



**IONIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
7:00 PM, January 3, 2024
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Prior to the meeting, John Milewski was sworn in as Mayor of Ionia by City Clerk Mary Patrick. He did so using his mother's Bible, held by his son, John. Four Councilmembers were also sworn in: Ward 1: Margot Cook; Ward 2: Richard Starr; Ward 3: Dawn Ketchum; and, Ward 4: Brenda Cowling.

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor John Milewski called his first regular meeting of the Ionia City Council to order at 7:03 PM, and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed a Quorum with Councilmembers Dawn Ketchum, Jeff Winters, Margot Cook, Tim Lee, Rich Starr, Tom Millard, Brenda Cowling, Troy Waterman, and Mayor John Milewski present.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Manager Garland requested that three items be added to the agenda: (1) Addition of New Deputy Mayor as Signatory; (2) Change of Mayor Signatory; (3) Appointment to Downtown Development Authority (addition to Item VIII-1).

Mayor Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve the agenda, as amended.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Manager Garland noted that the Mayor is a signatory for accounts and needs to be updated to reflect the new Mayor. Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to change the signatory name to Mayor John Milewski

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Starr submitted his name to be considered as Deputy Mayor. Mayor Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr to elect Rich Starr as Deputy Mayor.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 6, 2023, Regular Meeting

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve the December 6, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Winters, Lee, Starr, Millard, Waterman, and Milewski

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: Ketchum, Cook, Cowling (new members were not present at the December meeting)

MOTION CARRIED

III. PROCLAMATIONS

None.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS & ASSOCIATED ACTIONS

(V-1) Public Hearing and Action – Ordinance No. 579: Reimbursement Fund for Fire Response

The Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia currently contains Chapter 1612 – Reimbursement Fund for Fire Response. This chapter has existed as part of the Codified Ordinances since 2001 but has not been utilized in many years. As a result, the chapter was reviewed both by staff as well as the city attorney to identify recommended updates for future implementation. The result of that process is a proposed retitled and completely amended chapter, to be called Chapter 1612 - Emergency and Fire Services Response Cost Recovery.

Following the public hearing, Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lee, to approve Ordinance No. 579 amending Chapter 1216 – Reimbursement Fund for Fire Response, Sections 1612.01 through 1612.09, inclusive, of the City of Ionia Codified Ordinances.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

**CITY OF IONIA
IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

ORDINANCE NO. 579

At a regular meeting of the Ionia City Council held on January 3, 2024, at the Ionia City Hall, Councilmember Millard, supported by Councilmember Lee, moved the adoption of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 16, CHAPTER 1612 ENTITLED “REIMBURSEMENT FUND FOR FIRE RESPONSE,” SECTIONS 1612.01 THROUGH 1612.09, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IONIA.

The City of Ionia Ordains:

Section 1: Amendment

That Part 16, Chapter 1612, Sections 1612.01 through 1612.09, Inclusive, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is retitled and amended to read in its entirety as follows:

EMERGENCY AND FIRE SERVICES RESPONSE COST RECOVERY

Sec. 1612-01. Purpose.

The City of Ionia hereby finds that in order to protect the City and its general populace from extraordinary costs associated with providing for police, fire fighting, rescue, and emergency medical services within the City limits, it has become necessary to charge certain costs for providing these services. The City finds that this legislation is necessary to fairly allocate the costs among those responsible for them; to establish a policy and set forth the methods by which it may recover costs incurred in making emergency responses and providing such response services; and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its residents.

Sec. 1612-02. Definitions.

Unless the context explicitly indicates otherwise, the meaning of the terms used in this article shall be as follows:

Assessable costs means the direct and reasonable costs incurred in connection with a response to a public safety or fire emergency incident within the City.

Assessable costs include all, but are not limited to:

- salaries, wages, or fringe benefits of the City personnel responding to the incident;
- salaries, wages, or fringe benefits of the City personnel engaged in the investigation, supervision and report preparation regarding the incident;
- salaries, wages, or fringe benefits of the personnel of assisting governmental agencies or any other private or public entities operating at the request, direction, or on behalf of the City in response to the incident; and
- all costs connected with the administration of the incident relating to any prosecution of the person(s) responsible, including those relating to the production and appearances of any witnesses.

Assessable costs also may include, but are not limited to:

- per hour operating cost of responding vehicle or equipment, including the rental or leasing of equipment for a specific response (the latest Federal Emergency Management Agency's ("FEMA") Fire / Rescue Equipment Rates shall be followed unless otherwise articulated by the City);
- depreciation value and/or replacement cost of equipment which is destroyed or contaminated in the response;
- mutual aid costs;
- laboratory costs and equipment;
- fuel costs;
- water usage costs;

- medical expenses incurred as a result of response activities; and
- any legal expenses that may be incurred as a result of an emergency response including efforts to recover expenses pursuant to this article.

Excluded from this definition are any assessable costs solely and distinctly incurred as necessary to response activities connected to a hazardous material incident or emergency otherwise recoverable under the hazardous materials cost recovery scheme provided in Michigan’s National Resources and Environmental Protection Act (“NREPA”), MCL 324.20101 *et seq.*

Emergency assistance means any response by medical, public safety, police, fire, or civil defense services to respond to an emergency incident.

Emergency incident includes the following:

- (1) Excessive requests for emergency assistance;
- (2) A false alarm;
- (3) A hazardous material incident or emergency;
- (4) An illegal fire;
- (5) Threats of harm;
- (6) A structure demolition or utility line failure;
- (7) Water rescue attempts; or
- (8) Any other incident where emergency medical, public safety, police, fire or civil defense services are necessary.

Excessive request for emergency assistance means any request for emergency assistance made for a particular location or premises if emergency assistance has been provided to that location or premises more than five times in the preceding 30 days.

False alarm means the intentional or non-intentional activation of an automated or manual device that was designed to request or summon emergency assistance when there was no need for emergency assistance, and any request for emergency assistance when the requesting person or entity knew or should have known that there was no actual need for such assistance. The determination that there was no actual need for emergency assistance shall be made by the Director of the Department of Public Safety or by the most senior official of the Department of Public Safety responding to the false alarm. A false alarm shall not include any response to a request for emergency assistance which was caused by an act of God.

Hazardous material incident or emergency means any occurrence, incident, activity, accident or emergency where a release of hazardous materials occurs or is reasonably imminent, as determined by the Director of the Department of Public Safety or the most senior official of the Department of Public Safety responding to the incident.

Hazardous materials means any explosive, pyrotechnic, compressed gas, flammable liquid, flammable solid, combustible liquid, oxidizing material, poisonous gas, poisonous liquid, poisonous solid, etiological material, radioactive material, corrosive material or liquefied petroleum gas and also includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) Any material listed in the list of toxic pollutants found in 40 CFR 401.15, et seq., as amended, or under any other federal law or regulations;
- (2) Any material regulated as a class A or class B explosive by the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to 49 CFR 173.5;
- (3) Any flammable liquid or solid regulated by the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to 49 CFR 171.1, et seq.;
- (4) Any material designated as a hazardous material by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation through regulations found at 49 CFR 171.1, et seq.;
- (5) Any material deemed a "hazardous substance" as defined by 1994 PZ 451, part 207, Subsection 20101(n), MCL 324.20101(n);
- (6) Any material designed a hazardous material by state or federal law or regulations;
- (7) Any hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has taken action pursuant to section 7 of the Toxic Substance Control Act; and
- (8) Any otherwise non-hazardous material that becomes a potential hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Illegal fire means a fire set or determined to have been set in violation of a federal, state or local law and shall include an arson fire and a fire set in violation of a "no burning" ban or order. An illegal fire does not include a fire caused by an act of God.

Release means any actual or threatened spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, leaching, dumping or disposing into the environment, including but not limited to the air, soil, groundwater and surface water.

Responsible party means any individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, government entity or other entity responsible for an emergency incident or assistance or any owner, tenant, occupant or party in control of real and personal property from which, onto which or related to which there is an emergency incident or assistance and their heirs, estates, successors and assigns.

Structure demolition means the tearing down of a structure damaged by fire that must, in the opinion of the Director of the Department of Public Safety or the most senior official of the Department of Public Safety responding to the incident, be promptly demolished following the fire to protect public safety.

Threat of harm means the verbal or written threat of physical harm to oneself, another, or another's property which if carried out would be a violation of federal, state or local law.

City means the City of Ionia.

Utility line failure means the disabling of any transmission or service line, cable, conduit, pipeline, wire or the like used to provide, collect or transport electricity, natural gas, communication or electronic signals, or water, sanitary or storm sewage if the owner or party responsible for the maintenance of such utility line does not respond within one hour to a request to repair or correct such failure.

Vehicle means any motorized or self-propelled means of transportation including, but not limited to, automobiles, ATV's, railroad engines and other cars, boats, helicopters, planes, and/ or other aircraft, and all trailers, vehicles, or other appurtenances attached to any vehicle.

Water rescue means any emergency incident on a body of water where emergency medical, public safety, police, fire or civil defense services are necessary. Bodies of water include rivers, lakes, streams, impoundments, estuaries, springs, wells, or other collectors/ collections of water.

Sec. 1612-03. City's assessable costs.

(a) The City may recover all of its assessable costs, and those of mutual aid providers having timely submitted an itemized assessable cost recovery request to the City's Director of the Department of Public Safety, incurred in connection with any emergency assistance provided within its boundaries from any or all responsible parties jointly and severally.

(b) The City Manager or, in his or her absence, the Director of the Department of Public Safety or other City officer designated by the Council as its representative in this matter ("Council's designee) shall determine the City's total assessable costs and shall in such emergency incidents determine whether to assess any, all or part of such costs against any of the responsible parties. In making such determinations, the following shall be considered:

- (1) Total assessable costs;
- (2) Any risk the incident imposed on the City, its residents and their property;
- (3) The risk of injury or damage to persons or property;
- (4) Any evacuation required because of the incident;
- (5) Any unusual or extraordinary use of the City personnel or equipment; and/or
- (6) Any damage to the environment.

(c) After the consideration of the factors listed in (b) immediately above, the City Manager or the Council's designee may allocate assessable costs among and between responsible parties, including allocating all or some of such costs jointly and severally against more than one responsible party regardless of whether a responsible party has other legal liability or is legally at fault.

(d) Whether the City Manager, Director of the Department of Public Safety, or the Council's designee determines to assess all, part or none of the assessable costs against a responsible party, such determination shall not in any way limit or extinguish the liability of the responsible party to the City or any other person, corporation, partnership, government entity or any other entity.

Sec. 1612-04. Billing and collection of assessable costs.

After determining to assess assessable costs against a responsible party, an itemized invoice shall be sent to the responsible party at the party's last known address. Such invoice shall be due and payable within 30 days of the date of mailing and any amounts unpaid after such date shall bear a late payment fee equal to one percent per month or fraction thereof that the amount due and any previously imposed late payment fee remain unpaid. If a responsible party shall appeal assessable costs pursuant to section 1612-05 hereof, such costs, if upheld, in whole or in part, shall be due and payable 30 days from the date of determination of the appeal and any late payment fees shall apply thereafter.

Sec. 1612-05. Procedure for appealing assessable costs.

(a) Any responsible party who receives an invoice for assessable costs shall have an opportunity to meet with the Director of the Department of Public Safety, or other City officer designated by the Council. The initial meeting shall be with the Director of the Department of Public Safety or Council's designee to request a modification of assessable costs. The responsible party shall request in writing such a meeting within seven calendar days of the date of the invoice assessing the assessable costs.

(b) If after this initial meeting any responsible party is still not satisfied, he or she may request an opportunity to appear before the City Council to further request a modification of assessable costs. A responsible party who desires to appear before the City Council must have had an initial meeting as provided above and then shall make a written request to appear before the City Council within seven calendar days of the date of this meeting. Upon receipt of such request, the responsible party will be put on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, which meeting must be held within 45 calendar days of the date on which the responsible party files the request to appear.

(c) Any filed request to appear shall specifically identify and explain all reasons why the responsible party believes the assessed costs should be modified. Any reason, basis or argument for modification of assessable costs not set forth in the request to appear shall be deemed waived by the responsible party. Failure to timely file a written request to appear shall constitute a waiver of any argument the responsible party may have had that the party is not liable for the assessable costs invoiced. After a responsible party has been given an opportunity to appear before it, the City Council shall promptly determine whether to confirm, modify or void the payment of assessable costs invoiced.

Sec. 1612-06. Liens and remedies.

(a) Costs assessed against a responsible party not paid when due, including late fees, shall constitute a lien upon the subject real property of the responsible party and may be collected by the City to the fullest extent authorized by law including, without limitation, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 210.23 of the City's Codified Ordinances.

(b) In addition to the assessment of costs set forth in this chapter, the City shall be entitled to pursue any other remedy or may institute any appropriate action or proceeding in a court of competent authority as permitted by law to collect assessable costs from a responsible party.

(c) The recovery of assessable costs pursuant hereto does not limit the liability of a responsible party under applicable local, state or federal law.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision herein, a violation of this chapter shall be a municipal civil infraction so that, in addition to the costs and expenses otherwise due, fines and penalties as set forth in Section 202.99(b) of the City's Codified Ordinances shall be due upon a determination of a violation.

Section 2: Repealer

That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3: Publication and Effective Date

The City Clerk shall cause a notice of adoption of this ordinance to be published. This ordinance shall take effect upon its, or a summary thereof as permitted by law, publication in the *Daily News*, a newspaper of general circulation in the City unless otherwise provided by law.

ORDINANCE No. 579 DECLARED ADOPTED

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(VII-1) Introduction and First Reading – Ordinance No. 580: Tall Grass/Weed Blight and Nuisances

The Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia currently contains Chapter 676 – Safety, Sanitation and Health. This chapter enumerates many types of blight and nuisances that are subject to code enforcement. The current ordinance requires an inefficient process that begins with inspection, followed by a notice letter after each documented violation, a wait to see if the property owner mows, followed by reinspection and referral to the Department of Public Works in the event the violation remains.

The proposed ordinance amendments are designed to slightly modify grass/weed length constituting a nuisance, improve code enforcement efficiency where repeat violations are concerned, and modify the process for creating liens against property tax records when invoices for city code enforcement mowing services go unpaid.

Councilmember Ketchum made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to introduce and conduct a first reading of Ordinance No. 580, an ordinance to amend Part Six, Chapter 676, entitled "Safety, Sanitation & Health," specifically Subsection 676.05(q), Section 676.07, Section 676.08, Section 676.99, and Part 14, Chapter 1460, entitled "International Property Maintenance Code," Subsection 1460.05(d), of said Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia. It is further requested that the Council consider within its motion scheduling a Public Hearing regarding the proposed ordinance for **7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at Ionia City Hall.**

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

CITY OF IONIA

Ordinance No. 580

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUBSECTION 676.05(q), SECTION 676.07, SECTION 676.08, SECTION 676.99, AND SUBSECTION 1460.05(d) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IONIA

THE CITY OF IONIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Subsection 676.05(q). That Subsection 676.05(q) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

676.05 NUISANCES ENUMERATED.

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, leasing, renting, occupying or having charge or possession of any property in the City to maintain or permit to be maintained on such property in such manner that any of the following conditions are found to exist thereon, except as may be allowed by any other provision of law:

* * *

(q) Any grass, weeds or undergrowth higher or longer than eight inches subject to the following exceptions:

- (1) On portions of undeveloped property behind a wooded tree line.
- (2) On portions of undeveloped lands more than 25 feet from a public sidewalk or street open to the public.
- (3) On portions of undeveloped platted lots more than 25 feet from a public sidewalk or street open to the public and from a neighboring lot line.

Section 2. Amendment of Section 676.07. That Section 676.07 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

676.07 ABATEMENT OF BLIGHT AND NUISANCES.

Where no other procedure is made specifically applicable by other provisions of the City Code, any structure, condition or activity prohibited by this chapter may be abated by the City Manager, or his or her designee, in accordance with the procedure set forth herein.

- (a) The City Manager, or his or her designee, shall investigate the existence of the alleged condition of blight or nuisance to determine whether or not the blight or nuisance exists and to further determine the person who has created or is committing or maintaining such condition of blight or nuisance.
- (b) The City Manager, or his or her designee, shall then give written notice to the person responsible for the creation, commission or maintenance of such blight or nuisance, specifying the nature of the blight or nuisance, the corrective action to be taken to abate the blight or nuisance, the time allowed for abatement of such condition of blight or nuisance (which shall be a reasonable period of time from the date of the notice), and shall contain a reference to or summary of the provision(s) of this chapter constituting a violation. In the case of a blight or nuisance capable of re-occurring during a single season, a single notice may be utilized to identify and provide notice for all violations occurring during that single season. Such notice shall be delivered either to the party responsible by first class United States mail or delivered directly to the person responsible. Failure of the City Manager, or his or her designee, to give notice shall not constitute a defense to any action to enforce the payment of any penalty provided for, or debt or lien created or authorized by the provisions of this chapter. The City Manager, or his or her designee, may grant an extension of time to abate of not more than 30 days for good cause shown.
- (c) If the condition of blight or nuisance is not abated within the period of time provided to the person responsible for the creation, commission or maintenance of the violation, the City Manager, or

his or her designee, shall make arrangements to have the blight or nuisance abated utilizing City employees or a City contractor.

Section 3. Amendment of Section 676.08. That Section 676.08 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

676.08 COST OF ABATEMENT; LIEN.

The City Manager, or his or her designee, shall keep an accurate account of the costs or expenses incurred for each lot or parcel in carrying out to the provisions of Section 676.07, including any administrative expenses. Such costs or expenses shall be charged against such lot or parcel and shall be a debt to the City. Such amount shall be collected by giving notice to the person responsible hereunder. If such costs or expenses are not paid when due, then they shall become a lien on the property benefitted by the abatement of the nuisance and may be collected, along with any corresponding penalties, by the City in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 210.23 of the City Code. Nothing herein shall prevent the City from taking any other actions authorized by law for the collection of such amounts due the City.

Section 4. Amendment of Section 676.99. That Section 676.99 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

676.99 PENALTY.

(a) Any person, firm, or corporation violating or causing, or permitting to be violated any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a municipal civil infraction pursuant to Section 202.99 of this Code.

(b) Any person, firm, or corporation convicted of an infraction under the provisions of this chapter shall be punishable upon a first conviction of a fine not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and for a second conviction within a period of one year, by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00), and for a third or any subsequent conviction within a one-year period by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

(c) Each person, firm, or corporation shall be guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during which any violation of any provision of this section is committed, continued, or permitted by such person and shall be punishable accordingly.

(d) The City Manager is authorized to designate those particular officers or employees of the City who shall be authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Section 5. Amendment of Subsection 1460.05(d). That Subsection 1460.05(d) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

1460.05 AMENDMENTS.

The International Property Maintenance Code, as adopted in Section 1460.01, is hereby amended as follows:

* * *

(d) Section 302.4. Insert: "All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from grass, weeds or undergrowth higher or longer than eight inches subject to the following exceptions:

(1) On portions of undeveloped property behind a wooded tree line.

(2) On portions of undeveloped lands more than 25 feet from a public sidewalk or street open to the public.

(3) On portions of undeveloped platted lots more than 25 feet from a public sidewalk or street open to the public and from a neighboring lot line."

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its publication in the manner provided by law.

