

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, Janice Gustafson, Troy Waterman and Mayor Balice present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gale Yeomans, Chair of the Ionia Community Library Board, addressed Council on the library's failed millage proposal and mentioned that the Say Yes committee may make another attempt in 2019.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Paton, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson,

Waterman and Balice.

Navs: None

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Approve – Revisions to Policy No. 1-013 – Property Taxes – Poverty Guidelines

The City Manager reported that Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended (General Property Tax Act) requires municipalities to set the poverty guidelines and asset guidelines to be observed by Boards of Review in determining if a property owner should be granted an exemption from paying property taxes on an owned property. The City Manager reported that although the Statute states that municipalities must follow the federal poverty and asset guidelines it does not adopt them by reference but instead requires the local governing board to adopt the guidelines from time to time.

The City Assessor recommended that Council approve an update to our current policy for use by the Board of Review.

It was moved by Councilmember Paton, seconded by Councilmember Milewski to amend General Policy 1-013, Property Taxes – Poverty Guidelines establishing updated poverty guidelines and poverty asset guidelines for 2019 assessments as required by PA 206 of 1893, as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Winters, Kelley, Paton, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman,

Milewski and Balice

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approve - MERS Pension Revision - Division 12 - Hybrid

The City Manager reported that consistent with the Corrective Action Plan for the City's MERS pension program submitted to and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury, it is necessary to close the MERS Defined Benefit pension program for Division #12 (City Manager/Department Director) and open a MERS Hybrid pension program for new hires (those hired after February 1, 2019) in this division.

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreement for the current MERS Defined Benefit Division #12 effective February 1, 2019 and authorize the City Manager to sign the Adoption Agreement on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kelley, Paton, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski,

Winters and Balice

Navs: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approve – Revisions to Personnel Policy No. 380 – Pension Benefit

The City Manager reported that it is necessary to revise Personnel Policy No. 380 which addresses non-union employee pension benefits based on closing the defined benefit pension for new hires in MERS Division #12 (which covers the City Manager/Department Directors) and opening the hybrid pension benefit for future hires in this division.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Kelley to amend Personnel Policy No. 380 – Pension Benefits - reflecting the change in pension benefits for new hires covered by MERS Division #12.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Paton, Patrick, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters,

Kelley and Balice

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Balice: Commented that the Electric Light Christmas parade was well attended and that the

Trailhead Park is coming along very nicely.

Waterman: Mentioned that he heard a lot of positive feedback from community members about the

Electric Light Christmas parade and free movie.

Millard: Commented that the Electric Light Christmas parade attracted an exceptionally large crowd

this year.

Patrick: Wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Paton: Mentioned that he is excited to see some older homes in the community getting fixed up,

particularly a few in his own neighborhood.

Kelley: Wished everyone a happy holiday season and mentioned that he and his wife will be

spending their Christmas in Alaska

Milewski: Commented that the tree downtown looks phenomenal and that he'd heard positive

feedback about the new signage throughout town.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Paton to adjourn the

meeting at 7:37 pm.

By Voice Vote:

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted:

Ally H. Cook, Clerk