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

ROLL CALL
Roll called revealed Councilmembers John Milewski, Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Tom Millard, Paul Lentz, Janice Gustafson and Mayor Daniel Balice present. Councilmember Kim Patrick was excused. Councilmember Ted Paton was absent. (Councilmember Ted Paton entered the meeting at 7:08 pm.)

PUBLIC HEARING
Mayor Balice opened the Public Hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance No. 531 which, if approved, repeals Chapter 256 of the City Code regarding the Department of Emergency Management. No comments were received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Thomas Albert, State Representative from the 86th District, addressed Council in regards to ongoing legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the March 7, 2017 regular meeting minutes.

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

OLD BUSINESS
Approve – Second Reading and Adoption – Ordinance No. 531 – Repealing of Chapter 256 – Department of Emergency Management
The City Manager reported that Council first reviewed this proposed ordinance at the March meeting at which the Public Hearing was scheduled for earlier in this meeting. Ordinance No. 531 repeals Chapter 256 of the City Code which establishes the Department of Emergency Management. The City Manager stated that pursuant to Public Act 390 of 1976, as amended, the City will then receive emergency management services/be covered by the
county’s emergency management plan. If approved, the ordinance will be effective upon publication in the Saturday, April 15, 2017 edition of the Sentinel-Standard Weekender.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Millard to remove from the table the matter of Ordinance No. 531 and permit the record of the April 11, 2017 meeting to reflect the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 531, an ordinance to repeal Chapter 256 of the City Code creating the Department of Emergency Management, with said ordinance effective upon publication in the Saturday, April 15, 2017 edition of the Sentinel-Standard Weekender.

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

Accept – Planning Commission Recommendation – Library Street Parking Configuration
The City Manager reported that Council first reviewed the matter of the street direction/parking configuration for Library Street at its January meeting. Since Council’s January meeting, both the Library Board and Planning Commission have continued to discuss the parking arrangement for Library Street. The Library Board, at its February meeting, took action to recommend to Council that Library Street be made one-way and that angled parking be constructed along the east side of the street. The Board also requested that based on the recommendation of the arborist the City hired to assess the condition of the two trees located in close proximity to Library Street (a Gingko and an Apple), that the trees be removed. The City Manager also stated that at its March meeting, the Planning Commission took similar action to recommend to Council that Library Street be made one-way with angled parking along the east side of the street. The City Manager provided Council with two drawings illustrating the traffic direction/parking configuration options for Library Street, as discussed by both the Library Board and Planning Commission.

It was moved by Councilmember, seconded by Councilmember to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and confirm Option 1A – Library Street Parking Concept as prepared by Prein & Newhof and dated November 17, 2016 as the approved configuration for both the street direction and parking arrangement for Library Street with said configuration to be constructed as part of the 2017/2018 Library Street project.

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

NEW BUSINESS
Approve – 2016 Granger Annual Report
The City Manager reported that the Domestic Refuse and Recycling Collection Agreement between the City and Granger require that a representative of Granger “annually provide the City with a report of its performance under this Agreement” at a City Council meeting. The City Manager introduced Sean McHugh, Director of Sales and Marketing for Granger Waste
Services, who presented information to Council regarding Granger’s collection activities in the City during 2016. Mayor Balice thanked Sean McHugh for the update.

**Approve – 2016 Housing Commission Annual Report**
The City Manager reported that Katie Bennett, Executive Director of the City’s Housing Commission, will be attending the meeting to present the Housing Commission’s 2016 Annual Report. Ms. Bennett will be distributing any written materials for Council at the meeting. The Annual Report is required by Section 278.06 of the City Code.

It was moved by Councilmember Paton, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to receive and place on file the 2016 Annual Report of the Housing Commission.

