and strange and lengthy and complex. I’d assume the legal counsel and city council had not seen this, and may not have had enough time” to carefully review the leases, he said. “It’s a very real challenge.” There’s also the issue of navigating unfamiliar utility regulations. An Iowa utility challenged a decision by the City of Dubuque to contract with a third-party to install solar panels, and to sell the resulting power to the city. The utility claimed that the arrangement would infringe on its monopoly. An Iowa district court in March ruled that no, the contractor was not acting as a utility. Local governments, Farrell said, might fear the possibility of a similar lawsuit. On a number of fronts, Johnston said, “It comes down to risk – and cities tend to be risk-averse.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Web Edition Articles (MI)
June 10, 2013

Jackson City Manager on state netting \$100 million to demolish homes: 'We've been doing this.'

Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON, MI – City officials are pointing to other Michigan communities set to demolish eyesores as a reason Jackson is ahead of the curve. Contractors will begin demolishing abandoned and blighted properties this summer in Detroit and other neighborhoods in Michigan with a \$100 million federal boost. Jackson did not receive any of the federal funding. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority will use the federal funding – the first allowance of its kind – to create blight elimination programs in Detroit, Pontiac, Grand Rapids, Flint and Saginaw. Jackson City Councilman Derek Dobies, 6th Ward, said city officials investigated ways for Jackson to get a piece of the \$100 million pie, but were unsuccessful. "The decision of which cities received funds was made by the (Michigan Department of Treasury)," Dobies said in an email. "Although we didn't receive the funds, I think it shows that Jackson is a community leading the state in viewing demolition as a necessary economic development tool." City officials have said the demolitions will raise property values as well as fight crime and blight in Jackson. Under the banner of neighborhood stabilization, Jackson has aggressively demolished houses the last couple of years – to the tune of more than 150 properties since 2011. The demolitions have not come without controversy.

There have been cases of the city demolishing homes purchased in Jackson County tax sales by area residents, and the city risks losing funding from the state for their role in demolishing homes within historic districts. Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** said Jackson is just as in need of the funds as any other city in Michigan. "This is nothing new - we've been doing this for years with our own money, our own tax dollars, without federal or state help," he said. "To be frank, it doesn't seem fair that only five communities get those kinds of funds." **Burtch** said the city would be able to use federal funds wisely and needs "\$2 or \$3 million" to complete the first phase of the neighborhood stabilization program. "We feel like we're falling behind," he said. "We want to be done demolishing structures so we can get to renovations and move forward. We don't want to drag this out over 10 years."

City officials are expected to spend more federal funds on renovation and less on blight compared with last year, but have increased the amount of general fund expenditures for demolitions in 2013-14. According to city budget records, \$250,000 more general fund dollars will be awarded to the building demolition fund in the coming fiscal year. The building demolition fund was created by City Council in March 2012 for demolition expenses that are not otherwise funded with state or federal funds. The U.S. Treasury last week signed off on the proposal which provides the state with \$100 million. The money is made available through the Hardest Hit Fund, an offshoot of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), established in 2010.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Web Edition Articles (MI)
May 15, 2013

Jackson Housing Commission and City of Jackson officials continue to butt heads
Author: Will Forgrave

JACKSON, MI – The rift between recently appointed Jackson Housing Commission board members and longstanding members has never been more evident. Following a number of controversial appointments in December, a lawsuit against the commission was filed, board members were accused of racial discrimination, and numerous Freedom of Information Act requests were filed by commissioners. Last month, Jackson City Council members voted to place Jackson Development Project Coordinator Michelle Pultz-Orthaus and Jackson resident James Stark on the board, replacing former board members Derek Dobies and **Patrick Burtch**.

Dobies, a city council member who represents the sixth ward, and Jackson City Manager **Burtch** served on the board from December to April. Dobies and **Burtch's** appointments raised red flags with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which oversees the commission, with federal officials saying the appointments were a conflict of interest. Dobies said he and **Burtch** were appointed to bring transparency to the board. "I don't think it was ever meant to be a long-term appointment," Dobies said. "The concern was that there wasn't a sense of cooperation between the city and the housing commission. We wanted to see more transparency from the commission."

