



CITY OF IONIA

IONIA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 7:00 PM, August 2, 2023 CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dan Balice called the regular 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 John Milewski, Ryan Videtich, Rich Starr, Tom Millard, Janice Gustafson, Troy Waterman, and Mayor Dan Balice present. Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Jeff Winters and Tim Lee.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Millard made a motion to approve the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Milewski.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 5, 2023, Regular Meeting

Councilmember Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve the July 5, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

III. PROCLAMATIONS

None.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ionia residents Rob Winkelman and Kathleen Ferguson, spoke about the difficulty in using the current size recycle bins and trash containers. Staff will follow-up to see what options Granger may offer.

Ionia County Commissioner Gordon Kelley provided an update regarding projects approved by Ionia County in his role as county commissioner. To continue the good relationship with the City, he invited Councilmembers to contact him with any questions or concerns.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS & ASSOCIATED ACTIONS

(V-1) Public Hearing and Council Action – Ordinance No. 577 – Amend Chapter 440 – Parking
Chapter 440 – Parking contains various regulations for parking throughout the City of Ionia. Several amendments to this chapter were suggested to address recent issues that have arisen regarding parking or require adjustment to comport with state statute. The proposed changes are shown on the redline Ordinance No. 577. The amendments were summarized by section as follows:

Section 440.02 – Parking within the Downtown District

Aside from minor grammatical corrections, this section is amended to prohibit long-term storage of any vehicle or trailer within the Downtown District. Anything beyond 72 hours is defined as long-term storage.

Section 440.04 – Residential District Parking Regulations

Parking violations are defined in this Chapter as a civil infraction. As such, fines for civil infractions must be established by ordinance, not resolution, as was previously stated in this section. Thus, reference to setting parking fines by resolution is deleted and proposed fines are now stated in Section 440.99 – Civil Infraction; Impounding, as detailed below.

Section 440.10 – Odd/Even Parking

For this section, the amount of time parking is prohibited during the winter months of December through March on odd-even days is expanded from 7:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This additional two hours will provide the Department of Public Works with more time to remove snow from the streets.

Section 440.99 – Civil Infraction; Impounding

As noted above, parking violations are civil infractions and thus, the fines must be established by ordinance. This section is amended to include fines with a modest increase proposed, from \$10/\$20/\$30 to \$15/\$30/\$40 for the initial fine, after three days unpaid, and after 30 days unpaid, respectively.

Additional language was added to make it clear that a vehicle parked in violation of this Chapter is a nuisance that can be abated by towing/impounding the vehicle. Thus, the Public Safety Department can issue tickets under this Chapter, rather than Chapter 676.03 Abandoned Motor Vehicles. Furthermore, towing can occur at the discretion of the City under Chapter 440 after a parking civil infraction is issued, without further notice and as may be needed to abate the nuisance (i.e., to allow the timely snow plowing of a street without risk of damage to the City plow truck or illegally parked vehicle.)

Finally, a new paragraph was added to this section, replacing the former penalty for six or more unpaid parking tickets. Instead of requesting that a driver's license not be renewed by the state in this case (for which there is no enabling legislation), this section states a vehicle with six or more unpaid tickets, if parked on public property or public right-of-way, can be impounded until the tickets are paid in full, plus the costs of impounding, storage, etc.

Upon the closing of the public hearing with no comments heard, Councilmember Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve Ordinance No. 577, an ordinance to amend various section of Chapter 440 – Parking, of the City Code.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

**CITY OF IONIA
IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 577**

AN ORDINANCE TO: AMEND PART FOUR, CHAPTER 440, SECTION 440.02 ENTITLED “PARKING WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT; AMEND PART FOUR, CHAPTER 440, SECTION 440.04 ENTITLED “RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT PARKING REGULATIONS”; AMEND PART FOUR, CHAPTER 440, SECTION 440.10 ENTITLED “ODD/EVEN PARKING”; AND AMEND PART FOUR, CHAPTER 440, SECTION 440.99 ENTITLED “PENALTY; IMPOUNDING” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IONIA

The City of Ionia Ordains:

Section 1: Amendment

That Part Four, Chapter 440, Section 440.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

440.02 PARKING WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT.

Enforcement. The enforcement of parking regulations in the Downtown District shall be in accordance with the following:

(a) Parking will be enforced in the downtown area beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

(b) Parking hours in the Downtown District will not be enforced on holidays or Sundays as otherwise specified in this chapter.

