



At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Ionia, held at the Ionia City Hall, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan, on the 12th day of April, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Waterman, Gustafson, Millard, Starr, Milewski, Lee, Videtich, Winters, and Balice.

**ABSENT:** None.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Council Member Winters and seconded by Council Member Millard:

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR WHITMER INCLUDE FUNDING IN THE 2023 STATE BUDGET FOR COMMUNITIES THAT FOLLOW PENSION BEST PRACTICES AS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ionia has taken financially difficult steps to stabilize its pension program and get its pension costs and liabilities under control; and

**WHEREAS**, these steps followed best practices established by the State of Michigan and kept the City of Ionia operationally viable in the face of enormous financial pressure; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 5054 of 2022 would have divided \$250 million between the City of Ionia and other communities like it that made the tough decisions and followed those best practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ionia and others like it are ineligible for \$750 million in pension relief allocated by the State in 2022, despite experiencing the same pension-related financial stresses as those who will receive that relief; and

**WHEREAS**, these stresses have been amplified by market losses in 2022 and a volatile market in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, this \$250 million would have immeasurable impact on our ability to address our pension liabilities, maintain employment levels, and provide the services our taxpayers depend upon; and

**WHEREAS**, both the \$750 million allocated and the \$250 million requested here had broad, bipartisan support in the House a year ago; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 5054 created an equitable balance between those with pensions the House considered substantially underfunded and those who had followed best practices to achieve a higher funding ratio; and

**WHEREAS**, unallocated revenues are available to the State in 2023 to again make this pension assistance equitable by helping those communities struggling with pension costs, but ineligible for the \$750 million;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Ionia asks the Legislature and Governor of the State of Michigan to revisit HB 5054; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Ionia requests the Legislature and Governor give bipartisan support to the inclusion of the \$250 million in the 2023 State budget to be divided between communities including the City of Ionia that meet the best practices required in that Bill.

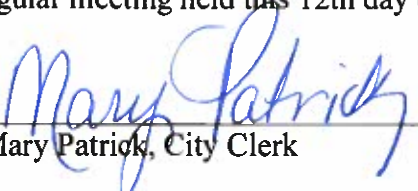
Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Waterman, Gustafson, Millard, Starr, Milewski, Lee, Videtich, Winters, and Balice.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTION 2023-05 DECLARED ADOPTED.

  
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Mary Patrick, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Ionia at a regular meeting held this 12th day of April, 2023.

  
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Mary Patrick, City Clerk