



# CITY OF IONIA

**IONIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
7:00 PM, September 4, 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 7:03 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**

Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 7, 2024, Regular Meeting**

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to approve the August 7, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

## **III. PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor John Milewski read a proclamation honoring retired Public Safety Director Troy Thomas:



# CITY OF IONIA

***Proclamation Honoring Troy S. Thomas  
September 4, 2024***

**WHEREAS**, Troy S. Thomas is an Ionia native and proud member of the community, graduating from Ionia High School and residing in Ionia with his wife Star and two children; and

**WHEREAS**, Troy started as a part-time Public Safety Officer in December of 1989 and became full-time in August of 1990 after less than a year; and

**WHEREAS**, due to his steadfast work ethic and outstanding performance, Troy was promoted many times throughout his career, at first to Uniform Sergeant in June of 2000, followed by Lieutenant in November of 2009, and Deputy Director in March of 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, in February of 2012, he was named Interim Director and in July of 2012, Troy Thomas became the Director of Ionia Public Safety; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Director Thomas displayed exceptional leadership, guiding the Department of Public Safety through numerous challenges and triumphs, and has been instrumental in implementing innovative safety measures, improving community relations, and enhancing emergency response capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure as Public Safety Director, he created the Department's first K-9 Unit, established a partnership with Ionia Township for part-time police coverage, secured a boat for swift water rescue on the Grand River, acquired an explosive detection dog in partnership with Flex-N-Gate Corporation, and managed an extensive fleet of fire suppression vehicles including a 101-foot aerial, 3,000-gallon tanker, and two brush trucks; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Thomas consistently exemplified the highest standards of public service, fostering a culture of respect and excellence within the department; and

**WHEREAS**, after nearly 35 years of dedicated service to the safety and well-being of Ionia, Troy has decided it is time to turn the next page in his life and begin a new journey in retirement, now

**THEREFORE**, I, John R. Milewski, Mayor of the City of Ionia, issue this Proclamation, extending sincere thanks to Troy S. Thomas for service to the City of Ionia. Troy is recognized and honored for a distinguished, nearly 35-year career in the Ionia Department of Public Safety. The City and entire community wish him much peace and relaxation as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

---

John R. Milewski, Mayor  
City of Ionia

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Representing Ionia Community Awareness, Diane Grummet and Jenna Perry presented the schedule of events for Purple Week with activities slated for September 7-29, 2024. Public Comments were closed at 7:11 PM

#### **V. PUBLIC HEARINGS & ASSOCIATED ACTIONS**

##### **(V-1) Public Hearing and Action—Ordinance No. 589: Residential Rezoning**

Over the past few months, the Planning Commission has been reviewing the residential zoning districts. Conversation on this topic has led to staff compiling information on nonconforming uses and parcels throughout the City. Planning Consultant Williams and Works created a series of maps to provide a visual of where residential nonconformities are located.

Based on review of the parcel data and the provided maps, the Planning Commission is recommending 165 parcels for rezoning. The following summary outlines the reasons for rezoning.

- 31 Parcels – Rezoned from EMP, East Main Preservation District to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District with the new East Main Preservation District Overlay District layered on top.
- 1 Parcel (Blanchard House) – Rezoned from B-1, Neighborhood Business District to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District with the new East Main Preservation District Overlay District layered on top.
- 1 Parcel – Rezoned from HSD, Health Services District to Medium-Density Residential District.

- 82 Parcels – Rezoned from LDR, Low-Density Residential District to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District.
- 1 Parcel – Rezoned from B-1, Neighborhood Business District to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District.
- 6 Parcels – Rezoned from HDR, High-Density Residential District to LDR, Low-Density Residential District.

The Planning Commission recommends these 165 parcels for rezoning to the City Council because the proposal will remove nonconformities and align existing uses with the proper zoning district based on recent residential zone updates.

Following the Public Hearing opened at 7:12 PM and closed at 7:15 PM by Mayor Milewski, Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ketchum, to approve Ordinance No. 589, to rezone parcels from EMP, East Main Preservation Overlay District, to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District with the additional designation of EMP, East Main Preservation Overlay District; and to rezone a parcel from B-1, Neighborhood Business District, to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District with the additional designation of EMP, East Main Preservation Overlay District; and to rezone a parcel from HSD, Health Services District to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District; and to rezone parcels from LDR, Low-Density Residential District, to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District; and to rezone a parcel from B-1, Neighborhood Business District, to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District; and to rezone parcels from HDR, High-Density Residential District, to LDR, Low-Density Residential District; and to rezone parcels from HDR, High-Density Residential District, to MDR, Medium-Density Residential District; and to correspondingly amend the official Zoning Map as provided for in Part Twelve (Planning and Zoning Code), Title Six (Zoning), Section 1246.02 (District Boundaries) of the codified ordinances of the City of Ionia.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CITY OF IONIA  
 IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
 Ordinance No. 589**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE PARCELS FROM EMP, EAST MAIN PRESERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT, TO MDR, MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITH THE ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION OF EMP, EAST MAIN PRESERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT; AND TO REZONE A PARCEL FROM B-1, NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT, TO MDR, MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITH THE ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION OF EMP, EAST MAIN PRESERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT; AND TO REZONE A PARCEL FROM HSD, HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICT TO MDR, MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND TO REZONE PARCELS FROM LDR, LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, TO MDR, MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND TO REZONE A PARCEL FROM B-1, NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT, TO MDR, MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND TO REZONE PARCELS FROM HDR, HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, TO LDR, LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND TO REZONE PARCELS FROM HDR, HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, TO MDR, MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND TO CORRESPONDINGLY AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AS PROVIDED FOR IN PART TWELVE (PLANNING AND ZONING**

**CODE), TITLE SIX (ZONING), SECTION 1246.02 (DISTRICT BOUNDARIES) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IONIA**

**THE CITY OF IONIA HEREBY ORDAINS:**

Section 1. Rezoning of Property. That the following described parcels are hereby rezoned from the EMP, East Main Preservation Overlay District, to the MDR, Medium-Density Residential District with the additional designation of EMP, East Main Preservation Overlay District:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel ID Number</u>
111 N. Jackson Street	34-203-210-000-095-00
0 E. Main Street	34-203-120-000-015-00
125 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-005-00
126 E. Main Street	34-203-120-000-010-00
138 E. Main Street	34-203-120-000-005-00
148 E. Main Street	34-203-120-000-020-00
156 E. Main Street	34-203-120-000-025-00
161 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-015-00
162 E. Main Street	34-203-120-000-030-00
165 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-020-00
166 E. Main Street	34-203-120-000-035-00
171 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-025-00
201 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-040-00
202 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-330-00
209 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-045-00
212 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-325-00
216 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-320-00
222 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-315-00
225 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-060-01
230 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-310-00
233 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-065-00
236 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-305-00
240 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-300-00
241 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-070-00
246 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-295-00
254 E. Main Street	34-203-210-000-120-00
260 E. Main Street	34-203-210-000-115-00
267 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-080-00
268 E. Main Street	34-203-210-000-110-00
272 E. Main Street	34-203-210-000-105-00
114 Rich Street	34-203-090-000-340-00

Section 2. Rezoning of Property. That the following described parcel is hereby rezoned from the B-1, Neighborhood Business District, to the MDR, Medium-Density Residential District with the additional designation of EMP, East Main Preservation Overlay District:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel ID Number</u>
253 E. Main Street	34-203-090-000-090-00

Section 3. Rezoning of Property. That the following described parcel is hereby rezoned from the HSD, Health Services District, to the MDR, Medium-Density Residential District:

**Address**  
524 W. Main Street

**Parcel ID Number**  
34-202-100-000-105-00

Section 4. Rezoning of Property. That the following described parcels are hereby rezoned from the LDR, Low-Density Residential District, to the MDR, Medium-Density Residential District:

<b><u>Address</u></b>	<b><u>Parcel ID Number</u></b>
301 E. Adams Street	34-204-150-000-215-00
311 E. Adams Street	34-204-150-000-235-00
317 E. Adams Street	34-204-150-000-240-00
325 E. Adams Street	34-204-150-000-245-00
331 E. Adams Street	34-204-150-000-250-00
337 E. Adams Street	34-204-150-000-255-00
341 E. Adams Street	34-204-150-000-265-00
4 Bradford Court	34-202-170-000-355-00
6 Bradford Court	34-202-170-000-356-00
525 High Street	34-202-170-000-345-00
533 High Street	34-202-170-000-350-00
114 N. Jackson Street	34-204-220-000-085-00
206 S. Jackson Street	34-204-150-000-220-00
208 S. Jackson Street	34-204-150-000-225-01
201 S. Jefferson Street	34-204-150-000-260-00
207 E. Jefferson Street	34-204-150-000-270-00
211 S. Jefferson Street	34-204-150-000-275-00
215 S. Jefferson Street	34-204-150-000-280-00
0 Kimball Alley	34-202-170-000-349-00
111 Kimball Alley	34-202-170-000-130-00
530 W. Main Street	34-202-100-000-100-00
538 W. Main Street	34-202-100-000-095-00
604 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-125-00
608 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-120-00
614 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-115-00
620 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-110-00
628 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-105-00
634 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-100-00
642 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-085-00
650 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-070-00
658 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-065-00
676 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-055-00
716 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-050-00
722 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-045-00
728 W. Main Street	34-202-170-000-040-00
15 Marshall Court	34-202-170-000-295-00
0 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-135-00
301 E. Washington Street	34-204-220-000-080-00

