



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
(ELECTRONIC MEETING PLATFORM)  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020  
7:30 P.M.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Ackley.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Ackley, Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose, Council Member Costanzo, Council Member Lublin, Council Member Owsinek, Council Member Woods

There being a quorum present, the meeting was declared in session.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Manager Whitt, Confidential Assistant Jaquays, Assistant City Manager Pesta, Police Chief Shakinis, Police Captain Kolke, Fire Chief Coomer, Finance Director Barlass, City Attorney Vanerian, Deputy City Clerk Gross, and City Clerk Stuart

**CM 4-1-20 MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER LOCH FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To excuse Council Member Loch from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6)	Costanzo, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Ackley
Nays (0)	
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

**REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**1. Regular Council Meeting and Public Hearing of February 18, 2020**

**CM 4-2-20 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve the Regular Council Meeting and Public Hearing of February 18, 2020.

## Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6)	Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Costanzo, Ackley
Nays (0)	
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

## COUNCIL REPORT:

Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose reported on the regular DDA meeting from last week, April 14<sup>th</sup> through the electronic zoom meeting platform. He explained Board Member Fernandes was able to bring a speaker, Attorney Joseph Grekin who spoke about opportunity for small businesses during this time. Attorney Grekin provided information on programs available through the federal government, state, and county. Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose said the attorney also spoke on the benefits of negotiating with your creditors now while there is a moratorium. Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose explained Attorney Grekin stressed the importance of keeping track of all expenses, be proactive, and ask for help. Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose thanked Board Member Fernandes and Attorney Grekin.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

## ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

### 1. Memo Coeus, LLC – Lawsuit Status Update

City Attorney Vanerian explained the lawsuit filed by Coeus, LLC named various city officials including the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, and the city's Development Coordinator. Attorney Vanerian explained the applicant was not approved for a number of reasons as outlined in his memo. Attorney Vanerian explained the lawsuit held an abundant number of scandalous claims, the city stood its ground, the truth prevailed, and the court dismissed the frivolous claims brought on by the plaintiff. City Attorney Vanerian explained Oakland County Circuit Court did issue an opinion an order after a year and half on this case granting the city's motion for summary disposition. City Attorney Vanerian explained Coeus and its attorneys failed to supply evidence to support their incredulous claims. Attorney Vanerian said it has been over a year and half for them to try and find evidence and they could not, simply because it did not exist.

Council Member Costanzo said he wanted to clarification on the court's opinion, claims were granted in part and granted not in part.

City Attorney Vanerian explained the plaintiff had also named the successful provisioning center applicant in the claim and that portion does not involve the city at all. Attorney Vanerian said the only remaining claim against the city is a claim for a refund of the \$750.00 application fee. Attorney Vanerian explained the judge did not say the applicant is entitled to a refund. Council Member Lublin said Attorney Vanerian did very well and the outcome was outstanding.

City Attorney Vanerian said attorney Ann McClorey McLaughlin with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) was also part of the team and commended her on her efforts with the lawsuit.

Mayor Ackley thanked the City Manager and city attorneys for their diligent efforts.

## **2. Pincanna, LLC Provisioning Center Appeal Request**

City Attorney Vanerian explained Pincanna's application for a medical marijuana center was also denied and the applicant is requesting to come before council for an appeal. City Attorney Vanerian explained the date for the appeal may be addressed by council or administratively.

Mayor Ackley suggested picking a date this evening since majority of council was present.

Council Member Owsinek expressed his support for placing the appeal as part of a regular meeting not a special meeting. Member Owsinek suggested scheduling for the next regular meeting that council can meet in person.

Mayor Ackley explained her concerns for hosting an appeal during a regular meeting due to multiple agenda items.

Council Member Owsinek suggested scheduling for the regular council meeting in May but if the Governor's orders extend then host the meeting in June.

Mayor Ackley suggested May 20<sup>th</sup> as a Special Meeting date.

**CM 4-3-20 MOTION TO SCHEDULE SPECIAL MEETING, A PUBLIC HEARING FOR PINCANNA, LLC APPEAL FOR MAY 20, 2020 AT 7:30 P.M.**

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To schedule a special meeting, a public hearing for Pincanna, LLC for May 20, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

### Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6)	Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Costanzo, Ackley
Nays (0)	
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### **1. