



# CITY OF IONIA

## CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
7:00 PM, TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 6, 2018  
CITY HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBER

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

Roll call revealed Councilmembers Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Ted Paton, Kim Patrick, Tom Millard, Janice Gustafson, Troy Waterman and Mayor Dan Balice present. Councilmember John Milewski was excused.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dale Parus of the Ionia Community Library expressed his gratitude to members of Council for their public support of the library proposal.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Millard to approve the October 2, 2018 regular meeting minutes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approve – FY17-18 City Audit**

Representatives of the City's auditors, Vredevelde Haefner LLC, Grand Rapids, were at the meeting to present to Council the FY17-18 City audit. The City Manager reported 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.

The City Manager reported that the IRUA Fund audit was also recently completed and will be reviewed by the IRUA Board of Trustees at its November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Gustafson, seconded by Councilmember Paton to receive and place on file the FY17-18 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: Winters, Kelley, Paton, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman 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, 2019. 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 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 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 2019 which coincides with the health insurance plan year.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Kelley 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 2019.

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

## **Approve – Mayor’s Appointment to Various Boards and Commissions**

The Mayor requested that Council confirm the following reappointments to the referenced board or commission:

### Board of Review

Reappoint Linda Ciangi, 618 Hackett Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

### Downtown Development Authority

Reappoint Tim Hemenway and Mike Kirgis for terms to expire December 31, 2022.

### Housing Board of Appeals

Reappoint Trevor Tooker, 940 Southview Drive, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

### Housing Commission

Reappoint Mike Rockefeller, 610 Crawford Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2023.

### Income Tax Board of Review

Reappoint Trevor Tooker, 940 Southview Drive, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

### Ionia Regional Utilities Authority

Reappoint Jason Eppler as delegate, Tom Millard as alternate, for terms to expire December 31, 2022.

### Parks and Recreation Commission

Reappoint Matt Johnson, 1781 Prairie View Drive, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

### Planning Commission

Reappoint Mike Donaldson, 437 Allen Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Reappoint Mark Jennings, 152 East Washington Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Reappoint Jim Denny, 819 Hackett Street, for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

It was moved by Councilmember Gustafson, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to confirm the Mayor’s appointments to various boards and commissions.

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

### **MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Waterman: Commented that the Trailhead Park looks nice and will benefit our community.

Gustafson: Mentioned that Project Rising Tide is a good program and hopes that the next governor keeps it going.

Millard: Commended Dale Parus, the ICL Say Yes Committee and Gregg Yeomans for their hard work in planning for the new library.

Patrick: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and recognized Lynn Lafler for volunteering his time with the elections.

Paton: Mentioned that it was great to see such high voter turnout and recognized Ally Cook in her new position as Clerk.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:50 pm.

By Voice Vote:           MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted:

Ally Cook, Clerk