On April 24, his last day on the board of commissioners, Dobies filed 14 FOIA requests — hoping to get more information about former executive director Herman Hill's actions as director — after multiple attempts to get the information from commission employees was ignored. "I was getting agenda packets the day before a meeting that had no information about what it is we were voting on," he said. "It feels like everything was covered up. It's like they expect us to execute contracts and sign checks without any background information."

Interim Executive Director Kim Truman responded to Dobies' FOIA requests May 1, saying the information would cost the City Council member \$813. "It would be like if I went to **Pat (Burtch)** as a City Council member asking for information and having him charge me for it," Dobies said. "That's simply ridiculous." The board voted 3-2 Wednesday to waive the fees and have the information provided to Dobies "as soon as possible." Orthaus, Stark and Gerald Montgomery voted in favor of waiving the fees. Davis-Dye and former board president Arlene Robinson voted to keep the fees. "Dobies knew he wouldn't be a board member when he FOIA requested the information," Davis-Dye said. "We're allowed to ask for fees associated with finding the information."

Truman said the requests are taking "a lot of man hours and a lot of time." "This shouldn't be a fight to get information," Dobies said in an interview with the Citizen Patriot. "If you have nothing to hide, there shouldn't be a pushback like this." One of the main points of information Dobies is searching for has to do with former JHC Executive Director Herman Hill's severance

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Patrick Burch***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

package. Dobies said it's a possibility that Hill, who currently serves as the executive director of the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, was serving as the SMHA director at the same time he was the director of the JHC. "If this is true, he shouldn't have been paid a severance," Dobies said. According to JHC meeting minutes from Feb. 20, Hill was still serving as executive director at that time. According to an article on cantonrep.com, Hill was set to join SMHA on Feb. 11. Hill accused city officials – including Jackson Mayor Martin Griffin and City Council – of character defamation, a hostile work environment and racial discrimination in March, following his resignation from his position. Griffin and Hill could not be reached for comment.

Hill threatened to file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in March. He has not yet filed. "I welcome Hill's accusations," Butch said, implying Hill's threats are baseless. "I really wish he would." Dobies said Hill's attempts to threaten him and others won't curb his desire for the truth. "Being called a racist isn't going to stop me from trying to figure out what's going on," he said. "The mayor wanted to put people on the board that would dig. Now that we've kind of got a handle on what's going on at the JHC, and there's starting to be more transparency, we're heading in the right direction."

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Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com

March 6, 2013

City Manager Pat Burtch: Proposed trash hauler ordinance could save residents money

Author: Sarah Stonestreet

JACKSON, MI -- Though residents have spoken against the city of Jackson's proposed trash collection ordinance, their wallets may benefit. During its Jan. 26 meeting, the Jackson City Council read a proposed ordinance revision that could lead to one private company handling residents' trash removal. Currently, residents have the option to choose from multiple trash collectors in the area or to not pay for collection at all. According to the proposed ordinance, the city would accept bids from collectors before choosing and signing a contract with one, obligating all residents of single-family homes and owners of rental properties with four units or less to pay for and use the company.

Residents may be used to the current system, and many voiced their opposition in the Citizen Patriot's previous report of the ordinance. However, City Manager **Pat Burtch** said Jackson is unique. City staff contacted nearby cities regarding trash removal, and **Burtch** said those they spoke with "were shocked" that Jackson didn't have a single-hauler system. **Burtch** said Jackson residents could see a savings of as much as 30 percent, based on the information from that research. Emmons Services Inc. charges about \$22 a month, or \$264 annually, for residential service for a 60-gallon receptacle and offers free curbside recycling. Modern Waste also charges \$22 a month for Jackson County residents for a 60-gallon receptacle and offers curbside recycling for free.

