



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

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor John Milewski called the meeting of the Ionia City Council to order at 7:00 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**

With no changes or additions to the agenda, Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to approve it as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 1, 2023, as corrected, and January 3, 2024, Regular Meetings**

Garland noted that the **November 1, 2023**, minutes omitted Item VII-2 in error, and that the corrected minutes were presented. Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve the **November 1, 2023**, Regular Meeting Minutes with the noted correction of adding Item VII-2.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: Ketchum, Cook, Cowling

(new members were not present at the November meeting)

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ketchum, to approve the **January 3, 2024**, Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

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

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**III. PROCLAMATIONS**

None.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**V. PUBLIC HEARINGS & ASSOCIATED ACTIONS**

**(V-1) Public Hearing and Action – 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. One of the nuisances listed in this chapter is grass, weeds and undergrowth exceeding six (6) inches. Over the last four years, the city’s code enforcement officer has noted the following number of grass/weed ordinance violations:

- 2023 – 162 violations
- 2022 – 72 violations (code enforcement officer vacancy for part of the season)
- 2021 – 241 violations
- 2020 – 137 violations

In 2023, there were 22 properties with multiple violations of this ordinance. The average number of repeat violations was three; one residential property violated six times. These numbers may seem high, but the enforcement officer indicates enforcement was in fact lenient, as there were multiple properties that could have been cited monthly or more.

Our 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.

Following the public hearing without comment, Councilmember Ketchum made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve 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.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, and 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.

CITY OF IONIA

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: Mary Patrick, City Clerk

**ORDINANCE NO. 580 DECLARED ADOPTED**

**(V-2) Public Hearing and Resolution 2024-05 – CDBG CHILL Grant Application**

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) recently announced the availability of its CDBG Housing Improvement Local Livability (CHILL) grant program. Staff prepared a letter of intent (LOI) to apply to this program and received approval in response to make formal application to the program.

If approved, the grant would provide the City with \$240,000, which in turn will be made available in the form of grants (up to \$5,000) or forgivable mortgages (up to \$40,000) to low- and moderate-income homeowners for qualified home improvements. No local match is required.

To apply for the program, the application must be preceded by a public hearing to solicit public input, as well as an authorizing resolution, which approves the application and the city manager to sign on behalf of the city.

Following the public hearing without comment, Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to approve Resolution 2024-05, which would authorize the CDBG CHILL grant application and further authorize the city manager to sign related documents.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution 2024-05

**IONIA CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION TO THE CDBG CHILL PROGRAM AND TO  
AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED AGREEMENTS AND SERVE AS  
THE CERTIFYING OFFICER**

The following Resolution was offered for adoption by City Council Member Starr and was supported by City Council Member Cowling:

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia has prepared an application to the CDBG CHILL program, which if funded, will provide CDBG funds for grants and loans to low- and moderate-income homeowners to make home improvements to permanent residential structures; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG funds will further benefit at least 51% low to moderate income persons and result in no displacement of persons; and

WHEREAS, the application will request \$240,000 to fund CHILL project activities, consistent with the City's community development plan as described in the application; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia will not provide a local match to the grant, but will provide contracted and direct administrative services, as necessary to manage the project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia will not incur any project costs prior to notice of the formal grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures, and formal, written authorization to incur costs, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia conducted a public hearing during its regular meeting on February 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 114 N. Kidd Street, Ionia, MI 48846 for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and provide comments on its proposed CDBG CHILL grant application prior to its submission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City Council of the City of Ionia hereby authorizes submission of the CDBG CHILL grant application as prepared; and

2. The City Council of the City of Ionia hereby authorizes its City Manager to sign the CDBG application and all attachments on behalf of the City of Ionia, as well as any future CDBG grant agreement, amendments thereto, FSR payment requests, and to further serve as the CDBG Certifying Officer.

AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, Milewski  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION 2024-05 DECLARED ADOPTED**

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

**(VI-1) 2023 Annual Report – Ionia Community Library**

The City of Ionia entered into an agreement with participating municipalities on July 1, 2004, to create the Ionia Community Library, a district library pursuant to Act No. 24 of the Public Acts of 1989, as amended. As such, the Ionia Community Library is a separate municipal entity with a separate District Library Board, fully empowered to establish, maintain and operate a public library for the district.

The City of Ionia appoints two members to the District Library Board, leases the Hall-Fowler House at 126 E. Main Street to the library for \$1 per year, and otherwise by custom, receives an annual report from the library regarding its overall operations. Library Director Dale Parus presented the 2023 annual library report.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lee, to accept the 2023 Ionia Community Library Report provided by Library Director Dale Parus.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(VI-2) 2023 Annual Solid Waste Report – Granger Waste Services**

The City of Ionia and Granger Waste Services have a current Domestic Refuse and Recycling Collection Agreement that was executed in 2023, following a competitive bidding process. Representing Granger Waste Services, Jami Anderson provided a report of Granger’s performance that included statistical and other data to inform Council of Granger’s activities for the past year. The report also included projections that will assist the Council in its future planning.

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Winters to accept the 2023 Annual Solid Waste Report provided by Granger Waste Services.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(VI-3) 2023 Planning Commission Annual Report**

Council reviewed an annual report from the Planning Commission summarizing activities that took place throughout 2023. The report was reviewed and approved by the Ionia Planning Commission at its January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting for transmittal to City Council. The report includes many items accomplished

during the eleven regular meetings and one joint work session with City Council. Overall, the draft report shows the dedication and hard work of the Planning Commission, ZBA, and City staff throughout 2023 and sets a high standard for 2024.

Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ketchum, to accept the 2023 Planning Commission Annual Report.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **(VII-1) Water and Sewer Rate Study Report – John Kaczor, Municipal Analytics**

In response to a request for proposals to solicit competitive bids for a City of Ionia Water & Sewer Rate Study, Municipal Analytics of Ann Arbor was selected to complete the study. The purpose of the study was to independently assess and evaluate the City's existing water and sewer rates, to ensure rates are reflective of the City's water and sanitary sewer system capital and financial needs, and to make recommendations on potential changes to the City's rate structure and associated water and sewer ordinances. John Kaczor, Principal with Municipal Analytics, completed the study and presented the findings to Council.

### **(VII-2) Introduction and First Reading – Ordinance No. 581: Bicycles, Skateboards & Rollerskates**

The Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia currently contains Chapter 420 – Bicycles, Skateboards & Rollerskates. This chapter has existed as part of the Codified Ordinances since at least 1975 but has not been updated in many years. A recent inquiry regarding bicycle licensing prompted a review of this chapter and recommended updates.

The revised Chapter 420 does the following:

- Repeals the mandate for bicycle licensing, along with associated fees;
- Retains a voluntary bicycle registration process with the Department of Public Safety;
- Retains an impounding procedure for abandoned bicycles;
- Repeals the bicycle impoundment fee;
- Retains the section regarding second-hand bicycle dealers;
- Retains the section regarding skateboarding and roller skating

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to introduce and conduct a first reading of Ordinance No. 581 amending Chapter 420 – Bicycles, Skateboard & Rollerskates, amending Sections 420.04, 420.05 and 420.06 and repealing Sections 420.07 through 420.13, inclusive, of the City of Ionia Codified Ordinances, and to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the proposed ordinance for **7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at Ionia City Hall.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **CITY OF IONIA IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN Ordinance No. 581**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 420.04, 420.05, 420.06, AND 420.07 AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 420.08 THROUGH 420.13, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IONIA**

**THE CITY OF IONIA HEREBY ORDAINS:**

Section 1. Amendment of Section 420.04. That Section 420.04 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

**420.4 IMPOUNDING OF BICYCLES.**

(a) Authority to Remove Bicycles. Members of the Police Department are hereby authorized to remove bicycles from a public place to a place of safety, under the circumstances hereinafter enumerated.

