



CITY OF IONIA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2018
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, Tom Millard, Troy Waterman, Janice Gustafson and Mayor Balice present. Councilmember Kim Patrick was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave O'Mara addressed Council on the upcoming Ionia Public Schools Sinking Fund millage and encouraged voters to support the Strong Schools, Strong Ionia committee on May 8th, 2018

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Paton to approve the March 6, 2018 regular meeting minutes.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approve – 2017 Housing Commission Annual Report

Katie Bennett, Executive Director of the City's Housing Commission, presented the Housing Commission's 2017 Annual Report. The City Manager stated that the Annual Report is required by Section 278.06 of the City Code.

It was moved by Councilmember Paton, seconded by Councilmember Millard to receive and place on file the 2017 Annual Report of the Housing Commission.

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

Approve - 2017 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report

A representative of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) presented to Council the DDA's 2017 Annual Report. The Annual Report is required by the DDA's Rules of Procedure.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to receive and place on file the 2017 Annual Report of the Downtown Development Authority

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

Receive Update – 2017 Ionia Community Library Annual Report

Representatives of the Ionia Community Library presented to Council its 2017 annual report of activities.

It was moved by Councilmember Paton, seconded by Councilmember Millard to receive update.

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

Approve – Request to Department of Treasury – Pension Funding Waiver

The City Manager stated that the Public Act 202 of 2017, entitled the “Protecting Local Government and Benefits Act” was signed into law late last year by Governor Snyder and is intended to preserve public employee pension and healthcare benefits through minimum funding levels and State oversight. The passage of the law was based on the legislature's concern over the number of local units of government with either pension programs and/or retiree healthcare programs that are underfunded.

The City provides its pension benefits through MERS (Michigan Municipal Employees Retirement System). The City does not provide retiree healthcare. As required by the Act, earlier this year the City submitted its Public Act 202 Pension Report to the State which revealed that the City does not meet the minimum 60% funding level and spends more than 10% of its governmental fund revenues on pension benefits. In the City's case, the current pension program funding level is 45.9% funded with 12.8% of governmental fund revenues spent on pension benefits.

Based on the funding level/amount annually spent, the City's pension program received an “underfunded status” per the State/new act and, therefore, to avoid State oversight of the pension program, a “waiver” needs to be requested/received from the State Department of Treasury. The application must be submitted by April 16, 2018 and includes actions previously taken by the City (namely, closing the defined benefit program to new hires/increased annual pension program contributions) to address pension program funding levels. As outlined in the application, the City has taken significant steps, well before required by the legislature, to address pension program

funding levels. Failure to apply for a waiver or if a waiver is not granted by the State Treasurer will result in the new “municipal stability board” assisting the local unit in developing a corrective action plan for approval.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Milewski to approve the application for a request for a waiver from the Department of Treasury regarding the underfunded status of the City’s MERS pension program and authorize the City Manager to submit the request on behalf of the City.

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

Approve – Amendment #40 – Grand Valley Metro Council – Village of Caledonia

The City Manager reported that the City is a member of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) and has been for a couple of decades. The GVMC recently received a request from the Village of Caledonia to be added as a member. The addition of a municipality as a member of GVMC requires approval from the current members via an amendment to the GVMC Articles of Incorporation. If approved by a majority of the members, Amendment #40 to the Articles of Incorporation will officially and legally add the Village as a member. The GVMC Board of Directors has recommended that the legislative bodies of the GVMC members approve the amendment.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to approve a prepared Resolution approving Amendment #40 to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Articles of Incorporation adding the Village of Caledonia as a member.

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



**CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 40 TO THE ARTICLES OF
INCORPORATION OF THE GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the members of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council ("Metro Council") have by majority vote approved Amendment No. 40 (Addition of the Village of Caledonia) in the Articles of Incorporation of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, the amendments have now been submitted for approval by the legislative bodies of the local governmental units that belong to Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ionia has considered Amendment No. 40 in the Articles of Incorporation of Metro Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Amendment No. 40 in the Articles of Incorporation of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is hereby APPROVED.

ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2018, by the City Council of the City of Ionia, by a vote of _____ members voting in favor thereof

Ally H. Cook, City Clerk
Dated: April 11, 2018

Approve – Scheduling of Special Meeting to Review Proposed Budget

As in the past, the City Manager requested that Council schedule a special meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposed FY18-19 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 1, 2018 with the regular meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.

It was moved by Councilmember Paton, seconded by Councilmember Winters to schedule a Special City Council Meeting for 5:30 PM, Tuesday, May 1, 2018 for the purpose of reviewing the proposed FY18-19 budget.

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

Approve – Bid for WWTP Sludge Pump and Valve Replacement Project

The City Manager reported that the FY17-18 and FY18-19 IRUA Fund budgets contain funds to replace certain sludge pumps and valves at the wastewater treatment plant. This project was identified as a priority project in the recently update treatment plant facilities assessment study. With the assistance of FTC&H, bid specifications for this project were recently prepared and made available to interested bidders. Bids were opened on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 with the following bids received:

Franklin Holwerda Company, Grand Rapids	\$244,500
Allied Mechanical Services, Grand Rapids	\$290,500
<i>Engineers Estimate</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>
L. D. Docsa Asscoiates, Kalamazoo	\$400,000

After review of the bids, FTC&H has recommended that the bid submitted by Franklin Holwerda be accepted. Franklin Holwerda has successfully completed a number of projects at the treatment plant over the years.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Winters to accept the bid submitted by Franklin Holwerda, Grand Rapids, for \$244,500 for completing the sludge pump and valve replacement project (final clarifier improvements) at the treatment plant and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary contract documents.

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

Approve – Bid for DPU Replacement of Light Duty Truck

The City Manager reported that the FY17-18 IRUA Fund budget contains funds to purchase one replacement 4x4 pick-up truck for the Department of Public Utilities. The new truck will replace a 2005 model. Signature Ford, Owosso, has the State of Michigan Mi-Deal bulk purchasing contract for three-quarter ton, 4x4 pick-up trucks with an 8' box. Based on the City's needs, the purchase price per the contract for the new truck is \$27,464.00. The truck being replaced died and was sold via the State's surplus equipment auction.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Milewski to authorize the City Manager to purchase one (1) 2018 Ford F-250 regular cab 4x4 pick-up truck with an 8' box from Signature Ford, Owosso, per the State of Michigan Mi-Deal bulk purchasing program for \$27,464.00.

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

Approve – 2018 Independence Holiday Fireworks Permit

The City Manager reported that the DDA will be sponsoring the annual Independence Holiday fireworks display on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 (with a Friday, July 6, 2018 rain date). The DDA 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. The City Manager stated that Melrose provided the City with the necessary insurance endorsements with the City, DDA and Free Fair Association all named as additional insured. 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 Gustafson to approve the Permit for Fireworks Display to Melrose Pyrotechnics, Kingsbury, Indiana for the launching of fireworks on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 in the in-field of the Ionia Free Fair Grounds.

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

Approve – Revisions to DAR Controlled Substances and Alcohol Misuse Testing Policy

The City Manager reported that at the May 2, 2017 meeting, Council approved an updated Dial-A-Ride Controlled Substances and Alcohol Misuse Testing Policy. The preparation of this updated policy was a requirement from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with professional, technical assistance provided by Current Consulting Group, LLC. The 2017 policy updated the previous policy which was approved by Council at its December 6, 2011 meeting.

A recent review by FTA and MDOT of the updated policies prepared by the local units in conjunction with Current Consulting Group, LLC, revealed the need to change the term “opiates” to “opioids”. The attached updated policy, dated April 10, 2018, includes this change.

It was moved by Paton, seconded by Milewski to adopt the updated City of Ionia Controlled Substances and Alcohol Misuse Policy for its Dial-A-Ride Department dated April 10, 2018.

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

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILMEMBER COMMENT

Balice: Urged those in attendance to take both the Ionia Community Library survey and the City’s survey.

Millard: Commented that the meeting was long but productive. Upcoming in June are the Classic Car Show and Wizard of Oz Festival.

Milewski: Invited the public to the Sparrow Gala on Saturday, April 26. Proceeds are split between the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and Sparrow Ionia.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Kelley to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM

By Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted:

Ally H. Cook