Other cities have recently switched trash collection services or billing:

- Residents in Saginaw were recently billed for a flat fee of \$165 a year, or about \$13 a month. Previously, all property in the city was assessed for about 3 mills and residents had to pay an additional \$50 for trash services. An owner of a home with a taxable value of \$18,392 -- the average for a home in Saginaw -- would have paid \$55.18 -- the 3-mill property tax -- plus a \$50 flat fee, for a total cost of \$105.18 before the city changed fees.
- Flint recently changed garbage collection services after an agreement could not be reached between the city and the workers who belonged to AFSCME Local 1600 to keep the services in house. Flint's emergency financial manager decided to outsource the city's trash pickup, which started this week. The city entered a \$4 million, three-year contract with Republic Services. Residents pay an annual \$143 flat user fee for the services, or about \$11 a month.
- Leslie also recently switched its trash removal services to a three-year contract with Granger Co. of Lansing. Residents now pay about \$37 per quarter -- about \$148 annually -- for services. This includes two 96-gallon containers, one for recycling and one for trash.

Burtch said the actual cost for residents in Jackson couldn't be calculated as it would be dependent on the bid the city council chose and the contract signed with the company. The city council could vote on the ordinance as early as its March 26 meeting.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Waldenu.edu

January 1, 2013

Connections: Learning by Mentoring

Dr. Patrick Burtch '11 explains how mentoring fuels his professional work and furthers his mentees' studies.

When Dr. **Patrick Burtch** '11 mentors students at Walden, everyone involved grows and learns. Passionate about teaching, he believes in sharing the insights he's gained through 25 years of experience in city management and by earning his PhD in Public Policy and Administration. Mentoring also gives him an opportunity to expand his own knowledge. "I want to learn on a regular basis; I'm constantly reading journal articles. Mentoring contributes to that process," he explains.

Burtch, who is an adjunct professor at the University of Phoenix and has also been a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan and the University of Toledo, works full time as the city manager for Jackson, Mich. He's also conducting a research study, using data from the city and the skills he developed at Walden, to determine whether eliminating dilapidated housing in his community can raise property values.

No matter what he tackles professionally, he continues to make time to mentor students who are working on their dissertations, an experience he recalls vividly. "Mentoring is imperative at this stage," **Burtch** says. "I try to be a tough editor without discouraging them. Many students struggle—as I did—with the feeling that they'll be unable to complete their PhD. I tell them that I worked a full-time job and did this, too, so I know it's possible."

Burtch relies on email, phone calls, texting, and LinkedIn to communicate with his mentees. He's become a close friend with one in particular, a police officer named Richard Jackson based in Nashville, whom he met in their first residency. "It's a long-standing relationship," he says. "We've become best of friends. There's a lot of that kind of connection. It's just part of what you do."

Burtch encourages other alumni to stay in touch with their faculty members and ask them about assisting students. Recently, he became a Walden Alumni Ambassador, which will allow him to share his professional and educational experiences more widely. "I believe in what Walden is doing. I was drawn to the scholar-practitioner model because I wanted to learn from people who worked in the public sector and bring an academic, research-based approach to public administration," **Burtch** says. "If I had 30 people call me for mentoring today, I would answer. I believe in it that much."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

MLive.com
October 24, 2012

New Jackson City Manager Patrick Burtch says he plans to stay a while
Author: Bob Wheaton

JACKSON, MI -- New Jackson City Manager **Patrick Burtch** says he hopes to remain in the position in the long run. "I'd like to stay until the end of my career," **Burtch** said Tuesday night shortly after the Jackson City Council approved a contract to make him city manager. "I'm not a job-jumper. I think my experience shows that." Before coming to Jackson in 2011 to become the city's community development director, **Burtch**, 48, was Dundee village manager for 23 years.

There has been a revolving door in the Jackson city manager's office in recent years. Larry Shaffer left the position in August after taking over in June 2011. Before that William Ross resigned from the position in 2009, and it took the City Council 20 months to pick a replacement. Christopher Lewis and Warren Renando, a former city manager, held the position in the interim until Shaffer took over. **Burtch** downplayed the significance of his new role. He had been city manager on an interim basis since August and before that had been deputy city manager. "I've been doing the job since Larry left, and now it's permanent," **Burtch** said. "There's really no change."

Burtch, who lives in Jackson, is married and has four children. **Burtch** was a finalist for city manager when Shaffer was hired by a previous City Council. Since then, Mayor Martin Griffin has replaced Karen Dunigan and three other new council members were elected. The Jackson City Council voted 4-2 Tuesday night to make **Burtch** city manager. Consideration of an employment contract with **Burtch** to be city manager was added to the agenda for Tuesday night's meeting shortly after the meeting began.