309 E. Washington Street	34-204-220-000-075-00
313 E. Washington Street	34-204-220-000-090-00
321 E. Washington Street	34-204-220-000-095-00
325 E. Washington Street	34-204-150-000-035-00
331 E. Washington Street	34-204-150-000-025-00
335 E. Washington Street	34-204-150-000-020-00
341 E. Washington Street	34-204-150-000-015-00
349 E. Washington Street	34-204-090-000-515-00
517 W. Washington Street	34-202-100-000-080-00
523 W. Washington Street	34-202-100-000-085-00
527 W. Washington Street	34-202-100-000-090-00
604 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-340-00
612 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-335-00
618 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-330-00
619 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-145-10
623 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-150-00
624 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-325-00
629 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-155-00
630 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-320-00
635 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-160-00
636 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-315-00
640 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-310-00
641 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-090-00
644 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-305-00
645 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-095-00
649 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-075-00
650 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-300-00
655 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-080-00
656 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-290-00
657 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-165-00
665 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-170-00
703 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-175-00
704 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-285-00
705 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-180-00
710 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-280-00
715 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-185-00
716 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-275-00
721 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-190-00
722 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-270-00
725 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-195-00
728 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-250-00
731 W. Washington Street	34-202-170-000-200-00
112 Yeomans Street	34-202-170-000-205-00
118 Yeomans Street	34-202-170-000-210-00

Section 5. Rezoning of Property. That the following described parcel is hereby rezoned from the B-1, Neighborhood Business District, to the MDR, Medium-Density Residential District:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel ID Number</u>
258 E. Adams Street	34-203-090-000-090-00

Section 6. Rezoning of Property. That the following described parcel is hereby rezoned from the HDR, High-Density Residential District, to the LDR, Low-Density Residential District:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel ID Number</u>
486 Harter Street	34-202-170-000-830-00
521 W. Lincoln Avenue	34-202-170-000-818-00
767 Oakwood Court	34-203-220-000-005-03
785 Oakwood Court	34-203-220-000-005-02
783 Oakwood Court	34-203-220-000-005-01
818 E. Washington Street	34-204-190-000-020-01

Section 7. Rezoning of Property. That the following described parcel is hereby rezoned from the HDR, High-Density Residential District, to the MDR, Medium-Density Residential District:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel ID Number</u>
6 Amphlett Terrace	34-201-080-000-385-00
7 Amphlett Terrace	34-201-100-000-110-00
11 Amphlett Terrace	34-201-100-000-105-00
341 Baldie Street	34-201-130-000-105-00
403 Baldie Street	34-201-060-000-005-00
407 Baldie Street	34-201-060-000-010-00
413 Baldie Street	34-201-060-000-015-00
417 Baldie Street	34-201-060-000-020-00
419 Baldie Street	34-201-060-000-025-00
420 N. Dexter Street	34-201-130-000-110-00
503 Hall Street	34-201-200-000-035-00
515 Hall Street	34-201-200-000-015-00
215 High Street	34-201-080-000-390-00
221 High Street	34-201-100-000-100-00
434 High Street	34-201-130-000-047-00
512 High Street	34-202-170-000-650-00
518 High Street	34-202-170-000-645-00
519 High Street	34-202-100-000-025-00
117 S. Jackson Street	34-203-090-000-085-00
210 Kimball Alley	34-202-100-000-035-00
0 W. Lincoln Avenue	34-202-110-000-050-00
602 W. Lincoln Avenue	34-202-110-000-045-00
610 W. Lincoln Avenue	34-202-110-000-035-00
538 W. Lincoln Avenue	34-202-110-000-046-00
210 Pleasant Street	34-201-080-000-345-10
217 Pleasant Street	34-201-080-000-370-00

227 Pleasant Street	34-201-080-000-365-00
315 Pleasant Street	34-201-080-000-230-00
0 N. State Street	34-202-110-000-060-00
518.5 N. State Street	34-202-110-000-020-20
0 W. Washington Street	34-201-080-000-335-00
0 W. Washington Street	34-201-080-000-375-00
110 W. Washington Street	34-201-080-000-355-20
116 W. Washington Street	34-201-080-000-355-10
204 W. Washington Street	34-201-080-000-360-10
228 W. Washington Street	34-201-080-000-380-00
306 W. Washington Street	34-201-100-000-115-00
512 W. Washington Street	34-202-100-000-050-00
518 W. Washington Street	34-202-100-000-045-00
522 W. Washington Street	34-202-100-000-040-00
528 W. Washington Street	34-202-100-000-030-00
206 Yeomans Court	34-201-080-000-265-00
210 Yeomans Court	34-201-080-000-270-00

Section 8. Amendment of Zoning Map. That the official Zoning Map of the City of Ionia, Michigan, referenced in Part Twelve, Title Six, Section 1246.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia, shall be amended upon the effective date of this Ordinance to reflect the rezoning of the parcels set forth in Sections 1, 2, and 3 above.

Section 9. Publication and Effective Date. That the City Clerk shall cause notice of the adoption of this Ordinance to be published in the manner provided by law. This Ordinance shall take effect seven (7) days after it, or a summary thereof as permitted by law, is published in the Daily News, a newspaper of general circulation in the City, unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 10. Repealer. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of any such conflict.

**ORDINANCE No. 589 APPROVED**

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

**(VI-I) Application for Autumn Celebration/Chili Dawg Challenge Street Closures with Mobile Food Vending Unit—October 24, 2024**

Council reviewed an application submitted by Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce for the October 24 Autumn Celebration/Chili Dawg Challenge. The application requests closure of Main Street within the Central Business District, plus sections of Depot and Steele Streets from 1:30 PM to 8:30 PM, to accommodate activities, food trucks, and lamppost décor (“Scarecrow Alley”). 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.

Councilmember Waterman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve the application for street closure with mobile food vending units, for October 24, 2024, in conjunction with the Autumn Celebration/Chili Dawg Challenge event, contingent upon final staff approval.

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

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

### **(VII-1) Introduction and First Reading—Ordinance No. 590: An ordinance to amend sections of Chapter 1062—Parks and City Cemeteries**

With the upcoming additions of the City of Ionia Dog Park and Riverside Cemetery (located on the former Deerfield-Riverside site), it was necessary to review and revise Chapter 1062 – Parks and City Cemeteries, from the city's codified ordinances.

Council reviewed the proposed Ordinance No. 590, which would add the City of Ionia Dog Park and Riverside Cemetery to the list of parks and cemeteries regulated as to hours of operation and use. Additional sections of Chapter 1062 were also suggested for amendment to achieve relevant updates and clarifications.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to introduce and conduct a first reading of Ordinance No. 590, an ordinance to amend sections of Chapter 1062 – Parks and City Cemeteries of the 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, October 2, 2024, at Ionia City Hall.**

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

NAYS: Cowling

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CITY OF IONIA  
IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
ORDINANCE NO. 590**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART TEN, TITLE SIX, CHAPTER 1062, ENTITLED  
"OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES; PARKS AND CITY CEMETERIES" OF THE  
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IONIA, SECTIONS 1062.01 THROUGH  
1062.99, INCLUSIVE**

**The City of Ionia Ordains:**

**Section One: Addition**

That Part Ten, Title Six, Chapter 1062, entitled "Other Public Services; Parks and City Cemeteries," Sections 1062.01 through 1062.99, inclusive, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia, is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**1062.01 POLICY OF THE CITY.**

It shall be the policy of the City of Ionia to provide municipal parks and cemeteries for the general public to use in an inclusive, reasonable and orderly manner. In order to protect parks, park equipment and the cemetery property from vandalism, the Public Safety Department is empowered to exclude all unauthorized persons during the time the parks and cemeteries are closed or at such other times as permitted by law. The City shall work with the Ionia Department of Transportation (Dial-A-Ride) during normal operating hours to facilitate the cemeteries and parks' accessibility.

**1062.02 TIME OF OPENING AND CLOSING.**

City parks and cemeteries shall be closed during all times other than those hours posted below. Closing and opening hours for City parks and cemeteries shall be as follows (all Eastern Standard times):

- (a) Oak Hill Cemetery and Riverside Cemetery - 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. in summer; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in winter.
- (b) Fairgrounds - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., exclusive of fair-time activities.
- (c) Neighborhood Parks (which includes the Meijer Skatepark) - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except by reservation for special events (weddings, etc.).
- (d) Ionia Dog Park, 208 S. Steele Street – May 1 to September 30, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; October 1 – April 31, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Dog Park may be closed at the City’s discretion as conditions necessitate (i.e., spring flooding/snow melt) to prevent damages.
- (e) Linear Parks (i.e., Fred Thwaites River Trail) – Given that linear trails are often used for commuting as well as recreational purposes, linear trails shall be open 24 hours per day. Those using linear parks during non-daylight hours must utilize a headlamp or headlight and should also wear reflective clothing.
- (f) Facilities that are lighted for evening use such as tennis courts, skating rinks, ball diamonds, etc., not being used for City or school organized recreational programs, shall be closed at 10:00 p.m.

#### 1062.03 CERTAIN USES PROHIBITED WITHOUT CITY PERMISSION.

Any person desiring to use any City park or cemetery at a time other than that provided for in Section 1062.02 shall file an application with the City Recreation Director, on forms to be furnished by the Recreation Department, and shall not use the park until permits are granted and in accordance with Section 1062.07.

#### 1062.04 CERTAIN USES PROHIBITED WITHOUT COUNCIL PERMISSION.

No person shall advertise, promote, sponsor, operate or conduct an outdoor assembly attended by 50 or more person in a City park without the prior permission of the City Council. An assembly is deemed to be any event designed to attract the attendance of persons, including, but not limited to, a concert, show, exhibition, performance, speech, display or other form of entertainment. An assembly does not include Recreation Department games and events, Free Fairgrounds events arranged in and through the Free Fair Association, or events sponsored by the City of Ionia. Permission for an assembly shall be granted in the reasonable discretion of the City Council based criteria including, without limitation:

- (a) The number of persons reasonably expected to attend such assembly;
- (b) The nature of the assembly in terms of whether the assembly will be likely to interfere with residents in the area or the park or with the ordinary use of the park by the public; and
- (c) The time of the assembly.

The City Council, in granting permission, may attach such conditions as it deems necessary for the public health, safety and welfare, including, but not limited to, conditions for sanitation, noise control and clean-up of the park. The City Council may, in its discretion, require an applicant for permission to obtain a public liability insurance policy and to post a cash or surety bond for the faithful performance by the applicant of such conditions as the City Council may require.

#### 1062.05 USE OF SOUND AMPLIFICATION EQUIPMENT PROHIBITED WITHOUT CITY MANAGER PERMISSION.

No sound amplification equipment may be used in any City park without the prior permission of the City Manager. Permission shall be granted in the reasonable discretion of the City Manager, based on whether such sound amplification will be likely to unreasonably interfere with residents in the area of the park or with the ordinary use of the park by the

public. The City Manager, in granting permission, may attach such conditions as it deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the specific location of the equipment, the time of use, and the maximum noise level at which such sound amplification equipment may be operated.

#### 1062.06 EXCLUSIVE PERMITS PROHIBITED.

No permit shall be issued for the exclusive use of a park, and no permit shall exclude the public from the portion of the park not covered by the permit or charge any admittance fee for entering the park, except as hereinafter provided.

#### 1062.07 SPECIAL PERMITS.

Any individual, club, organization or association desiring to exclusively use a park or a portion of a park for a set period of time, must apply for and receive a special permit, under the following conditions:

(a) If the event or use is a money-raising function, whether to cover costs of operation or for profit, the individual, club, organization or association shall file an application with the Recreation Director, and pay to the Recreation Director a fee, as established from time to time by the City Council. The application, among other information, must designate the park, or portion of the park, desired, where ticket sales will be set up or money is to be collected, and how much per person or other unit of measurement, the location of which shall be under the control of the City Manager.

(b) If an individual, club, organization or association desires to allow participants to possess or consume alcoholic beverages during the use or event applied for, then the individual, club, organization or association shall file an application with the Director of Public Safety, and pay an application fee in an amount as established from time to time by the City Council. The application, among other information, must designate the expected number of participants, the hours, during the event, during which alcohol will be consumed, and the methods used to prevent possession or consumption by minors and non-participants. The Director of Public Safety shall then submit a recommendation regarding the approval of the permit to the City Manager. Upon receipt of the application and recommendation, the City Manager may approve the special permit for alcohol possession or consumption. No permit shall be issued for possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages having a higher alcoholic content than beer or wine. In addition to the application fee, the City Manager may require reimbursement for law enforcement and other City services related to the event. The method of collecting and calculating this fee shall be described in the special permit for alcohol possession or consumption. In addition to the permit provided for herein, the applicant remains responsible to obtain any license required by state or other local law.

#### 1062.08 GENERAL REGULATIONS.

The following general regulations shall be in force in all parks and public grounds:

(a) Injury to Park Property. No person shall obstruct any walk or drive in any public park or playground and no person shall injure, mar or damage in any manner any monument, ornament, fence, bridge, seat, tree, fountain, shrub, flower, playground equipment, fireplace, or other public property within or pertaining to any park or playground. Violations of this subsection (a) shall be punishable as a misdemeanor offense and subject to the provisions of Section 202.99(a), (c)-(e).

(b) Waste Containers. No person shall place or deposit any garbage, glass, tin cans, papers or miscellaneous waste in any park or playground, except in containers provided for

that purpose.

(c) Ball Games. No person shall engage in any baseball, football or softball throwing or other violent or rough exercise or play in any public park or other public place, except in such areas or spaces designated for such exercises or play by the Director.

(d) Picnics. Picnics may be held in such parts of any park as shall be designated for that purpose by the Director of Recreation subject to any rules or regulations.

(e) Open Fires. No person shall kindle or build fires in any park or playground, except in fireplaces or stoves in any park provided for that purpose. Upon leaving such fire, it shall be the duty of the person last using it to see that the fire is extinguished.

(f) Vehicles in Parks. No person shall drive or park any vehicle in any park or playground except in spaces set aside and designated as parking areas by the Director. Driving and parking on all streets and public ways within any park or bordering on the same shall be subject to all of the provisions of the Code regulating traffic generally and to such additional rules and regulations as the City Manager shall adopt pursuant to this chapter.

