



**CITY OF IONIA**  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 5, 2016  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Daniel Balice called the regular meeting of the City Council to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call revealed Councilmembers John Milewski, Jeff Winters, Kim Patrick, Tom Millard, Paul Lentz, Janice Gustafson and Mayor Daniel Balice present. Councilmembers Ted Paton and Gordon Kelley were excused.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Janae Cooper addressed Council as a candidate for Ionia County Clerk. Matthew Vander Werff also addressed Council as a candidate for the 86<sup>th</sup> State House of Representatives.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Millard to approve the June 7, 2016 regular meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, Lentz and Balice.  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  MOTION CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Accept – Bid for Sale of 763 Harrison Street**

The City Manager reported that at the May 3, 2016 meeting, Council authorized the solicitation of sealed bids for the sale of the City owned residence at 763 Harrison Street, Ionia Township. In addition to the residence, there are several outbuildings on the property, which totals 1.95 acres. The property, which originally totaled about 20 acres, was purchased by the City in 2010 for the vacant acreage in order to address issues associated with the former landfill located on Cleveland Street. The City Manager stated now that the USEPA has approved the restrictive covenant on the vacant acreage which will be kept by the City, the residence may be sold. Bid specifications for the sale of the property were recently prepared and distributed to those expressing an interest in the property. Bids were opened on Monday, June 20, 2016 with the following bids received:

Teresa Ruehs, Orleans                   \$2,010.00

Kara Feehan, Ionia

\$28,000.00

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Milewski to accept the bid dated June 16, 2016 for \$28,000.00 from Kara Feehan for the purchase of 763 Harrison Street and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary sale documents.

Rick Feehan addressed Council requesting that the fee for connecting the residence at 763 Harrison Street to the municipal sanitary sewer be waived. The City Manager stated that the connection charge is currently \$1,500.00.

After discussion it was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Millard to amend the original motion accepting the sale price of \$26,500 from Kara Feehan for the purchase of 763 Harrison Street and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary sale documents.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Winters, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, and Balice.  
Nays: Milewski and Lentz  
MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Balice called for a vote on the original, amended motion which now calls for the sale of 763 Harrison Street to Kara Feehan for \$26,500 and authorizes the City Manager to sign the necessary sale documents.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, and Balice.  
Nays: Lentz  
MOTION CARRIED

**Approve – Collective Bargaining Agreement – POAM – Public Safety**

The City Manager reported that the current collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) covering the City's union public safety officers expired on June 30, 2016. He further stated that after several negotiating sessions a tentative agreement has been drafted. He requested Council approval.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Millard to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Police Officers Association of Michigan covering the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021 and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, Lentz, Milewski, Winters and Balice.  
Nays: None  
MOTION CARRIED

**Approve – Request to Purchase MERS Service Credit – Wenzel**

The City Manager reported that Heidi Wenzel has expressed interest in purchasing 4 years of MERS pension service credit at her expense. MERS has calculated the cost of purchasing this service at \$38,117.00, which represents the long-term actuarial cost of the benefits.

The City Manager stated that in order for Heidi to proceed with the purchasing of the service credits, Council approval is required.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to approve the request from Heidi Wenzel for permission to purchase 4 years of MERS pension service credit for \$38,117.00 at her expense.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes: Millard, Gustafson, Lentz, Milewski, Winters, Patrick and Balice.  
                              Nays: None  
                              MOTION CARRIED

**Approve- Ionia Free Fair Fireworks Permit**

The City Manager reported that thru the efforts of Ms. Amie Stout, the Ionia Free Fair will be sponsoring a fireworks display on July 22, 2016. This display will be provided by Trident Pyrotechnic Displays, located in Greenville Michigan. The City Manager stated that the applicant has provided an insurance certificate which includes both the City of Ionia and the Ionia Free Fair as additional named insured.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to approve the Permit for Fireworks Display to Trident Pyrotechnic Displays, Inc., Greenville, Michigan for the launching of fireworks on July 22, 2016 in the in vacant parking lot of the Ionia Free Fair Grounds.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes: Millard, Gustafson, Lentz, Milewski, Winters and Balice.  
                              Nays: Patrick  
                              MOTION CARRIED

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Balice: Stated the new Ionia Sparrow is doing very well. Also stated that the Wizard of Oz Festival and the July 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Works were a very positive experience for the City of Ionia.

Lentz: Stated that the Ionia Rotary Club has nearly completed all the work on the Water Feature located at the new Ionia Sparrow Hospital.

Gustafson: Reminded everyone of the upcoming Relay for Life.

Millard: Reminded everyone of the upcoming Ionia Free Fair and its parade.

Milewski: Encouraged all to support the upcoming milliage request for the Ionia Library.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Millard to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn E. Lafler, Clerk