Burtch said he submitted a proposed city manager contract to City Council members last week that included the same language that was approved Tuesday. **Burtch** will be paid at an annual rate of \$117,300 through July 1 and will receive a 6.1 percent raise to \$124,500 on that date. Shaffer was paid a \$115,000 salary before that included five months of pay.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Wilx.com
December 20, 2011

Demolishing Dilapidated Homes in Jackson

Author: Sherene Tagharobi

In place of a long-time neighborhood eyesore is soon to be a sight for sore eyes. "We can't keep renovating houses that we're spending five times the amount we can get for them and using federal money," said Jackson Deputy City Manager **Patrick Burtch**. "It's an incredible waste of taxpayer money." So instead of building these old houses up, the city of Jackson's running them into the ground. "What we're trying to do is stabilize values, reduce the amount of supply so values in homes rise," **Burtch** said.

There are up to 800 structures throughout the city that are vacant, boarded up, and essentially worthless. "We have houses that are selling for two to five thousand dollars, like this house right here," **Burtch** said, talking about a home being knocked down Tuesday morning. "It has a negative value because the cost of tearing it down outweighs its value." But its being there tears at the values of adjacent homes . "I just refinanced and I had a hard time getting a \$30,000 loan on the house. Yeah, it's really depreciated," said Mary Marshall, who lives next door to the property being demolished.

That's why neighbors are glad to see it go. "I hope it'll clean it up and quit having people hanging around that shouldn't be hanging around," Marshall said. "Homeless people stay in there." Mayor Marty Griffin hopes this will help turn Jackson's economy around. "We're actually going to bring soil in to plant grass, trees things like that so it will add to the neighborhood," said Griffin. The city is trying to get HUD approval to tear down homes without replacing them one for one. This program is paid for by federal community block grants.

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Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson Citizen Patriot (MI)
December 4, 2011

**City manager ,Larry Shaffer and Patrick Burtch Officials work together to energize city
City of Jackson**

Author: kroberts@citpat.com

Larry Shaffer and Community Development Director **Patrick Burtch** both interviewed for Jackson city manager. Shaffer got the job, **Burtch** did not. But for the past six months they have worked side by side, Shaffer as city manager and **Burtch** picking up the title of deputy city manager. Such a relationship could be awkward for some and toxic for others. But Shaffer and **Burtch** said they appreciate and respect each other and consider themselves teammates and friends. "It's yin and yang. It's Batman and Robin," said Shaffer, 63, who has 17 years of municipal management experience. "There is no rivalry."

Burtch, 48, said he and Shaffer work well together because he was manager of Dundee for 22 years before coming to Jackson. "I understand because I've been in that same position," **Burtch** said. "We're both city managers by trade." The City Council hired Shaffer after two unsuccessful city manager searches. Councilman Andrew Frounfelker said the city is fortunate to have two capable managers with complementary leadership styles. "Larry tries to be very diplomatic, and **Pat** is a little more aggressive. Larry smoothes things over, and **Pat** lays it out direct and to the point," Frounfelker said. "Essentially, they were competitors and now they are working together. . . . I think it's what we need."

Under Jackson's form of government, the city manager administers the city's operations, reports to the City Council and implements its policies. The city charter also requires the city manager to have a deputy to act as city manager in his absence and provide assistance as needed. Shaffer said in day to day practice that means he focuses on the big picture -- what is in the best interests of the city as a whole -- while **Burtch** focuses on the details. "I love **Pat's** energy. He pushes all of us forward," Shaffer said. "I'm constantly pulling back . . . more deliberate. It's kind of a push-pull issue."

Their approach can best be seen in the way they handled the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, a proposal to rebuild the community by demolishing vacant homes. In recent years, Mayor Karen Dunigan, a Realtor, and council members could not help but notice something was wrong with the housing market when the city would buy a vacant home for \$15,000, put more than \$100,000 into it -- as it did with one on Detroit Street -- and be lucky to get back a quarter of its investment. The Census Bureau reported that housing vacancies in the city rose 110 percent from 1,031 in 2000 to 2,163 in 2010 and real estate records showed that home values have fallen 32 percent since 2007.

