

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, 2024. 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 reported that, currently, the City has three employees at DAR that are eligible for employer paid health insurance coverage. Currently, 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.

It is proposed that to protect DAR federal funding, Council take action similar to the action taken during each November since 2011. To be effective, the vote to opt out requires support from two-thirds of Council with the exemption effective for calendar year 2021 which coincides with the City’s health insurance plan year.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Millard 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 2021.

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

Approve – Purchase of Compact Track Loader – Public Works Department

The City Manager stated that the FY20-21 Central Garage Fund budget contains funds to replace an existing 2003 New Holland track loader utilized by the Public Works Department. This piece of equipment is utilized by the Department to complete a number of different tasks ranging from job site clean-up (after a water main break for example), to loading asphalt for street patching to snow removal.

In addition to the new track loader, two loader attachments are proposed to be purchased. The first is a stump grinder. The cost of this attachment is \$9,000. The second is a rotary cutter (brush hog type unit) with a 14 foot extension arm. The cost of this attachment is \$20,000.

John Deere has the State purchasing contract (MiDeal) for track loaders which provides a thirty-three percent discount on the purchase price. The value of the trade-in is \$13,200. Considering the discount, the trade-in and the cost of the new equipment (with extended warranty) the total purchase price is \$87,383.96.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Lee to accept the proposal from John Deere Governmental Services for the purchase of a John Deere Compact Track Loader (Model331G) and associated attachments through the MiDeal program at \$87,383.96 and authorize the trade-in of the 2003 New Holland Track Loader.

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

Approve – Amendment to Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Agreement between the City and Berlin Township

The City Manager reported that Since July 1, 2006 the City has maintained Berlin’s Township sanitary sewer collection system in accordance with the Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Agreement between the City and Township, expiring December 31, 2020. In the past this agreement has been renewed in two-year increments. It is proposed that the City continue its arrangement with the Township by extending the existing agreement until December 31, 2024.

Under the provisions of the agreement the City is responsible for reviewing extensions to the Township’s system, inspecting these extensions as well as service connections and completing on-going sanitary sewer system maintenance and repair. The Township continues to handle setting the rates and billing the sewer customers in their Township and collecting connection fees.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the amendment to the Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Agreement between the City and Berlin Township and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

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

Approve – MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendums

The City Manager reported that MERS (Municipal Employees’ Retirement System) recently reviewed their defined benefit plan offerings and updated several procedures used to determine “compensation” when calculating a member’s annual and final compensation which are used to determine their total pension benefit. Some of the changes are mandatory while others are optional with the final decision determined by the local unit. The individual adoption agreements pertaining to the five now closed MERS defined benefit divisions require amendment (Clerical/DPW-DPU/Public Safety (2)/Department Heads).

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Waterman to approve the MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendums for Divisions 34030101 (General Clerical); 34030102 (Public Safety hired after 7/1/2010); 34030110 (Public Works/Utilities); 34030112 (Department Heads); and, 34030120 (Public Safety hired before 7/1/2010) and authorize the City Manager to sign the Addendums on behalf of the City.

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

Approve – MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreement Addendums

The City Manager stated that, similar to New Business #5, MERS also recently reviewed their hybrid plan offerings and updated several procedures used to determine compensation. The individual adoption agreements pertaining to four open MERS hybrid divisions require amendment (Clerical/DPW-DPU/Public Safety/Department Heads).

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreement Addendums for Divisions 340301HA (General Clerical); 340301HB (Public Works/Utilities); 340301HC (Public Safety); 340301HD (Department Heads) and authorize the City Manager to sign the Addendums on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard and Mayor Balice

Waterman, Gustafson, Millard, Starr, Lee, Winters, Kelley, Winters, Milewski: Thanked Jason Eppler for his service to the City and echoed Mayor Balice's sentiments on the tremendous job that Jason has done the past 15 years.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Gustafson, seconded by Councilmember Starr to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:02 PM

By Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Ally H. Cook, Clerk