(1) When any bicycle is reasonably believed to be stolen.

(2) When any bicycle has been left unattended upon any public street, alley, or sidewalk continuously for a period of forty-eight hours, or when any bicycle is left in such a manner as to obstruct unreasonably the flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic on any public street, alley or sidewalk.

(b) Notice. When a bicycle is impounded under the provisions of this section and the Police Department knows or is able to ascertain the owner thereof, the Police Department shall, within a reasonable period of time, give and cause to be given a notice in writing to such owner of the fact of impoundment and the reasons therefor.

(c) Sale. Any bicycle impounded under the provisions of this section may, after one month from the date of impoundment, be sold by the Police Department at public sale in the same manner as provided by law.

Section 2. Amendment of Section 420.05. That Section 420.05 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows::

**420.05 SKATEBOARDING AND ROLLER SKATING.**

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Rollerskates" and "street skates" mean either a pair of small wheels near the toe and another pair near the heel of a shoe or frame that would attach to a shoe, or in-line skates, which are used for gliding on a hard surface such as a floor, sidewalk, etc.

(2) "Skateboard" means an item consisting of a short, oblong board with a pair of small wheels at each end, ridden on a hard surface such as a floor, sidewalk, etc.

(3) "To roller skate" means to skate on any type of rollerskates or street skates.

(b) Compliance Required. No person shall roller skate or ride a skateboard within the City without complying with this section and any and all other applicable ordinances and statutes.

(c) Yielding to Pedestrians. Whenever any person is roller skating or riding a skateboard upon a sidewalk or other paved surface intended for use by pedestrians, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall not approach, overtake or pass such pedestrian in a reckless or careless manner, nor pass such pedestrian except in single file if such person is roller skating or riding a skateboard with other such skaters or riders.

(d) Skating or Riding on Certain Devices or Structures. No person shall roller skate or skateboard on any public bench, table, planter wall, retaining wall or other device or structure which is not intended for pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or jump or step on or off such devices or structures in the process of roller skating or riding a skateboard.

(e) Reckless or Dangerous Skating or Riding. No person shall roller skate or ride a skateboard on



Section 1202.02, of the City of Ionia Codified Ordinances, and to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the proposed ordinance for **7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 6, 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  
IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Ordinance No. 582**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART TWELVE, CHAPTER 1202, SECTION 1202.02 ENTITLED  
“MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION; VACANCIES.” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE  
CITY OF IONIA**

**THE CITY OF IONIA HEREBY ORDAINS:**

**Section 1: Amendment of Section 1202.02**

That Section 1202.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

1202.02 MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION; VACANCIES.

The Planning Commission shall consist of seven (7) members, one (1) ex-officio member and six (6) appointed members. All members shall have full voting rights. The ex-officio member shall be the Mayor or one (1) member from the City Council selected by the City Council. The six (6) appointed members shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall represent, insofar as is possible, different professions or occupations and be representative of important segments of the community, such as the economic, governmental, educational, and social development of the city. Persons appointed to the Planning Commission shall be qualified electors of the city, except that one (1) member may be a non-qualified elector who resides outside the municipal boundaries of the city. An employee of the city shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the Planning Commission. Such appointments shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the members of the City Council. All members of the Planning Commission shall serve as such without compensation. The term of the ex-officio member shall correspond to their respective official tenure. The term of each appointed member shall be three years or until a successor takes office. Vacancies occurring otherwise than through the expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Mayor, subject to the approval by a majority of the members of the City Council.

**Section 2: Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately after its publication in the manner provided by law.

CITY OF IONIA

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
BY: Mary Patrick, City Clerk

**(VII-4) Introduction and First Reading – Ordinance No. 583 – Codification**

Annually, staff has the City’s code book publisher codify the ordinances enacted by City Council covering approximately the previous year’s period. Ordinances and select resolutions enacted by Council since April 12, 2023, need to be codified through a codification ordinance.