(c) Enforcement shall include the following:

- (1) Washington Street;
- (2) Main Street;
- (3) Adams Street;
- (4) Steele Street;
- (5) Kidd Street;
- (6) Depot Street;
- (7) Hudson Street;
- (8) Library Street; and
- (9) Public parking lots located with the Downtown District.

(d) Parking enforcement shall be made by the Director of Public Safety or his or her designee(s).

(e) No person shall cause or permit any vehicle, truck, or trailer, whether it is operable or inoperable, to be abandoned within the Downtown District. “Abandonment” as used in this subsection, means being parked on public property for a continuous period in excess of seventy-two hours in the same location.

Section 2: Amendment

That Part Four, Chapter 440, Section 440.04 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

440.04 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT PARKING REGULATIONS.

When signs prohibiting or limiting parking to a specific time period are erected in proximity to a space marked for parking in any Residential District, no person shall park a vehicle in that space if parking is prohibited or if parking is limited, park in excess of the time period as established by the official signs in that area.

Section 3: Amendment

That Part Four, Chapter 440, Section 440.10 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

440.10 ODD/EVEN PARKING.

Except when necessary to avoid a conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with law, or at the direction of a public safety officer or traffic control device, no person shall park a vehicle on or along the side of any street, within the City, with odd building numbers on an even numbered date of the month, or the side of any street in the City with even building numbers on an odd-numbered date of the month, during the months of December thru March, inclusive, and between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., provided that this section shall not apply to that portion of any street marked or posted, on either or both sides, with permanent parking prohibitions.

Section 4: Amendment

That Part Four, Chapter 440, Section 440.99 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia is amended to read as follows:

440.99 CIVIL INFRACTION; IMPOUNDING.

(a) Civil Infraction. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be liable for a civil infraction, for which the fines shall be as follows:

- (1) \$15.00 if said fine is paid within 3 calendar days of issuance of the citation; or
- (2) \$30.00 if said fine is paid between 4 calendar days and 30 calendar days of the issuance of the citation; or
- (3) \$45.00 if said fine is paid later than 30 calendar days of the issuance of the citation.

(b) Impoundment. A vehicle parked in violation of this Chapter is hereby declared to be a nuisance that may be abated by any person authorized by this Code to enforce this Chapter by removing or causing said vehicle to be removed to the vehicle pound. The owner or operator of any vehicle that has been removed to the vehicle pound may have said vehicle released by paying all parking violation penalties presently outstanding against the vehicle, and all levies and costs of towing and storage and other impoundment expenses to the City of Ionia, or the City of Ionia's towing contractor, if applicable.

(c) Impoundment of Vehicles for Failure to Pay Civil Infractions Under This Chapter. If a vehicle is unattended and the registered owner of the vehicle has six (6) or more unpaid and outstanding civil infraction violations, all of which have been issued for a violation of this Chapter, any person authorized by this Code to enforce this Chapter may cause said vehicle to be removed to the vehicle pound. The owner or operator of any vehicle that has been removed to the vehicle pound may have said vehicle released by paying all parking violation penalties presently outstanding against the vehicle, and all levies and costs of towing and

storage and other impoundment expenses to the City of Ionia, or the City of Ionia's towing contractor, if applicable. There shall be no impoundment under this subsection from any private property.