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

**Approve - 2016 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report**
The City Manager introduced a representative of the Downtown Development Authority who presented the DDA’s 2016 Annual Report. The City Manager stated that the Annual Report is required by the DDA’s Rules of Procedure.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to receive and place on file the 2016 Annual Report of the Downtown Development Authority

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

**Approve – 2017 Independence Holiday Fireworks Permit**
The City Manager reported that the DDA will be sponsoring the annual Independence Holiday fireworks display on Monday, July 3, 2017. The DDA has again retained the services of Melrose Pyrotechnics, Kingsbury, Indiana, to provide and launch the display. As in the past the fireworks will be launched from the in-field area at the fairgrounds. This firm has handled the annual display for many years and we have not had any problems with the practices utilized by the firm in launching the fireworks or the quality of the display. Melrose has provided us with the necessary insurance endorsements with the City, DDA and Free Fair Association all named as additional insured. The City Manager stated that Public Act 358 of 1968, as amended, requires a local governmental unit to grant a permit so that the fireworks may be launched.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the Permit for Fireworks Display to Melrose Pyrotechnics, Kingsbury, Indiana for the launching of fireworks on Monday, July 3, 2017 in the in-field of the Ionia Free Fair Grounds.
Approve – Redevelopment Ready Communities Resolution
The City Manager reported that Linda Curtis has been coordinating the City’s efforts in working towards achieving “Redevelopment Ready” status for the City through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program is designed to assist municipalities in establishing a solid foundation for redevelopment. The program is intended to promote effective redevelopment strategies by integrating transparency, predictability and efficiency into development practices. Initially, the program was intended to be voluntary but the MEDC has been moving towards requiring communities to be RRC certified in order to obtain MEDC grant funding (for example, funding through the Rental Rehabilitation program). MEDC requires the governing body of a municipality to adopt a resolution expressing the municipality’s intent to pursue certification and implement best practices.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Winters to adopt the following prepared Resolution regarding the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities program:

WHEREAS, the MEDC has developed a program for certifying redevelopment ready communities; and,

WHEREAS, during 2016, the City of Ionia applied for Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) status from the MEDC; and,

WHEREAS, City staff has continued to take Redevelopment Ready Community training and worked towards incorporating RRC’s six best practices into planning; and,

WHEREAS, participation in this certification program will permit the City to develop partnerships and collaborations that will maximize use of resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Ready Communities program is now a component for grant applications through the MDEC and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ionia City Council approves the pursuit of Redevelopment Ready Certification through the MEDC.
Approve – Scheduling of Special Meeting to Review Proposed Budget

The City Manager reported that as in the past, he would like Council to schedule a special meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposed FY17-18 City budget. For the past several years Council has met for this purpose prior to the regular May meeting. The City Manager proposed that Council again take this approach and meet at 5:30 PM, Tuesday, May 2, 2017 with the regular meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Paton to schedule a Special City Council Meeting for 5:30 PM, Tuesday, May 2, 2017 for the purpose of reviewing the proposed FY17-18 budget.

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

Accept – Bid for Crack Seal/Chip Seal – Cleveland Street

The City Manager reported that it has been several years since the City hired a contractor to crack fill and chip seal Cleveland Street. Cleveland Street is one of the more highly traveled major streets in the City’s street system and is frequently traveled by loaded semis traveling to and from the Ventra plant on Beardsley Street. Although the City’s street system improvement plan calls for reconstructing Cleveland Street during FY20-21, it is necessary to perform maintenance on the street now in order to extend its useful life. Cleveland Street’s current condition and configuration (no curb) makes it a good candidate for another round of crack fill and chip seal. The Road Commission has a contractor that will be performing this type of work in the County later this year and we would like to hire this firm, through the Commission, to perform maintenance work on Cleveland Street. The Road Commission estimates the cost of this work to be $28,100.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Winters to accept the proposal submitted by the Ionia County Road Commission to perform crack fill and chip seal work on Cleveland Street for $28,100.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Lentz: Thanked Public Safety Director Troy Thomas for annual report. Also thanked Ionia Free Fair staff for the removal of vehicles from the fairgrounds because of recent flooding.

Millard: Echoed Councilmember Lentz’s comments in regards to Ionia Public Safety’s annual report.

Kelley: Also commended Public Safety for annual report. Also, suggested that flowers be planted on the berms next to the bridge area over M-66.
Milewski: Also commended Public Safety for the annual report. Reminded Council of the upcoming Sparrow Ionia Charity Ball to be held on April 22, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Millard to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm.

By Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn E. Lafler, Clerk