Dated: _____

BY: Mary Patrick, City Clerk

(VII-2) FY23-24 Budget Amendment #2

It is customary that Council review the City’s annual budget after half of the fiscal year is completed and make amendments as necessary to adjust for actual experience and updates in budget assumptions. One prior budget adjustment was made in October 2023 following three months of experience, and this marks six months through Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to approve Budget Amendment #2 to the FY23-24 City of Ionia budget, which includes the General Fund and multiple special funds as detailed on the spreadsheet below.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

FY 23-24 Council Budget Adjustment #2

		23-24 Amended Budget	Proposed Amendment #2	Proposed Budget After Amendment
Fund: 101 GENERAL				
101-000.000-409.000	CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES	600,000	25,000	625,000
101-000.000-453.000	CODE ENFORCEMENT FEES	1,500	1,000	2,500
101-000.000-569.000	STATE GRANT	-	43,000	43,000
101-000.000-628.000	CHARGE FOR SERVICES FIRE	1,800,000	100,000	1,900,000
101-000.000-665.000	INTEREST	80,000	50,000	130,000
101-000.000-675.011	DONATION FOR COUNCIL	-	1,700	1,700
101-000.000-688.248	Other Income - Sesquicentennial	2,500	1,400	3,900
Revenues		7,112,000	222,100	7,334,100
Account Category: Expenditures				
Department: 101.000 COUNCIL				
101-101.000-880.000	CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC RELATIONS	19,000	4,000	23,000
Total Dept 101.000 - COUNCIL		63,950	4,000	67,950
Department: 191.000 ELECTIONS				
101-191.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	12,000	3,000	15,000
Total Dept 191.000 - ELECTIONS		21,000	3,000	24,000
Department: 208.000 PLANNING & ZONING				
101-208.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	40,000	10,000	50,000
Total Dept 208.000 - PLANNING & ZONING		43,500	10,000	53,500
Department: 210.000 CITY LEGAL FEES				
101-210.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	50,000	5,000	55,000
101-210.000-801.002	LEGAL FEES - PROSECUTION	40,000	32,000	72,000

Total Dept 210.000 - CITY LEGAL FEES	90,000	37,000	127,000
Department: 258.000 DATA PROCESSING DEPARTMENT			
101-258.000-747.000 SOFTWARE	33,000	12,000	45,000
Total Dept 258.000 - DATA PROCESSING DEPARTMENT	145,000	12,000	157,000
Department: 289.000 OTHER OFFICES			
101-289.000-729.000 CREDIT CARD FEES	2,250	1,250	3,500
Total Dept 289.000 - OTHER OFFICES	673,750	1,250	675,000
Department: 345.000 PUBLIC SAFETY			
101-345.000-960.100 EDUCATION AND TRAINING - PA302	11,000	22,000	33,000
Total Dept 345.000 - PUBLIC SAFETY	3,176,980	22,000	3,198,980
Expenditures	7,048,770	89,250	7,138,020
Fund 101 - GENERAL:			
TOTAL REVENUES	7,112,000		7,334,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,048,770		7,138,020
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:	63,230		196,080
BEG. FUND BALANCE	4,239,844		4,239,844
END FUND BALANCE	4,303,074		4,435,924
Fund: 202 MAJOR STREETS			
Account Category: Revenues			
202-000.000-665.000 INTEREST	10,000	10,000	20,000
Revenues	1,057,011	10,000	1,067,011
Expenditures	911,500	-	911,500
Fund 202 - MAJOR STREETS:			
TOTAL REVENUES	1,057,011		1,067,011
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	911,500		911,500
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:	145,511		155,511
BEG. FUND BALANCE	1,093,957		1,093,957
END FUND BALANCE	1,239,468		1,249,468
Fund: 203 LOCAL STREETS			
Account Category: Revenues			
203-000.000-665.000 INTEREST	7,500	7,500	15,000
Revenues	670,917	7,500	678,417
Expenditures	510,500	-	510,500
Fund 203 - LOCAL STREETS:			
TOTAL REVENUES	670,917		678,417
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	510,500		510,500
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:	160,417		167,917
BEG. FUND BALANCE	690,754		690,754

END FUND BALANCE	851,171	858,671
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Fund: 228 SOLID WASTE FUND

Account Category: Revenues

228-000.000-573.000	LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION SHARE APPR	28,500	36,500	65,000
228-000.000-665.000	INTEREST	5,000	5,000	10,000
		640,000	41,500	681,500
Revenues				

Account Category: Expenditures

Department: 271.000 CITY PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

228-271.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	40,000	10,000	50,000
Total Dept 271.000 - CITY PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS		46,000	10,000	56,000

Department: 463.500 STREET SWEEPING

228-463.500-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	11,000	9,000	20,000
228-463.500-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	32,000	5,000	37,000
Total Dept 463.500 - STREET SWEEPING		68,000	14,000	82,000

Expenditures	609,100	24,000	633,100
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Fund 228 - SOLID WASTE FUND:

TOTAL REVENUES	640,000		681,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	609,100		633,100
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		30,900	48,400
BEG. FUND BALANCE	389,894		389,894
END FUND BALANCE	420,794		438,294

Fund: 239 PARKS - FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

Revenues	1,031,000	-	1,031,000
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Account Category: Expenditures