(g) Linear Park. The Grand River Linear Rivertrail system is designed and intended for non-motorized vehicle usage only. Motorized vehicles will generally be prohibited (including mopeds, ORV's, motorcycles, etc.). Exceptions expressly allowed include E-bikes (Class 1 and Class 2 E-bikes) and electric scooters/hoverboards. In addition, advertising, writing, carving and other similar acts are prohibited from placement on the east and west Grand River bridges. Violations of this subsection (g) shall be punishable as a misdemeanor offense and subject to the provisions of Section 202.99(a), (c)-(e)..

(h) Meijer Skatepark. The City operates a skatepark that shall be open to both bicycles and skateboards/skaters. All use of the park shall be at the user's risk; no risk shall be borne by the City and the City assumes no liability for the actions of users. Protective pads and equipment are strongly recommended but the park is not monitored and it is the user's responsibility to ensure proper usage.

(i) Additional Rules. The City Manager is hereby empowered to make such additional rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the City Council, pertaining to the conduct and use of parks and public grounds, as are necessary to administer the same and to protect public property and the safety, health, morals and welfare of the public, and no person shall fail to comply with such rules and regulations.

#### 1062.09 OVERNIGHT CAMPING, SLEEPING OR PARKING.

No overnight camping, sleeping, or parking shall be permitted, nor shall any vehicle be stored or parked, in any public park or public property during those hours the park or public grounds are closed, except as may be otherwise provided in this Code.

#### 1062.10 IONIA FREE FAIR ASSOCIATION.

This chapter shall not interfere with the Ionia Free Fair Association when the Association operates in accordance with the lease between the City of Ionia and the Ionia Free Fair Association.

#### 1062.11 AUTHORIZED OVERNIGHT FISHING AND CAMPING.

The area of Riverside Park adjacent to the Grand River may be used for overnight fishing and overnight camping of trailers or campers that have self-contained sewer facilities. Fishing and camping overnight during hours the park is closed will be allowed on a one day-one night basis by special permit secured at the Recreation Department.

#### 1062.12 UNAUTHORIZED OVERNIGHT PRESENCE.

No person shall loiter or remain upon any public park or playground between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., provided, however, that this section shall not apply to employees of the City of Ionia in the course of their duties or to activities being held under the auspices of the Recreation Department. The City Manager is hereby empowered to waive this section when such action will serve the public benefit and welfare.

#### 1062.13 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

No person shall possess or consume alcoholic beverages in a park at any time, unless he or she is a participant in an event for which an individual, or a club, organization or association has received a special permit for alcoholic possession or consumption, as described in Section 1062.07, or similar ordinance. "Participant" is defined in Section 606.01 of this Code of Ordinances.

#### 1062.14 MOTORCYCLES.

No motorcycles, motor scooters, motor bicycles or motor cars commonly known as "go carts" shall be permitted in any public park, linear park, or playground.

#### 1062.15 FIREWORKS.

No person shall bring into a park, or have in his or her possession, or set off or otherwise cause to explode, in a park, any firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets or other fireworks or explosives, or discharge them or throw them into any park area from land or highway adjacent thereto, provided only that a special permit may be granted therefor by the City Manager and Public Safety Director which should include restrictions as to time and location.

#### 1062.16 DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

No person shall sleep on the seats or benches or other areas in a park, or engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language or behavior, or engage in any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to a breach of the public peace. Violations of this section shall be punishable as a misdemeanor offense and subject to the provisions of Section 202.99(a), (c)-(e).

#### 1062.17 PROTECTION OF PARK PROPERTY; ERECTION OF STRUCTURES.

No person shall willfully mar, deface, disfigure, tamper with, displace or remove any building, tables, benches, fireplaces, trees, shrubs, flowers or any other park property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal. No structure, booth, tent or stall shall be erected on park property for any purpose without permission from the City Manager. Violations of this section shall be punishable as a misdemeanor offense and subject to the provisions of Section 202.99(a), (c)-(e).

#### 1062.18 SERVICE AND REPAIR OF AUTOS.

No person shall clean, wash, polish, repair, or in any manner service any motor vehicle or trailer in any public park or playground or cause the same to be done. For the purpose of this chapter, the term "repair" shall be deemed to mean the replacement of old, worn-out parts of the vehicle with new parts, and the term "service" shall be deemed to mean the draining of oil, sludge, gasoline and water and other engine cooling fluids for the purpose of replacing same with a new supply. This prohibition shall not apply to the changing of deflated tires or the performing of necessary emergency work on a disabled car for the purpose of

immediate movement.

**1062.19 GLASS BOTTLES.**

No glass bottles shall be allowed in any park. Plastic, aluminum or other similar containers are allowed, but must be disposed of in the proper containers. Failure to do so shall result in a charge of littering under applicable City ordinances.

**1062.99 PENALTY.**

Except where expressly designated to the contrary, a violation of any section or subsection in this chapter shall be deemed a municipal civil infraction and subject to the provisions of Section 202.99 (b) – (e) of this Code.

