



CITY OF IONIA

CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 7:00 PM, TUESDAY – November 5, 2019 CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed Councilmembers John Milewski, Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Tim Lee, Richard Starr, Tom Millard, Janice Gustafson, Troy Waterman and Mayor Balice present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Dan Balice presented to Kim Patrick a proclamation recognizing his years of service to the community and proclaimed November 5, 2019 as Kim Patrick Day in the City of Ionia.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the October 1, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the October 25, 2019 special meeting minutes.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approve – FY18-19 City Audit

Representatives of the City's auditors, Vredevelde Haefner LLC, Grand Rapids, were at the meeting to present to Council the FY18-19 City audit.

The City Manager stated that again this year the City received a “clean opinion” from the auditor. This opinion reflects positively on the internal control practices that are in place for handling the City’s finances.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Lee to receive and place on file the FY18-19 City Audit and direct the City Treasurer to transmit copies of the audit to the appropriate State agencies and financial institutions.

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

Approve – Ionia Community Library New Facility Location Request

The City Manager received a request from the Ionia Community Library for the use of the City’s property at the corner of Adams and Steele Street for a new library should the Library be successful in gaining voter approval of a millage for that purpose at the August 2020 election.

The Library made a similar request (which was approved by Council) during July 2018 in regards to the November 2018 election. The Library was not successful in securing voter approval for the millage.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Winters to acknowledge action taken by the Ionia Community Library (ICL) Board of Trustees regarding the use of City owned property at the south east corner of Adams and Steele Streets (Property Tax ID #34-201-040-000-076-00) and authorize the timely transfer of ownership of the property to the ICL in the event that ICL’s facilities millage request scheduled for the August 2020 election is approved by the voters.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley and Mayor 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, 2024. The agreement includes provisions regarding hospitalization insurance coverage and the level of the employee’s contribution for the term of the agreement. 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 was moved by Councilmember Gustafson, seconded by Councilmember Lee 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 2020.

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

Approve – Fairgrounds Lease Agreement Extension – Free Fair Association

The City Manager reported that the current five-year lease agreement between the City and the Free Fair Association for City owned property which makes up the fairgrounds expires December 31, 2019. The Free Fair Board recently voted to enter into a new five-year lease agreement with the City subject to the same terms and conditions as the current lease.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Starr to grant the request received from the Free Fair Board and approve the “Amendment to Agreement between City of Ionia and Ionia Free Fair Association, Inc.” extending the current lease agreement until January 1, 2025 for

City owned property which comprises the fairgrounds and authorize the City Manager to sign the Amendment on behalf of the City.

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

Receive – Project Rising Tide – Economic Development Strategy Report

The City’s Rising Tide Fellow, Robin Suomi, provided a brief overview of the Economic Development Strategy report as part of Project Rising Tide.

Council received report, no action taken.

Receive – Project Rising Tide – Housing Marketing Analysis Report

The City’s Rising Tide Fellow, Robin Suomi, provided a brief overview of the Housing Marketing Analysis Report as part of Project Rising Tide.

Council received report, no action taken.

Receive – Project Rising Tide – Generation Z Report

The City’s Rising Tide Fellow, Robin Suomi, provided a brief overview of the Generation Z Report as part of Project Rising Tide.

Council received report, no action taken.

Confirm – Mayor’s Appointment to Various Boards and Commissions

The Mayor requested Council’s confirmation of the following individuals:

- Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors:
- Reappointment of Margot Cook for a term ending December 31, 2023
- Appointment of Chris Sorrell for a term ending December 31, 2023

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Waterman to confirm the Mayor’s appointments to the Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Balice: Commented that the Chili Dawg Challenge was another success. Sparrow continues to grow and do well.

Gustafson: Remarked that Independent Bank used 1,100 hot dogs at the Autumn Harvest.

Millard: Mentioned that he's glad to have Richard Starr on Council.

Starr: Thanked everyone for the support.

Lee: Appreciated new councilmember orientation.

Kelley: Acknowledged work of Project Rising Tide and Robin Suomi's efforts.

Milewski: Thanked Kim Patrick for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Starr, seconded by Councilmember Lee to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Ally H. Cook, Clerk