Department: 545.500 RIVERTRAIL/RAILTRAIL LINKAGE

239-545.500-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	525,000	45,000	570,000
239-545.500-805.400	ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING	25,000	(15,000)	10,000
Total Dept 545.500 - RIVERTRAIL/RAILTRAIL LINKAGE		550,000	30,000	580,000

Department: 545.730 Hale Park

239-545.730-805.400	ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING	65,000	(10,000)	55,000
Total Dept 545.730 - Hale Park		85,000	(10,000)	75,000

Department: 545.810 Dog Park

239-545.810-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	475,000		-
239-545.810-805.400	ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING	50,000	(20,000)	30,000
Total Dept 545.810 - Dog Park		525,000	(20,000)	505,000

Expenditures	1,160,000	-	1,160,000
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Fund 239 - PARKS - FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS:

TOTAL REVENUES	1,031,000		1,031,000
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,160,000	1,160,000
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:	(129,000)	(129,000)
BEG. FUND BALANCE	1,000,154	1,000,154
END FUND BALANCE	871,154	871,154

Fund: 249 RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Account Category: Revenues

249-000.000-648.000	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	75,000	10,000	85,000
249-000.000-675.000	GIFTS DONATIONS	1,000	2,000	3,000
Revenues		487,300	12,000	499,300

Account Category: Expenditures

Department: 536.000 ADMINISTRATION

249-536.000-954.000	INSURANCE	6,700	5,000	11,700
Total Dept 536.000 - ADMINISTRATION		257,000	5,000	262,000

Department: 560.000 OPERATIONS

249-560.000-753.000	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	30,000	5,000	35,000
Total Dept 560.000 - OPERATIONS		42,400	5,000	47,400

Department: 770.000 PARK MAINTENANCE

249-770.000-740.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	3,500	2,000	5,500
Total Dept 770.000 - PARK MAINTENANCE		165,000	2,000	167,000

Expenditures		504,000	12,000	516,000
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Fund 249 - RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

TOTAL REVENUES	487,300	499,300
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	504,000	516,000
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:	(16,700)	(16,700)
BEG. FUND BALANCE	48,403	48,403
END FUND BALANCE	31,703	31,703

Fund: 250 THEATRE FUND

Revenues	197,250	-	197,250
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Account Category: Expenditures

Department: 442.000 OPERATIONS

250-442.000-740.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	3,500	2,000	5,500
Expenditures		283,200	2,000	285,200

Fund 250 - THEATRE FUND:

TOTAL REVENUES	197,250	197,250
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	283,200	285,200
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:	(85,950)	(87,950)
BEG. FUND BALANCE	388,904	388,904
END FUND BALANCE	302,954	300,954

Fund: 412 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

Account Category: Revenues

412-000.000-665.000	INTEREST	75	2,425	2,500
Revenues		14,575	2,425	17,000
Expenditures		20,000	-	20,000
Fund 412 - ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE:				
TOTAL REVENUES		14,575		17,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		20,000		20,000
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		(5,425)		(3,000)
BEG. FUND BALANCE		112,418		112,418
END FUND BALANCE		106,993		109,418

Fund: 420 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Revenues		1,200,000	-	1,200,000
Account Category: Expenditures				
Department: 543.556 HALL STREET IMPROVEMENTS				
420-543.556-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	1,000,000	(185,000)	815,000
420-543.556-805.400	ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING	200,000	(15,000)	185,000
Total Dept 543.556 - HALL STREET IMPROVEMENTS		1,200,000	(200,000)	1,000,000

Department: 543.560 KING STREET IMPROVEMENTS

420-543.560-805.400	ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING	-	200,000	200,000
Total Dept 543.560 - KING STREET IMPROVEMENTS		-	200,000	200,000

Expenditures		1,200,000		1,200,000
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Fund 420 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

TOTAL REVENUES		1,200,000		1,200,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,200,000		1,200,000
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		-		-
BEG. FUND BALANCE		1,000		1,000
END FUND BALANCE		1,000		1,000

Fund: 588 DIAL-A-RIDE

Account Category: Revenues

588-000.000-409.000	CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES	83,500	5,000	88,500
588-000.000-626.000	CHARGE FOR SERVICES	15,000	5,000	20,000
588-000.000-665.000	INTEREST	7,500	7,500	15,000
588-000.000-688.000	OTHER REVENUE	-	16,000	16,000
Revenues		1,430,825	33,500	1,464,325

Account Category: Expenditures

Department: 558.000 ADMINISTRATIVE

588-558.000-816.000	COMMUNICATION TOWER EXPENSES	14,000	6,000	20,000
588-558.000-954.000	INSURANCE	1,200	100	1,300
Total Dept 558.000 - ADMINISTRATIVE		501,256	6,100	507,356

Department: 560.000 OPERATIONS

588-560.000-954.000	INSURANCE	6,800	1,400	8,200
Total Dept 560.000 - OPERATIONS		478,900	1,400	480,300
Department: 564.000 MAINTENANCE				
588-564.000-775.000	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	-	50	50
588-564.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	5,000	5,000	10,000
588-564.000-930.000	VEHICLE REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	22,000	8,000	30,000
Total Dept 564.000 - MAINTENANCE		41,000	13,050	54,050
Expenditures		1,559,901	20,550	1,580,451
Fund 588 - DIAL-A-RIDE:				
TOTAL REVENUES		1,430,825		1,464,325
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,559,901		1,580,451
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		(129,076)		(116,126)
BEG. FUND BALANCE		1,097,808		1,097,808
END FUND BALANCE		968,732		981,682

Fund: 590 SEWER DEPT.