**Section Two: Repealer**

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

**Section Three: Publication and Effective Date**

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

**(VII-2) Sale of Excess City Property—315 Webber Street**

Several excess City-owned properties have been listed for sale since early 2023 on the City’s website in accordance with City Policy 4-004, “Sale of City-Owned Excess Property.” Direct notice was previously mailed to all adjacent property owners. In accordance with the ongoing listing, the City recently received an offer to purchase 315 Webber Street, as follows:

<b>Excess Property</b>	<b>Estimated TCV &amp; Parcel Size</b>	<b>Purchase Offer</b>	<b>Proposed Purchaser</b>	<b>Proposed Use</b>
315 Webber Street	\$8,000; 0.64 acres	\$8,000	Darrell Staines, 842 W. Washington St., Ionia	Residential home (if rezoned) or a small engine repair business

Per City Policy 4-004, the prospective purchaser has been determined qualified, meaning he has no overdue debts owed to the City, is not responsible for the City’s original acquisition of the excess property, and has committed to not reselling the property within five years of taking possession of it from the City.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to approve the offer from Daryl Staines to purchase the excess City property located at 315 Webber Street for \$8,000, contingent upon the buyer closing within 60 days of Council approval. If approved, sale of this property will be via cash, cashier’s check or money order and transfer will occur by Quit Claim Deed. The purchaser will be responsible for recording the deed with the Ionia County Register of Deeds.

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

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(VII-3) Third amendment to Fairgrounds Lease Agreement**

John Dinehart reached out to the City recently on behalf of the Ionia Free Fair Association. As he has done two times previously, he requested an amendment to the fairgrounds lease agreement between the City and the Association to extend its term.

The City is the owner of certain parcels of land utilized by the Association for conducting the Free Fair. Over the years, various short-term leases have been executed governing the use of this property by the Association. In 2021 the City agreed to amend the most recent agreement, which was originally signed on December 4, 2019 to extend the lease term to December 31, 2027 (from December 31, 2025). It was amended again in 2022 to extend the lease term until December 31, 2029.

As before, the IFFA has an opportunity to apply for a Michigan Department of Agriculture grant to make capital improvements on the fairgrounds. A condition of the grant agreement is that the Association must have control of the property for at least five years following the date of the grant award. The current lease agreement falls short of that term. To address this situation for a longer period, Council reviewed a proposed third amendment to the lease agreement that would extend its term to December 31, 2040.

Councilmember Cowling made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve the Third Amendment to the Agreement between City of Ionia and Ionia Free Fair Association, which would extend the term of the lease through December 31, 2040.

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

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(VII-4) 2024 Sidewalk Improvement Project Bids**

On May 1, 2024, City Council approved Resolution 2024-12, which identified specific properties throughout the city where sidewalk is to be removed and replaced due to disrepair. The resolution further directs the adjoining property owner to make such replacements within 30 days of its approval. Property owners who did not complete the required work within that timeframe would be included in a city-wide bid solicitation, through which a contractor would be hired to complete all the remaining work and each adjoining property owner billed its proportionate share. The resolution further provides the City will fund 25% of the project cost, leaving 75% of the cost to the property owners.

After the sole bid from the first round of bidding was rejected by City Council because it was excessive when compared to the engineer’s estimate, a second round of bids were solicited and opened on August 26. This time, five bids were received, as detailed on the bid tabulation form reviewed by Council. After reviewing the bids for accuracy, completeness and checking references, staff recommended the second low bid from Distinctive Concrete, LLC of Jenison, MI be awarded as follows:

<b>4” thick concrete sidewalk</b>	<b>6” thick concrete sidewalk</b>
3.5’ wide - \$29 per linear foot	4’ wide - \$39 per linear foot
4’ wide - \$32 per linear foot	5’ wide - \$47 per linear foot
4.5’ wide - \$36 per linear foot	
5’ wide - \$40 per linear foot	

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to accept the bid from Distinctive Concrete from Jenison, Michigan for the 2024 Sidewalk Improvement Project, which will be paid for in accordance with Resolution 2024-12 (75% homeowner/25% City of Ionia.)

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

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(VII-5) Ionia Theatre Door Replacement Project**

There are multiple sets of exterior doors located at the Ionia Theatre, and all are aged and nearing or at their end of useful life. Five doors were recently identified for potential replacement. Quotes were solicited and received as follows:

	<b>Central Michigan Building Services, Ionia, MI</b>	<b>DoorPro, Lansing MI</b>
Door #1 (alley door)	\$4,680; deduct \$4,000 for cut down option	\$4,244
Door #2 (loading dock/back stage)	\$3,355; deduct \$50 for hinges	\$3,531
Door #3 (main auditorium)	\$4,295; deduct \$50 for hinges	\$4,882
Door #4 (main auditorium)	\$4,295; deduct \$50 for hinges	\$4,882
Door #5 (E. parking lot)	\$3,175; deduct \$50 for hinges	\$3,536

With the limited budget (\$55,000) available for capital improvements in FY24-25, only doors that need replacement due to imminent security or safety concerns will be replaced/repared. Thus, staff recommended the quote submitted by Central Michigan Building Services of Ionia, MI be awarded for doors #1 through #4.