Mayor Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to introduce and set a first reading of Ordinance No. 583, an ordinance to codify the ordinances adopted by the City Council since April 12, 2023, and to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the proposed ordinance **for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 6, 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  
 IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
 Ordinance No. 583**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH**

**WHEREAS,** American Legal Publishing Corporation has completed its most recent updating and revision of the Codified Ordinances of the City;

**WHEREAS,** various ordinances and resolutions of a general and permanent nature that have been passed by Council since the date of the last updating and revision of the Codified Ordinances (April 12, 2023) have been included in the Codified Ordinances of the City;

**THE CITY OF IONIA ORDAINS:**

Section 1. That the editing, arrangement and numbering or renumbering of the following ordinances and resolutions are hereby approved as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of the City, so as to conform to the classification and numbering system of the Codified Ordinances:

<u>Ord. or Res. No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>C.O. Section</u>
575	4-12-23	Amend Sec. 3 of Ordinance No. 360: City Income Tax
576	6-7-23	Amend Subsections 214.05(C)(1)A, 214.05(C)(1)B, 214.05(C)(2)B, and 214.05(C)(2)F– Fee Schedule 2023
Res. 23-07	6-7-23	Amend Sec. 202 of the City Charter – Even Year Local Elections
Res. 23-15	7-5-23	Amend Sec. 2.08 and 4.03 of the City Charter – City Clerk an Appointed Administrative Officer
Res. 23-16	7-5-23	Amend Sec. 6.01 and 6.02 of the City Charter – Nonpartisan City Elective Offices
577	8-2-23	Amend Ch. 440: Parking
578	10-4-23	Amend Ch. 204: Municipal Standards
Res. 23-19	10-4-23	Amend Sec. 204.02 – Municipal Standards
579	1-3-24	Amend Ch. 1612: Reimbursement for Fire Response
580	2-7-24	Subsection 676.05(q), Sec. 676.07, Sec. 676.08, Sec. 676.99 and Subsection 1460.05(d) – Grass and Weeds
581	3-6-24	Amend Ch. 420: Bicycles, Skateboards, and Rollerskates
582	3-6-24	Amend Sec. 1202.02 – Planning Commission Membership

Section 2. If any section, clause or phrase of this ordinance is declared to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be published and recorded as provided in the City Charter and shall take effect upon publication.

CITY OF IONIA

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Patrick, City Clerk

**(VII-5) Schedule Public Hearing to Consider Resolution 2024-03 – Vacation of Merritt & York Addition Alley**

An alley that exists between Jackson and Jefferson Streets in the Merritt & York Addition to the City of Ionia was recently brought to staff's attention for review. The alley was platted at the same time the Merritt & York Addition Plat was approved by the Village of Ionia (1855). The alley has not been used as a drivable thoroughfare between Jackson and Jefferson Streets for several decades. In addition to the overgrown vegetation, several property owners have encroached on the alley by erecting various accessory structures over it; primarily garages/barns and fences. The east entrance of the alley has been completely fenced in by the property owner at 341 E. Main Street and converted to private yard. Approximately one-third of the west portion of the alley is used as an unimproved private driveway for vehicles to access the back of adjacent lots.

Given these findings, Council was asked to consider vacating (abandoning) the public alley, while retaining an easement for public utilities.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ketchum, to schedule a public hearing for **7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at Ionia City Hall**, to consider Resolution 2024-03 to vacate the alley lying between Jackson & Jefferson Streets in the Merritt & York Addition in the City of Ionia.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution 2024-03

**IONIA CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION TO VACATE AND DELETE A PORTION  
OF A PLATTED ALLEY**

The following Resolution was offered for adoption by City Council Member \_\_\_\_\_ and was supported by City Council Member \_\_\_\_\_:

WHEREAS, a recent inspection of the platted alley generally located between the north-south streets of Jackson and Jefferson and the east-west streets of Main and Adams noted that numerous adjacent property owners have erected garages, fences and similar accessory structures on portions of said alley; and