Section 5: Repealer

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

Section 6: 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. 577 APPROVED

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

(VI-1) Application for Ionia Expo Block Party with Mobile Food Vending Units—September 16, 2023

Council reviewed an application submitted by Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce for Ionia Expo Block Party to be held on September 16, 2023. The application requests closure of Main Street within the Central Business District, plus sections of Depot and Steele Streets from 8 AM to 4 PM, to accommodate various activities and four food trucks as part of the event. City Code requires that any food truck proposing to operate on public land or public right-of-way must first receive a special event food vending permit approved by the City Council.

The proposed food trucks will provide the required application materials to vend as part of the Ionia Expo Block Party event. All four are proposed for location on N. Depot Street. City staff are reviewing the details and find approval of the requested street closure and food truck operation on city right-of-way to be appropriate, at the discretion of the City Council and contingent upon final staff review.

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve the application for parade and street closure with mobile food vending units, for September 16, 2023, in conjunction with the Ionia Expo Block Party event, contingent upon final staff approval.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(VII-1) Water Reliability Study – Update

Last year, the City Council authorized the completion of a Water Reliability Study for the City's water utility. This was recommended by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy in accordance with state statute, which requires the completion of such a study and its update every five years. Ionia's study was originally performed in 2006 and previously last updated in 2014. The recently completed 2022-23 update was delayed by COVID-19.

A not-to-exceed proposal of \$29,800 from Fishbeck Engineering was approved for the purpose of completing this study. The actual cost was \$19,849.30.

The Water Reliability Study included several components to assess the overall water utility system. Following historical information gathering, the study calculated demand projections, designed a model to evaluate the capacity of our current water production system and finally, provided recommendations regarding future capital improvements to ensure the continued ability to satisfy projected water demand.

Utilities Director Joe Lafler summarized the significant findings of this study. Lafler noted that even with Ionia's population growth, water conservation efforts have kept usage below what might be expected. No PFAs have been found. The work done in the last 20-30 years to the overall water utility system continue to benefit Ionia residents today.

(VII-2) Michigan Municipal League (MML) Workers' Compensation Fund – Trustee Election

The City of Ionia obtains workers compensation insurance through the MML Workers' Compensation Fund. Annually, representatives of the fund members are elected to the Board, which oversees the Fund's operations. The Board consists of 13 Trustees, one of which is the executive director of the MML. Trustee terms are for four years. This year, three incumbent Trustees are seeking re-election and three new candidates are seeking a first term, for a total of six candidates. Biographical information regarding the candidates follows, as well as the official ballot, which requests the City vote for six Trustee candidates for a term beginning October 1, 2023. The candidates are as follows:

- Adam Smith, City Manager, City of Grand Ledge (seeking 3rd term)
- Devin Olson, City Manager, City of Munising (seeking 2nd term)
- David Tossava, Mayor, City of Hastings (seeking 2nd term)
- Christine Burns, City Manager, City of Spring Lake (seeking 1st term)
- Juan Ganum, City Manager, City of Bridgman (seeking 1st term)
- Kevin Klynstra, Mayor, City of Zeeland (seeking first term)

Councilmember Gustafson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to cast a ballot for all nominated Trustee candidates as listed above to serve on the MML Workers' Compensation Fund for a four (4) year term beginning October 1, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-3) Resolution 2023-17 to approve Land & Water Conservation Fund Development Project Agreement #26-01882 for Hale Park Renovation

Recently the City was notified its grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the Hale Park Renovation Project was approved for funding, offered through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The total expected project cost is \$764,000, with \$382,000 in grant funds and \$382,000 to be provided by the City in local matching funds. The project will renovate Hale Park, which is located on the northeast corner of Division and Lincoln Streets. The project will include a number of improvements, including installation of new basketball courts and pavilion, plus new benches, bike racks, grills, sidewalks, and an enlarged paved parking lot.