So Shaffer and **Burtch** went to work. Shaffer sought the input of department heads and **Burtch** got employees to buy in -- many volunteering to work evenings and weekends to inspect and assess about 500 vacant homes. When they presented the proposal to council in October, they

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

received a unanimous vote to pursue it, unlike some proposals that have been tabled because of unanswered questions or unresolved concerns. Shaffer and **Burtch** said the proposal would not have gone far without the support of the department heads and employees, who received commendations in their personnel files. "Without actively engaging and involving your team, you can't do anything," **Burtch** said. Building Inspector Brian Taylor said the employees were interested in Shaffer and **Burtch's** new approach to the housing problem -- demolition instead of rehabilitation -- and eager to be part of the effort. "It boosted morale," Taylor said. "It got people excited to come to work."

Councilman Carl Breeding, who is often the lone dissenting vote on the council, said it is too soon to judge Shaffer and **Burtch**. Breeding said the council was well aware of the housing problem before they were hired and their proposal amounts to "grandstanding." "I'm not sold," Breeding said. New Mayor Martin Griffin, who is also a Realtor, said it will take a while for the proposal to come to fruition because the city does not have the money to get title to the homes. But Griffin said he is confident in Shaffer and **Burtch's** leadership and their ability to move the city forward. "It's a good combination and good things will come of it," Griffin said. "It won't happen overnight and it won't happen in a year, but things will change."

Shaffer and **Burtch** are still getting community input on the proposal but expect to bring it back to the council for final approval soon. They said the Neighborhood Stabilization Program will be their primary focus in the short term but they will be looking for other ways to revitalize the community in the long term. "This is just the beginning," **Burtch** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Monroe News
May 2, 2011

Village of Dundee Manager leaves post; farewell slated

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Patrick Burtch** is listed below]

After 22 years, **Patrick Burtch** has resigned as the Village of Dundee manager. Friday was his last day on the job. He has accepted the position of assistant city manager in charge of community economic development in Jackson. “It’s just a change. I’ve been here a long time, and I feel I’m leaving Dundee in a strong financial position,” he said. “We had no problem balancing our budget this year, and we have great fund balances. That is because of our staff and progressive councils who have seen fit to make sure we kept lowering our taxes. Our tax rate is less than half of what it was 22 years ago, mainly by increasing industrial development.” Bob Hamilton will serve as interim manager until a permanent replacement is hired.

A community farewell reception for Mr. **Burtch** will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. May 14 at the Old Mill Museum, 242 Toledo St. Hosted by the Historical Preservation Society of Dundee, the reception will offer coffee, wine, desserts and hors d’oeuvres. To make reservations, call 529-8596 or e-mail museum@dundeeoldmill.com.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

wtol.com

December 23, 2009

Dundee continues economic boom with Fiat plant

Cabela's kicked off the business and job boom. Hotels, restaurants, and stores followed in the outdoor retailer's footsteps at the intersection of US-23 and Route 50.

Author: Dick Berry

DUNDEE, MI (WTOL) - The Village of Dundee in Monroe County continues a decade of economic growth with a \$179 million investment made official last week by Chrysler/Fiat. The Swan Creek Candle Store opened in 1997 when Dundee was a quiet southeast Michigan village. Cabela's kicked off the business and job boom. Hotels, restaurants, and stores followed in the outdoor retailer's footsteps at the intersection of US-23 and Route 50. Fiat will begin manufacturing a new engine in Dundee at the Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance plant, creating 155 new jobs for local hires. Village officials say the plant will boost the collection of personal and property taxes.