WHEREAS, the east entrance of said alley has been completely blocked with fencing and converted into what appears to be a private yard by the adjacent property owner, which owns property to the north and south of the east alley entrance; and

WHEREAS, such encroachments on said alley, as well as trees, shrubs and other overgrowth have made the alley impassable as a thoroughfare between Jackson and Jefferson Streets; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the vacation and deletion of the platted, public alley as further described herein would be in the best interest of the City, as well as its residents, landowners and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

3. That the portion of the alley described as follows:

Said alley is located, and is part of, the Merritt & York Addition to the City of Ionia, Ionia County, Michigan and lies between Jackson Street and Jefferson Street and is described as; that alley lying South of lots 30 thru 39, and North of lot 40 as well as lots 43 thru 48 of said Merritt & York Addition. Said alley is 32 ft wide.

is hereby vacated and deleted by the City of Ionia as a City road, street, and thoroughfare, and shall be removed from the City street system conditioned on compliance with all terms of this Resolution. An aerial representation of the alley being vacated is attached as Exhibit A to this Resolution.

4. The adjacent property owners to the above-described alley, on behalf of themselves and their successors, heirs and assigns, assume all risk that this vacating Resolution may be declared invalid or insufficient to vacate a public alley right-of-way under Michigan law. The City makes no representations or warranties as to the sufficiency of this method of vacation and the adjacent property owners shall accept the benefit of the vacation and shall further understand the City of Ionia will record this Resolution with the Ionia County Register of Deeds in acknowledgment and affirmation of the foregoing. Further, the adjacent property owners shall hold harmless the City from any claims predicated upon or arising out of the vacation or method legally utilized to accomplish the same.

5. The City reserves to itself a public utility easement across, over and under the entirety of the alley being vacated, as described above in Paragraph 1.

6. All resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, repealed.

#### **(VII-6) Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Televising Project**

Work is currently underway to update the City of Ionia's Capital Improvement Plan for the years 2025 – 2030. Question was recently raised regarding the condition of underground infrastructure in and around the Adams Street public parking lot and sections of E. Main Street. The condition of this sewer will influence project timing and whether these areas are resurfaced or planned for complete reconstruction. The only way to accurately ascertain the condition of sanitary sewer in these areas is to clean and televise it. To that end, with the assistance of Fishbeck Engineering, quotes were recently sought to perform the desired cleaning/televising.

Fishbeck provided a complete review of both quotes and indicated each were complete, given the scope of work requested. While work products are typically comparable, Fishbeck recommends accepting the quote from Plummer's Environmental, based on its past coordination experience with both firms.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to approve the quote from Plummer’s Environmental Services of Byron Center, MI in the amount of \$19,592.50 for the Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Televising project.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(VII-7) Amended and Restated Integration Agreement with the Michigan’s Public Safety Communications System**

The City of Ionia has partnered with the Michigan’s Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) since 2006 to provide a communications system that supports 800 MHz radios. This system is used daily by multiple departments of the city (public safety, public works, public utilities and Dial-A-Ride) to enable necessary communications for the delivery of public services.

Recently, in partnership with Ionia County, new 800 MHz radios were purchased, which prompted a review of the Integration Agreement. Based on review of that agreement, the State determined the prior agreement had inadvertently lapsed and it is therefore necessary to approve an “Amended and Restated Integration Agreement” to continue the communications system partnership. Council reviewed the proposed Amended and Restated Integration Agreement, an MPSCS membership agreement, and Resolution 2024-04.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve Resolution 2024-04, which in turn would approve the Amended and Restated Integration Agreement and Membership Agreement with the MPSCS.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution 2024-04

**IONIA CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AND RESTATED  
INTEGRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN’S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS  
SYSTEM (MPSCS)**

The following Resolution was offered for adoption by City Council Member Winters and was supported by City Council Member Waterman:

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia last entered into an Integration Agreement with the State of Michigan, via its Department of Technology, Management and Budget, Office of the Michigan’s Public Safety Communications System on July 21, 2006; and