In order to proceed with the project, Council must officially approve the proposed grant agreement, by adopting Resolution #2023-17. Once approved, project design and engineering would ensue, enabling bid solicitation next spring and the start of construction in Fall 2024.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson, to adopt Resolution #2023-17, which would approve the Land and Water Conversation Fund Development Project

Agreement #26-01882 for Hale Park Renovation, approve the required local match, and further authorize the city manager to sign the Agreement on the City's behalf.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution No. 2023-17

**CITY OF IONIA
COUNTY OF IONIA, MICHIGAN**

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 2nd day of August, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice

ABSENT: Winters, Lee

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Council Member Millard and seconded by Council Member Gustafson.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT #26-01882, REGARDING THE HALE PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia is in receipt of a proposed grant agreement from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with funding appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ionia, Michigan does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and that the City does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide Three Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Dollars (\$382,000) to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT.
2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the DEPARTMENT for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.
4. To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
5. To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.
6. To authorize its city manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City of Ionia and to oversee grant administration as necessary to carry out the Project.

AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION 2023-17 DECLARED ADOPTED

(VII-4) Policy 4-003 – Economic Opportunities Policy for Section 3 Covered Contracts

The City of Ionia first adopted Policy 4-003 – Economic Opportunities Policy for Section 3 Covered Contracts as required to comply with federal grant requirements. The City was recently advised of a significant change in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to which this policy refers. Previously, the proper citation was § 135.5 of 24 CFR Part 135. The proper citation is now § 135.5 of 24 CFR Part 75. With this recodification, it was necessary to discard the old policy and replace it with the new version. This policy potentially applies to projects funded through Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs), when certain thresholds and conditions are met, as described in the policy.

Councilmember Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to approve revised Policy 4-003 – Economic Opportunities Policy for Section 3 Covered Contracts for update in Section 4 Community Development of the City’s General Policy Manual.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-5) City of Ionia Sesquicentennial Celebration

DDA Director Linda Curtis provided information about potential events surrounding Ionia’s 2023 Sesquicentennial. The City of Ionia was officially incorporated as a city by the state of Michigan on March 21, 1873. Curtis is leading an ad-hoc Sesquicentennial Committee that has discussed a schedule of proposed activities and events to occur mostly during the weekend of October 6 – 8, 2023. The proposed schedule with an estimated cost for each activity/event was reviewed. Highlights include developing promotional items to mark the celebration, such as sesquicentennial banners, apparel, coins/tokens, historic building tours, an ice cream social, presentations, and a fireworks display. The total estimated budget for all activities as presented was \$21,550. Funds were not budgeted for the Sesquicentennial Celebration when Council approved the FY23-24 City Budget.

After discussion about the potential issues and cost of a fireworks display, Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Milewski, to approve a \$15,500 budget amendment to fund the proposed City of Ionia Sesquicentennial Celebration, without a fireworks display.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-6) Ionia Theatre Popcorn Popper

The popcorn popper at the Ionia Theatre is no longer operable and requires replacement. The current popper is 13 years old and after several repairs, is no longer serviceable. Grand Rapids Popcorn has provided a quote of \$10,205 for a replacement popper that matches the capacity of the current popper. In addition, it offers the ability to make kettle and other specialty popcorns, utilizes a more economical enclosed box for oil, and features the “big eye,” which tells the operator when the kettle is ready to load and if it has been left on after use. The new unit also comes with a three-year parts warranty and one year labor warranty.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Milewski, to approve the purchase of a 32 oz Odessey Popcorn Popper from Grand Rapids Popcorn for \$10,205 as quoted.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-7) 2024 3/4 Ton Pickup Truck Purchase – Public Works

In order to keep Public Works Department equipment operating within its expected useful life, older vehicles are routinely budgeted and replaced. Two pickup trucks owned by the Central Garage Fund were included in the FY 23-24 budget for replacement in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan.