Councilmember Ketchum made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lee, to accept the bid from Central Michigan Building Services of Ionia, Michigan for Ionia Theatre Doors #1 through #4, with all deducts exercised, for a total price of \$12,475.

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

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(VII-6) Proposed City of Ionia Dog Park Rules**

**Chapter 1062 – Parks and City Cemeteries** of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia provides policy and standards for the use of various parks and cemeteries located in the city. Under Section 1062.08 General Regulations and more specifically, Section 1062.08 (i) Additional Rules, it states, “The City Manager is hereby empowered to make such additional rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the City Council, pertaining to the conduct and use of parks and public grounds, as are necessary to administer the same and to protect public property and the safety, health, morals and welfare of the public, and no person shall fail to comply with such rules and regulations.”

In accordance with the above Section and after consultation with City Staff and the City Attorney, proposed rules and regulations for the new City of Ionia Dog Park were presented to Council for review and approval:



# WELCOME TO THE CITY OF IONIA DOG PARK!



**This area is dedicated to fun and exercise activities with your dog. Dogs may run off-leash, under voice control and within the confines of the fenced area.**

By entering this park, you acknowledge and agree that you have read these Rules, that you are familiar with them, and that you use the park at your own risk. The City of Ionia does not monitor dogs' behavior and owners are solely responsible at all times for their dogs and their dogs' actions.

## **Rules:**

1. The Dog Park is open May 1 to September 30 from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM;  
October 1 – April 31 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. All hours are Eastern Standard Time.
2. Dogs must be at least 4 months of age to enter the park. No dogs over 25 pounds are allowed in the small dog area.
3. Remember to keep the gate closed to prevent escape attempts.
4. Please keep your dog from jumping on other dogs or people.
5. Remember off leash does not mean out of control.
6. No more than three (3) dogs per person.
7. Pick up your dog's waste and dispose of it in the receptacles provided.
8. Fill any holes your dog digs immediately.
9. Dogs that are in heat, aggressive, or sick are not allowed.
10. Dogs must always wear a collar and ID tags.
11. Puppies and dogs must be properly licensed, immunized and healthy to use the park.
12. Agility equipment is for dogs only; no people allowed on the equipment.
13. Owners must be in the park and always supervising their dog(s).
14. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
15. No tobacco use, glass, sharp objects or weapons are permitted inside the park.
16. In an emergency, please call 911.



Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve the proposed rules for the new City of Ionia Dog Park. Following discussion, Councilmember Winters withdrew his original motion, and offered an amended motion to change the park's open hours to "sunrise to sunset". Councilmember Millard seconded the amended motion to include the revised hours.

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

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

## VIII. APPOINTMENTS

### (VIII-1) Appointments to Ad-Hoc Ionia Theatre Committee

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, the “Rules of Order and Conduct for City Council Meetings for the City of Ionia City Council,” provide that special or ad hoc committees may be created by the City Council, with members appointed by the mayor, subject to Council approval.

In addition to the eight individuals appointed last month to the ad hoc Ionia Theatre Committee, Mayor Milewski recommends the following additional individual for appointment:

Janet Balice, Ionia Community Foundation representative

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to appoint Janet Balice to serve on the ad hoc Ionia Theatre Committee.

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

NAYS: None

### MOTION CARRIED

### (VIII-2) LDFA Board Appointment

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. The following individual has been recommended by Mayor John Milewski to begin service on the following boards and commissions, subject to council approval:

#### Local Development Finance Authority – (4 year terms)

Bob Masters – First staggered term through 12/31/25

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to appointing Bob Masters to serve on the Local Development Finance Authority for the first staggered term ending December 31, 2025.

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

NAYS: None

### MOTION CARRIED

## IX. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS & MINUTES FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Written reports provided to Council.

## X. GOOD OF THE ORDER/CITY COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

**City Manager Precia Garland:** (1) Dates to remember: September 14, 8:00 AM until Noon—

“Dump-Your-Junk” day, electronics will be accepted; September 16—Brush & Yard Waste Removal; September 23—First Impressions in Tourism Community Forum, 5:30-8:00 PM, at the Ionia Theatre; mid-late October—dog park will be open; landscape architect is working on redesign of Hale Park so that work can resume this Fall.

**Mayor John Milewski:** (1) The “Elvis” program at the theatre was a blast and it had great attendance; (2) Noted the number of events that are scheduled for Purple Week with many opportunities for community involvement.

**Tom Millard:** (1) The golf outing fundraiser for Purple Week is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, and he is looking forward to the many interesting events associated with Purple Week.

**Brenda Cowling:** Appreciated taking the time to discuss the dog park.

**XI. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM by Voice Vote.

Submitted by:

Mary Patrick  
Ionia City Clerk