The new factory is a result of what could be called the "Cabela's Effect." "I think what it did is made developers and companies stand up and take notice of Dundee," said Village Administrator **Patrick Burtch**. Owner of the Swan Creek Candle Store, Ann Albright, expects the engine factory to have a similar effect. "You know, maybe one or two restaurants. More homes sold. Other businesses will lead. That just mushrooms into other people locating here." **Burtch** says several other companies are interested in expanding in the area sometime in the next two years.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Monroe Evening News

November 7, 2006

Dundee - Burtch receives extension

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Patrick Burtch** is listed below]

Dundee

Burtch receives extension

Village Manager **Patrick Burtch** will be in the post through 2010 under a new contract extension approved recently. The long-time administrator was granted a two-year extension on his contract with the village. His previous contract was set to expire in 2008. Mr. **Burtch** would receive a 4 percent raise each year of the contract, starting at a base salary of \$86,572 in 2007. He has been village manager since 1988.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Blade
October 20, 2005

Focus Hospitality Services Building a \$26 million Waterpark and 86 room Addition to Holiday Inn Express Located Next to Cabela's Dundee, Michigan Retail Store, Southwest of Detroit

Author: Larry P. Vellequette

Oct. 20, 2005 - DUNDEE - As the annual fall migration of hunters moving north begins, the village is adding another reason this week to draw visitors off the highway. And for this one, visitors don't need to have an ingrained appreciation of a 12-point rack. Focus Hospitality Services, a Valparaiso, Ind.-based hotel company with 22 properties in the Midwest, broke ground Tuesday on a hotel/indoor water park that is literally in the front yard of Michigan's biggest single tourist draw.

The company, which also operates three hotels in Adrian, will add an 86-room wing onto its existing Holiday Inn Express on Cabela's Drive, as well as a 53,000 square-foot indoor waterpark in the courtyard of its new "L" shaped hotel. Both additions are planned to open in mid-June at a cost of more than \$26 million, said Dean Morgan, president of Focus Hospitality Services, and represent a further investment in Dundee. "Right now, [Dundee] is one of our best-performing hotels. Cabela's has proven to be a big draw there," Mr. Morgan said.

Since it opened in August 2000, Cabela's in Dundee has remained Michigan's single biggest tourist attraction, drawing an estimated 6 million visitors each year to the formerly tiny village in the western part of Monroe County. While some of the outdoor giant's business is admittedly cyclical with the hunting seasons, it remains a steady draw throughout the year, local and state tourism officials said. Since it opened, dozens of restaurants, stores, and shops have sprung up in and around Dundee to take advantage of all those incoming tourists.

But if Dundee has had one thing missing from its development plan, it has been a steady drawing point for those family members without an appreciation of the Great Outdoors. "I think it will draw more people here and it will help Cabela's," said **Patrick Burtch**, Dundee's longtime village manager. Mr. **Burtch** said the hotel's \$26 million investment will help add to the village's ballooning tax base, as well as provide another reason for people to stay in the village longer and give them more to do. It's all part of the continuing economic boom that was caused almost entirely by in the village longer and give them more to do.

It's all part of the continuing economic boom that was caused almost entirely by the 225,000 square foot Cabela's store when it was opened in August, 2000. "The intersection's popping up a little bit, and the indoor water park is only going to help that," Mr. **Burtch** said, in a bit of classic understatement. "I think it's probably one more thing to do in Dundee. It provides an option for mom and the kids if dad wants to go shopping," Mr. Morgan said. "I think what you'll see is folks spending the night to stay at the waterpark where they might only have stayed in Dundee for the day."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Mr. Morgan said the new waterpark will offer discounted daypasses to "locals" within a 20 or 30-mile radius for those that don't need the hotel's services, and will work with local charity organization, and businesses on other discounts as well. Mr. **Burtch** said local taxpayers have already witnessed the impact of Dundee's continuing development in their annual tax bills, which have dropped from 22 mills annually 18 years ago to the 10 mills assessed last year. "The village is doing pretty well financially," the village manager said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Blade

August 2, 2003

Land Owners Saw ‘Writing on the Wall’

Author: Mary-Beth McLaughlin

Dundee was the ultimate winner of a \$400-million vehicle engine plant by DaimlerChrysler AG and partners in part because the 242 acres identified for the site were held by a few owners with whom it had to negotiate. Village administrator **Patrick Burtch** said the majority of the land - on Ann Arbor Road, less than a mile north of M-50 - was farmland owned by Harold Heath of Milan, Mich., who had sold an option on it to a mobile-home operator. Officials from the village, along with economic development officials from Monroe County and the state of Michigan, worked to buy that option and make the land available for Chrysler, **Mr. Burtch** said. “The Chrysler project was a godsend for us,” he said. “A mobile home park is not taxed the same ... and it places a lot of burden on the schools without a return.”

