



CITY OF IONIA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
7:00 PM, February 2, 2021
ELECTRONIC MEETING VIA ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dan Balice called the regular meeting of City Council to order at 7:00 PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed Councilmembers John Milewski, Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Tim Lee, Richard Starr, Tom Millard, Janice Gustafson, Troy Waterman and Mayor Dan Balice present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Bye of Arcanna thanked Council and offered his assistance in expediting matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Kelley to approve the January 5, 2021 regular meeting minutes, as well as the January 16, 2021 and January 28, 2021 special meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Approve- Amendment to Fairgrounds Lease Agreement

Per Interim City Manager Gregg Guetschow, John Dinehart recently contacted the City on behalf of the Ionia Free Fair Association with a request to amend the lease agreement between the City and the Association to extend its duration. The City is the owner of parcels of land utilized by the Association for conducting the Free Fair. Over the years, various short-term leases have been entered into governing the use of this property by the Association. The most recent agreement was signed on December 4, 2019 and expires on December 31, 2025.

The Association has an opportunity to apply for a grant that would provide funding for improvements to the south road at the fairgrounds. A condition of the grant agreement, however, is that the Association must have control of the property for at least five years following the date of the grant award. The current lease agreement falls short of that term. Mr. Guetschow drafted, and

Mr. Dinehart approved, a simple amendment to the lease agreement that would extend its term to December 31, 2027.

It was moved by Councilmember Starr, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the amendment to the current lease agreement with the Ionia Free Fair Association to extend its duration from five years to seven years.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Approve- Change in Authorized Signatories

As stated by Interim City Manager Guestschow, the City of Ionia maintains a number of accounts in various banks. By action of the City Council, certain named individuals are designated as authorized signatories, granting them the right to execute various documents at the banks and to sign checks. Former City Manager Jason Eppler is one of the authorized signatories on bank accounts. Upon his retirement, it was decided that removing him as an authorized signatory and designating another individual in his place could wait until a new, permanent city manager had been selected. Since Mr. Eppler's retirement, Mayor Balice, who is also an authorized signatory, has been the name used for the second signature on checks issued. The employment of Precia Garland as City Manager allows for the change of signatories at the bank.

It was moved by Councilmember Starr, seconded by Councilmember Millard to approve the removal of Jason Eppler as an authorized signatory and add Precia Garland as an authorized signatory.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Approve- Title VI Policy Update

Dial-A-Ride Director Heidi Wenzel submitted to Interim City Manager Gregg Guetschow the following information in support of the recommendation to approve a revision to the City's Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan:

The Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan addresses requirements of State and Federal grants the City receives, particularly the requirements contained in Dial-A-Ride funding sources. The plan, after review by State and Federal agencies, was updated in 2012, 2014, 2017 and again in 2020 to address changes in State and Federal law. The 2020 plan names Jason Eppler, City Manager as the Title VI Coordinator. With the former City Manager's retirement, it is necessary to update the Title VI Coordinator and contact information.

Notable changes proposed are as follows:

- 1) Change Title VI Coordinator from Jason Eppler, City Manager to City Manager.
- 2) Change Title VI Coordinator contact information from jeppler@ci.ionia.mi.us to ioniamanager@ci.ionia.mi.us.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the attached resolution expressing the City's intent to accept the terms of the Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan Revision #5 (Policy 5-009).

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Approve- Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Balice requested Council approve two appointments to fill vacancies on City boards and commissions that require confirmation by the City Council:

1. Valerie Tuttle, Housing Commission, for a term that expires December 31, 2024; and
2. Sue Ludwick, Local Officers Compensation Commission, for a term that expires September 30, 2025.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Milewski to confirm Mayor Balice's appointment of Valerie Tuttle to the Ionia Housing Commission for a term that expires December 31, 2024 and Sue Ludwick to the Local Officers Compensation Commission for a term that expires September 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Approve- Termination of Agreement with Gregg Guidance, LLC

The open-ended agreement between the City and Gregg Guidance, LLC will be terminated by notice given by the City Council. As City Council has now approved an employment agreement with Precia Garland to serve as city manager, and the date when she will assume these duties is March 1, 2021, it is prudent for Council to delegate to Mayor Balice its authority to give notice of the termination of Mr. Guetschow's agreement with the City. In this way, the City Council can provide for an orderly transition in executive leadership.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Waterman to notify Gregg Guidance, LLC that its contract with the City of Ionia dated December 1, 2020 shall terminate at 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2021, except pursuant to the re-engagement provisions of paragraph 12 of the agreement.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr and
Mayor Balice
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Waterman: Thanked Gregg Guetschow for flawlessly carrying out the duties of interim city manager.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:25 PM.

By Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Ally H. Cook, Clerk