Options are still being sought for one truck but pricing has been secured for the other truck as follows:

- 2006 Ford F250 – ST26 with 65,293 miles (as of 7/21/23) and now 17 years old. The proposed replacement vehicle is a 2024 Ford F250 Regular Cab 4x4 Pickup with 8’ box in Yellow. This truck is used primarily by the Public Works Department to haul trailers and other equipment, pick up trash, and transport employees.

Bid pricing through the State of Michigan Contract #071B7700180 was as follows:

Bidder	Location	Price
Lunghamer Ford	Owosso, MI	\$50,105 – Yellow F250

The old truck will be offered for sale via the online auction site, www.Rangerbid.com.

Councilmember Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve purchase of a Ford F250 pickup truck as specified from Lunghamer Ford of Owosso, Michigan for the state bid price of \$50,105.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-8) 2024 3/4 Ton Pickup Truck Purchase – IRUA

In order to keep Ionia Regional Utilities Authority (IRUA) equipment operating within its expected useful life, older vehicles are routinely budgeted and replaced. An IRUA pickup truck was included in the FY 23-24 budget for replacement in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan. The truck to be replaced is a 2010 Ford F250 – ST26 with 60,000 miles (as of 7/28/23) and is now 13 years old. The proposed replacement vehicle is a 2024 Ford F250 Regular Cab 4x4 Pickup with 8’ box in Blue. This truck is used primarily by the Utilities Department to haul equipment and transport employees.

Bid pricing through the State of Michigan Contract #071B7700180 was as follows:

Bidder	Location	Price
Lunghamer Ford	Owosso, MI	\$50,915 – Blue F250

The old truck will be offered for sale via the online auction site, www.Rangerbid.com.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson, to approve purchase of a Ford F250 pickup truck as specified from Lunghamer Ford of Owosso, Michigan for the state bid price of \$50,915.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-9) Battery Electric 13-Passenger Transit Van Purchase

Ionia Dial-A-Ride was awarded a \$300,000 grant by PowerMiFleet/Consumers Energy toward the purchase of new electric vehicles. In addition to the vehicles, PowerMiFleet will provide additional funding to rebate the charging stations, installation, and any necessary grid updates needed for the building. Ionia Dial-A-Ride was selected for this grant based on our community profile and at-risk population.

As part of this purchase through the State Vehicle Purchasing Program, a 13-passenger Battery Electric Ford Transit Van with high roof extended length has been selected. The Transit Van is a demonstration vehicle and immediately available. It is lift equipped and has 2 tie-down positions for mobility devices. In addition, the flooring system allows us to modify the seating arrangement as needed – adding and subtracting seats. This vehicle is rated for Chauffeur-licensed, rather than CDL-licensed drivers. The total vehicle purchase price is \$99,418 from Hoekstra Transportation of Grand Rapids, Michigan and is 100% PowerMiFleet grant eligible.

The new electric van is expected to travel 120 to 150 miles per charge at maximum efficiency. It will replace Bus #9, which is a 2013 model with approximately 130,000 miles. This bus has also been incurring higher maintenance costs recently.

Bus #9 will be offered for sale via the online auction site, www.Rangerbid.com.

Councilmember Starr noted the importance of staff training in case of fire, and Public Safety Director Thomas agreed, noting that vehicle battery fires are becoming more common. Councilmember Starr then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve the purchase of the 13-passenger Battery Electric Ford Transit Van as specified from Hoekstra Transportation of Grand Rapids, Michigan for the state bid price of \$99,418.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
 NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII-10) Services for Annual Audit of City and IRUA Financial Statements

Following completion of the City’s 2021-2022 Annual Financial Report (audit), the contract for auditing services expired. As a result, a request was solicited from our current auditing firm, Vredeveld Haefner LLC of Grand Rapids, to extend its services for an additional year, with plans to conduct a full Request for Proposals following the FY22-23 audit. Vredeveld Haefner LLC proposed the following rates to audit City records for FY2022-23:

Service	FY 2022-2023	FY 2021-2022 (for comparison)
Audit of Financial Statements	\$17,500	\$16,700
Single Audit (when required)	4,250	3,750
Ionia Regional Utilities Authority	2,625	2,500