Once the land package was assembled, it was sold to an entity representing Chrysler and its partners. A real estate transfer in March had Dundee Holdings LLC selling to Century Properties X Ltd. a parcel at 5460 Ann Arbor for \$4.5 million, which **Mr. Burtch** said is the full parcel. Bob Health, son of Harold Health, said his family had grown corn and soybeans on the land but listed it with a local real estate company, Turnkey Real Estate Services, because “the writing was on the wall.” “Dundee was booming and we were next in line,” said Mr. Heath, whose family has been farming in the area since 1870. Andrew Milia, president of Franklin Property Corp. in Farmington Hills, Mich., said he was assembling land for his company's planned Arbor Chase development when he was approached by village officials to sell 65 acres that also were to be part of the engine plant site. He didn't know who the buyer was, he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Patrick Burtch
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Toledoblade.com
December 18, 2002

Dundee official subject of inquiry, police say

DUNDEE, Mich. - Dundee Village Manager **Patrick Burtch** is the focus of an investigation by the Michigan State Police for allegedly misusing village property and personnel, a detective from the agency's Monroe post said yesterday. Sgt. David Meyer did not release the specific allegations against Mr. **Burtch**, who has been village manager of Monroe County's fastest-growing community for more than 14 years. But he did say he has interviewed about a dozen potential witnesses, including village employees, and would talk with about 10 more in the next few weeks.

Mr. **Burtch**, 39, said he had not been contacted by Sergeant Meyer but has no doubt he will be cleared of any wrongdoing or impropriety. "If [Sergeant Meyer] would just ask me for the receipts, it would clear up a lot. I go out of my way to make sure whatever I do is appropriate and reimbursable," Mr. **Burtch** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Patrick Burtch

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Daily Telegram (Adrian, MI)

July 18, 2001

Burtch: Growth helps county

Author: David Panian

ADRIAN -- There's more to Dundee than just Cabela's. Just don't expect a "Mall of America II." Dundee Village Manager **Patrick Burtch** told Lenawee County community leaders at Tuesday's Lenawee Economic Club luncheon that, while the village is seeking out new businesses, rumors of more big tourist attractions in Dundee are untrue. Despite rumors to the contrary, **Burtch** said he has had no contact with the developers of the Mall of America in Minneapolis or any amusement park developers. He said he and the Dundee Village Council did visit the nation's largest shopping mall as tourists when they visited Cabela's Minnesota store, but that is the village's only contact with a megamall.

Acknowledging that the new businesses in Dundee have a regional economic impact, **Burtch** said the village council looks to Lenawee County, and especially Tecumseh, as a partner in the economic growth in the area. "We think what happens in Tecumseh has a great impact on Dundee," he said. "We look at Lenawee County as being somewhat similar to Dundee," **Burtch** said. "Adrian is a town that is truly a rural county seat, where in Monroe County you've got Bedford, (which) now (has) more population than the city of Monroe and Monroe Township put together. "We're trying to develop a town that doesn't create a situation where people hate what's going on," **Burtch** said.

Since 1983, when Tecumseh Products Co. built a research facility in Dundee, **Burtch** said the industrial portion of the village's tax base has grown to 70 percent, taking the burden for funding village services off the residential property owners. He said the village adds about one new manufacturing business a year, with three added this year alone. Those three brought about 450 jobs to the village, he said. The village's taxable property has grown from \$11 million to \$114 million in value and the village now employs 15 people, down from 16 in 1983, he said.

Burtch attributed that to the village council use of technology to make the government more efficient. The village also is looking to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost, he said. "The village levied almost 22 property tax mills just 14 years ago, and are now levying just over 15," **Burtch** said. While some of that was due to new development, **Burtch** said instead of using increased tax revenue to increase government, Dundee has lowered taxes. This helped to offset increases in other property taxes, such as the Dundee school district's levy for a new high school.

"Could we use that money? Certainly," **Burtch** said. "But the village isn't in any financial problems. We have really good growth rates. ... We don't feel we should spend the money simply because we have it."

Research Compiled by: Cara Slade and Tammie Browder
 Colin Baenziger & Associates