Account Category: Revenues

590-000.000-664.200	TOWNSHIP REIMB FOR EXPENSES	1,000	1,000	2,000
Revenues		3,597,000	1,000	3,598,000
Expenditures		4,332,540	-	4,332,540

Fund 590 - SEWER DEPT.:

TOTAL REVENUES		3,597,000		3,598,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		4,332,540		4,332,540
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		(735,540)		(734,540)
BEG. FUND BALANCE		13,386,931		13,386,931
END FUND BALANCE		12,651,391		12,652,391

Fund: 591 WATER DEPT.

Account Category: Revenues

591-000.000-688.000	OTHER REVENUE	15,000	10,000	25,000
Revenues		2,985,000	10,000	2,995,000
Expenditures		3,232,818	-	3,232,818

Fund 591 - WATER DEPT.:

TOTAL REVENUES		2,985,000		2,995,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		3,232,818		3,232,818
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		(247,818)		(237,818)
BEG. FUND BALANCE		11,357,992		11,357,992
END FUND BALANCE		11,110,174		11,120,174

Fund: 661 CENTRAL GARAGE

Account Category: Revenues

661-000.000-665.000	INTEREST	4,000	4,000	8,000
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661-000.000-688.000	OTHER REVENUE	2,500	1,500	4,000
Revenues		506,500	5,500	512,000
Account Category: Expenditures				
Department: 441.000 ADMINISTRATION				
661-441.000-860.000	TRANSPORTATION AND TRAINING	1,500	500	2,000
661-441.000-954.000	INSURANCE	19,250	2,250	21,500
Total Dept 441.000 - ADMINISTRATION		234,950	2,750	237,700
Department: 442.000 OPERATIONS				
661-442.000-850.000	COMMUNICATIONS	7,500	500	8,000
Total Dept 442.000 - OPERATIONS		340,500	500	341,000
Expenditures		575,450	3,250	578,700
Fund 661 - CENTRAL GARAGE:				
TOTAL REVENUES		506,500		512,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		575,450		578,700
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		(68,950)		(66,700)
BEG. FUND BALANCE		1,161,047		1,161,047
END FUND BALANCE		1,092,097		1,094,347

(VII-3) Resolution 2024-01 to Provide Public Transportation Services for Fiscal Year 2025

In order to be programmed for the funding, the City is required to express its intent to provide public transportation services during the referenced fiscal year and identify its expected expenses and other revenue sources.

Councilmember Ketchum made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lee, to approve Resolution #2024-01, which details the City’s intent to provide public transportation services for fiscal year 2025 and designates the City Manager as the single point of contact with MDOT for public transportation matters.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution #2024-01

**CITY COUNCIL
 RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IONIA REGARDING
 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 UNDER PUBLIC ACT 51 OF
 1951, AS AMENDED**

At a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Ionia held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, the following Resolution was offered by Councilmember Ketchum, seconded by Councilmember Lee:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act 51 of 1951, as amended (Act 51), it is necessary for the City of Ionia, a Home Rule City established pursuant to Public Act 279 of 1909, as amended, to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2025 and, therefore, apply for state financial assistance under provisions of Act 51; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the City of Ionia to name an official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past state fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the performance indicators for this agency have been reviewed and approved by the City of Ionia; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ionia has reviewed and approved the proposed budget with sources of estimated federal funds of \$116,414; estimated state funds of \$250,559; estimated local funds of \$161,125; estimated fare box revenues of \$71,750; estimated other funds of \$25,000 (revenues totaling \$624,848) and with total eligible expenses of \$621,745 for Fiscal Year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ionia has also reviewed and approved the

additional funding requests of \$69,250 from Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funds for office equipment, and bus technology; \$556,000 from Federal Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program Funds for replacement of 3 buses, and necessary updates to the DAR facility parking lot; \$115,250 from the Rural Task Force Funds for replacement of 1 bus; \$36,928 for State Specialized Services funding for transporting elderly persons and persons with disabilities; \$168,500 in Federal Section 5311 Job Access Reverse Commute in continuation funding; \$45,000 from 5304 funds for a coordination & feasibility study; and, \$267,800 from Service Initiatives Funds for a micro transit pilot project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ionia does hereby make its intentions known to provide public transportation services and to apply for state financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with Act 51.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby appointed as the Transportation Coordinator for all public transportation matters, and is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the

State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51 for 2025.

AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #2024-01 DECLARED ADOPTED

(VII-4) Proposed MML Property and Liability Insurance Renewal for WWTP – February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

The WWTP is an asset of the Ionia Regional Utilities Authority (IRUA), operated by the City of Ionia Utilities Department, that has obtained its property and liability insurance from the Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool as a pool member since 1988. This year's renewal premium is offered at \$43,571, an increase of \$1,657 over last year's rate of \$41,914. Primary reasons for this increase include a modest increase in payroll value, one additional insured auto, and a \$763,013 increase in insured property values. MML is also offering a post-renewal dividend for renewing Pool members. This year's dividend is estimated at \$3,560, for a net premium cost of \$40,011.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to approve the MML Property and Liability Insurance renewal proposal for the WWTP, in the amount of \$43,571 to cover the period February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-5) 2024 Independence Holiday Fireworks Permit

The DDA will sponsor the annual Independence Holiday fireworks display on Thursday, June 27, 2024, (with Friday, June 28 as the rain date). Through the City, the DDA has retained the services of Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc., of New Castle PA, to provide and launch the display from the in-field area at the fairgrounds. Public Act 256 of 2011, as amended, and Chapter 692 – Fireworks, of the City of Ionia Codified Ordinances requires a local governmental unit to grant a permit so that the fireworks may be launched. Pyrotecnico has submitted the required permit application.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to approve the Permit for Fireworks Display to Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc., of New Castle, PA, for the launching of the fireworks on Thursday, June 27, 2024, in the in-field of the Ionia Free Fair Grounds, and to waive the \$25 application fee from the DDA.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-6) Vertical Pole Banner Application – Ionia High School Senior Lock-In Committee

Council reviewed an application from the Ionia High School Senior Lock-In Committee requesting placement of banners featuring Class of 2024 graduating seniors on all 96 available banner poles. The banners are single sided, so two can be placed back-to-back per pole. The requested display period, March 13 – June 9, 2024, is within the total allowable 12 weeks, per the Vertical Pole Banner Display Policy. All other conditions as required by the policy were satisfied. The cost per banner for installation/removal is \$5 and will be collected prior to a final banner count and installation.

Councilmember Cowling made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve the vertical pole banner application submitted by the Ionia High School Senior Lock-In Committee to display up to 192 banners as specified, from March 13 – June 9, 2024. It was noted that it is likely the display period will end earlier to allow seniors to display their banner at their graduation celebration.
 Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-7) City of Ionia Farmland Lease 2024 - 2027

The City of Ionia owns 98 acres of vacant land along the north and south sides of the Grand River that has been offered for lease by the city for crop farming over the past few years. With the current three-year farmland lease expiring on April 30, 2024, a request for proposals was issued on October 30 to solicit bids for a new three-year lease, running from May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2027. The two bids received in response to this solicitation were opened on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10 AM. The bids were as follows:

Bidder	Location	Bid per Acre	Annual Lease Payment
Ryan Huhn	Eagle, MI	\$286	\$28,028
Katie Seif	Ionia, MI	\$161	\$15,778

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ketchum, to accept the proposed bid from Ryan Huhn at \$286 per acre to lease the 98 acres of City of Ionia farmland located on the north and south sides of the Grand River from May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2027, and to authorize the city manager to execute the proposed lease agreement on the city’s behalf.
 Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. APPOINTMENTS

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to appoint the following individuals:

Ionia Housing Commission (5 year term)

Mike Rockafellow - Term Expires 12/31/2023; Reappointment through 12/31/2028

Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)

Zachary Sheehan – Appointment through 12/31/2028

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

IX. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS & MINUTES FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Reports provided to Council.

X. CITY COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Precia Garland: The City website has been updated giving residents the ability to subscribe to specific information they are most interested in. Users should go to www.cityofionia.org, click the “Notify Me”

button to create an account, then subscribe to any City information that they would like to receive by email or text message.

Todd Waterman: Welcome to Mayor Milewski and Councilmembers.

Brenda Cowling: (1) Glad to be here; (2) It's a nice update to the City website.

Tom Millard: (1) Welcome new members; (2) Congratulated Mayor Milewski, noting that a page has been turned on the history of Ionia with a new Mayor at the helm.

Rich Starr: (1) Happy new year to everyone; (2) Welcome to new Councilmembers.

Tim Lee: (1) Welcome to new Councilmembers; (2) Congratulations to Mayor Milewski and Deputy Mayor Starr.

Margot Cook: (1) Glad to be on Council; (2) The "Simply Strings Quartet" will appear at the First United Methodist Church on February 9, 6:00 PM.

Jeff Winters: Welcome to the new members.

Dawn Ketchum: (1) Appreciates being on Council; (2) Retired from the City of Ionia 10 years ago, and is grateful to the City for its help in raising kids.

Mayor John Milewski: (1) The work done by Council and City workers is not flashy, but the work done is important to all residents. Thank you to the department leaders for all they do to keep the City running. (2) Very happy to have his family present for swearing in.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Millard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Submitted by:

Mary Patrick, Ionia City Clerk