The rate of increase proposed between FY21-22 and FY22-23 for basic audit services is 4.8%. Vredeveld Haefner LLC has performed audit services for the City of Ionia since 2008 and has implemented an effective and efficient system for conducting the City’s audits. The Ionia City Charter states the following regarding the annual audit:

Section 2.10. Accounting System and Independent Audit

The City Council shall provide for a uniform system of accounts as required by law and for an independent annual audit of all City accounts and may provide for more frequent audits as it deems necessary. Such audits shall be made by a certified public accountant or firm of such accountants who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the City government or any of its officers. The Council may, without requiring competitive bids, designate such accountant or firm annually or for a period not exceeding three years. If the State makes such an audit, the Council may accept it as satisfying the requirements of this section.

Councilmember Gustafson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve the bid proposal by Vredeveld Haefner LLC for Annual Financial report services as stated above for FY22-23, in accordance with **Section 2.10 Accounting System and Independent Audit** of the City Charter.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. APPOINTMENTS

(VIII-1) Appointment to Local Officers Compensation Commission

Per Section 2.03 Mayor of the City Charter of the City of Ionia, it is the duty of the mayor to appoint with the advice and consent of the City Council the members of citizen advisory boards and commissions. Additionally, and specific to the Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC), Section 280.04 of the City's Codified Ordinances says LOCC members shall be appointed before October 1 of the year of appointment.

Andrew Barr is a current member of the LOCC whose term expires September 30, 2023. Based on the above requirement for the LOCC, Mayor Balice recommended Mr. Barr be reappointed to another five-year term on the LOCC, beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2028, subject to council approval.

Councilmember Milewski made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to appoint Mr. Andrew Barr to a five-year term on the Local Officers Compensation Commission running from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Milewski, Videtich, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, and Balice
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 complete reconstruction of Hall Street is scheduled to begin next week.

Mary Patrick: For the August 8 Consolidated Election, 438 Absentee Voter ballots have been mailed, 280 have been returned. The governor has approved the 2 proposed Ionia City Charter amendments to be placed on the November 7, 2023, ballot. The first provides for the appointment rather than an election of the City Clerk; the second provides that all elective officers of the City shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis, beginning with the regular City election in November 2026.

Mayor Balice: (1) The Ionia Free Fair was great overall as it was slightly more successful than last year's Fair, and earned the second highest midway gross in the Fair's history. (2) Pleased that developers have been looking at the downtown area for investments. (3) The Theatre is a challenge, but continues to operate through volunteers.

Troy Waterman: Asked if there is anything in future budgets for the replacement of street bricks.

Tom Millard: (1) Thanked the Fair Board for bringing back grandstand shows that were a huge success. The talent show was phenomenal with El Mariachi owner Moises Velasco hosting it. Was impressed with the great job done by Linda Curtis in obtaining Fair sponsorships, and noted that she is already busy doing the same for the Sesquicentennial celebration. (2) Looking forward to "Thursday on the Bricks", and is excited about the future of the downtown. (3) The trail has turned out great and it is very nice to ride on.

Rich Starr: The Fair was great and lots of fun with many things to do.

Ryan Videtich: Recently had the opportunity to interact with Ionia residents, learn about them and their concerns. Asked members to consider if the Council is approachable, how to support projects that are important to people, and working on their behalf.

John Milewski: (1) Fair was wonderful. Had the opportunity to participate as a judge in the IFF Queen contest and enjoyed listening to the memories recalled by the candidates. (2) The Steele and Main Streets water project was completed very quickly. (3) Great work by the City and County Clerks who are implementing new things and determining the most efficient way to accommodate the new rules of Proposal 2. (4) Received a “thank you” note from Councilmember Winters for the cards and messages received from everyone.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Starr made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Videtich.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Submitted by:

Mary Patrick, Ionia City Clerk