



**CITY OF IONIA**  
**CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**  
**CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER**

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

Staff present included City Manager Jason Eppler, Chris Hyzer and Heidi Wenzel.

Public present included Ashley McCreery and Brendon Hickok.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ashley McCreery inquired about the City's familiarity with recent legislative changes regarding the economic development components of medical marihuana and whether the City would be "opting in" pursuant to the legislation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Paton to approve the August 1, 2017 regular meeting minutes.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve – Fireworks Display Permit – Community Awareness Week**

The City Manager reported that the City has received a request from the Community Awareness Week Committee for a fireworks display permit for Friday, September 15, 2017. Fireworks are proposed to be launched following the varsity football game on property owned by the Ionia Public School System, located east of the football stadium.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Lentz to approve the request from the Community Awareness Week Committee for a fireworks display permit for Friday, September 15, 2017 at the Ionia Public School System property located on Tuttle Road and to authorize the City Manager to sign the permit application on behalf of the City.

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

**Approve – Easement Agreements – Restore Church**

The City Manager reported that as part of the approval process for the PUD for the Restore Church project, the planners/engineers identified a number of easements needed between the City and Church to facilitate the project. In some cases the City is the beneficiary and in other cases the Church is the beneficiary. The City Manager stated now that the Church project is substantially complete, the City Attorney has drafted easements for approval by Council and the Church. Copies of the easements were provided for Council review and were individually discussed. Council also held a lengthy discussion regarding the status of the Church project and outstanding building related issues that the Church needs to address.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to approve the seven (7) agreements between the City and Restore Church for easements within the block commonly described as West Washington Street on the north, Steele Street on the east, West Main Street on the south and Dexter Street on the west and to authorize the City Manager to sign the easement agreements on behalf of the City.

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

**Approve – Introduction and First Reading – Ordinance No. 536 Taxicabs (Repeal)**

The City Manager reported that Public Act 345 of 2016 was signed into law and went into effect on March 21, 2017. The new law prohibits a local unit of government from imposing a tax or fee upon, or requiring a license for a taxicab company or a Transportation Network Company such as Uber or Lyft. The City has had an ordinance for many years requiring a taxicab company operating locally to obtain a license from the City and pay an associated application fee. Based on the passage of PA345 of 2016, the City's ordinance is now inconsistent with State statute and must be repealed. The City Manager provided Council with Ordinance No. 536 which repeals Chapter 866 entitled Taxicabs.

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Kelley to permit the record of the September 5, 2017 regular Council Meeting to reflect the introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 536 which, if approved, repeals Chapter 866 of the City Code regarding Taxicabs and to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the proposed ordinance for 7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 3, 2017 in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

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

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Lentz: Stated that he would not be able to attend the October meeting due to a schedule conflict.

Millard: Reminded everyone that Purple Week is next week.

Patrick: Congratulated City Clerk Lafler and his wife Sharon on their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary.

Paton: Stated that a “Cruise In” will be held in the latter part of September to benefit Purple Week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Paton, seconded by Councilmember Milewski to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jason Eppler, Deputy Clerk