WHEREAS, this agreement is essential to providing a comprehensive radio communications system for use by various departments of the city, including public safety, public works, public utilities and Dial-A-Ride; and

WHEREAS, recent upgrades to the 800 MHz radios prompted a review of the original Integration Agreement by the State, which determined the prior agreement had lapsed and required restating as well as several amendments; and

WHEREAS, the agreement has been reviewed and determined satisfactory to continue integration with the Michigan’s Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City Council of the City of Ionia finds it necessary and desirable to approve the Amended and Restated Integration Agreement with the Michigan’s Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) to continue providing a comprehensive radio communications system for use by its various departments; and
2. The City Council of the City of Ionia hereby authorizes its City Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City of Ionia, as well as MPSCS Member Subscriber Agreement, which defines the specific MPSCS services provided to the City; and
3. All prior resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

AYES: Ketchum, Winters, Cook, Lee, Starr, Millard, Cowling, Waterman, & Milewski  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04 DECLARED ADOPTED

**(VII-8) Schedule Work Session – Capital Improvement Plan and State of the City Presentation**

In accordance with Sections 5.04(2), 5.10 – 5.11 of the Ionia City Charter, a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is prepared and submitted annually for City Council consideration and adoption. The CIP is to include:

1. A clear general summary of its contents;
2. A list of all capital improvements and other capital expenditures that are proposed to be undertaken during the 5 (now 6 due to a change in state statute) fiscal years next ensuing, with appropriate supporting information as to the necessity for each;
3. Cost estimates and recommended time schedules for each improvement or other capital expenditure;
4. The method of financing, upon which each capital expenditure is to be reliant; and
5. The estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the facilities to be constructed or acquired.

City Council is also required to conduct a public hearing regarding the CIP prior to its adoption. The approved CIP is then utilized to assist in programming capital projects for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to schedule a work session and public hearing for **5:30 PM on Wednesday, March 6, 2024**, for the purpose of receiving public comments on the proposed Capital Improvement Program, and to view the “State of the City” presentation covering various activities and accomplishments of the City over the past year.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VIII. APPOINTMENTS**

**Board of Review (3 year terms)**

Melinda Talbot - Unexpired Term ending 12/31/2025

Councilmember Ketchum made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Winters, to appoint Melinda Talbot to the Board of Review for a term that expires 12/31/2025.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Planning Commission (3 year terms)**

Jason Perry – New Term ending 12/31/2026

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to appoint Jason Perry to the Planning Commission for a term that expires 12/31/2026.

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**

**Patrick:** Presidential Primary Election will be held February 27, 2024. Over 500 Presidential Ballot Selection forms have been mailed to voters on the Permanent Ballot list, and about 500 Absent Voter Applications have been sent to voters on the AV list. Several changes are now in effect as a result of the passage of Proposal 2022-2 last November, including the beginning of early voting from February 17 through February 25. Very grateful that the Library agreed to work with the City and surrounding townships to use their future site as an early voting center, saving many thousands of dollars. As part of the early voting, the City Clerk will provide 4 workers and supervision on one of the days.

**Tom Millard:** (1) Commended DPW on snow removal during the last storm; (2) It is a testament to staff for how proactive the City has been regarding the sewer and water systems, and for working towards having cash on hand; (3) Would like to see a new skateboard park in Ionia; perhaps the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation could take a look at including one.

**Rich Starr:** (1) Very appreciative of DPW's work, and liked seeing the actual numbers in the Water & Sewer study to show that the City is on the right footing for the future.

**Margot Cook:** Thanks to Precia and department heads for the facilities tour.

**Dawn Ketchum:** Thank you to Parks and Recreation for developing the pickleball program.

**Mayor John Milewski:** (1) DPW has done a great job with snow removal; (2) Enjoyed the facilities tour and found it very useful; perhaps consider scheduling them on a regular basis, as needed.

**XI. CLOSED SESSION**

None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Millard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Lee. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Submitted by:

Mary Patrick  
Ionia City Clerk