



CITY OF IONIA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 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 called revealed Councilmember Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Kim Patrick, Tom Millard, Paul Lentz, Janice Gustafson and Mayor Daniel Balice present. Councilmember John Milewski and Ted Paton were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Millard to approve the October 4, 2016 regular meeting minutes.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approve – FY16-16 City Audit

The City Manager introduced Peter Haefner, CPA from Vredevelde Haefner LLC, Grand Rapids, the City's auditors, who recently completed the FY15-16 City audit. Mr. Haefner shared with Council that his firm had issued a "clean" opinion regarding the City's financial reports. The City Manager congratulated staff on the clean opinion, which reflects positively on the internal control practices that are in place for handling the City's finances

It was moved by Councilmember Gustafson, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to receive a place on file the FY15-16 City Audit and direct the City Treasurer to transmit copies of the audit to the to the appropriate State agencies and financial institutions.

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

(Councilmember Ted Paton entered the meeting at 7:30 pm.)

Approve – 2017 City Council Meeting Schedule

The City Manager provided Council with a proposed 2017 City Council meeting schedule. The schedule calls for Council to continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at City Hall, but for April and July due to conflicts (Spring Break/July 4th).

January 3, 2017	July 11, 2017**
February 7, 2017	August 1, 2017
March 7, 2017	September 5, 2017
April 11, 2017*	October 3, 2017
May 2, 2017	November 7, 2017
June 6, 2017	December 5, 2017

*Meeting second Tuesday of the month due to Spring Break
**Meeting second Tuesday of the month due to Independence Day Holiday

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the City Council Meeting Schedule for 2017.

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

Approve – Opt-Out of PA152 for Union Dial-A-Ride Employees

The City Manager reported that the City’s union Dial-A-Ride (DAR) employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement that expires July 1, 2019. The agreement includes provisions regarding hospitalization insurance coverage and the level of the employee’s contribution for the term of the agreement. The City Manager stated that currently there are three employees at DAR who are eligible for employer paid health insurance coverage. All three employees subscribe to the coverage. The United States Department of Labor (DOL) has determined that the provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 (employer/employee health insurance cost sharing legislation) violate the collective bargaining rights of public sector transit employees. As a result, federal grants for transit operations will not be approved unless the local legislative bodies of affected municipalities “opt out” of the provisions of Public Act 152 for union DAR employees. Public Act 152 requires the local legislative body to take action annually to opt out. The City Council has previously approved the opt-out for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. The City Manager proposed that to protect DAR federal funding, Council take action similar to the action taken during November 2012 thru 2016.

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Paton to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act or Public Act 152 of 2011 mandated certain cost sharing obligations for public employee health insurance premiums and costs; and,

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Act permits the “governing body” of a “local unit of government” to exempt itself from the requirements of this act for the next succeeding year by two-thirds vote of the governing body; and,

WHEREAS, the City has learned that federal transit grant dollars that the City utilizes to operate Dial-A-Ride are in jeopardy if the City does not opt out of the requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011 for union Dial-A-Ride employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Ionia hereby exercises its rights pursuant to Section 8 of Public Act 152 of 2011, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by exempting its union Dial-A-Ride employees from the provisions of the Act for calendar year 2017.

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

Approve – Mayor’s Appointment to Various Boards and Commissions

The City Manager reported that the Mayor has requested that Council confirm the following reappointments to the referenced board or commission:

Board of Review

Reappoint David Cook, 613 Rich Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Downtown Development Authority

Reappoint David Cook and Brett Patterson for terms to expire December 31, 2020.

Housing Board of Appeals

Reappoint Warren Wentworth, 619 West Washington Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Income Tax Board of Review

Reappoint Mark Jennings, 152 East Washington Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Ionia Regional Utilities Authority

Reappoint John Milewski as delegate, Ted Paton as alternate, for terms to expire December 31, 2020.

Local Officers Compensation Commission

Reappoint Trevor Tooker, 940 Southview Drive, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Planning Commission

Reappoint David Cook, 613 Rich Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

It was moved by Councilmember Paton, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to confirm the Mayor's appointments to various boards and commissions.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Balice: Provided overview on Senator Debbie Stabenow's visit to the City and her positive comments regarding the Downtown area.

Paton: Stated the City is on a "positive" track.

Kelley: Stated he was pleased with the City's audit report.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Winters to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

By Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn E. Lafler, Clerk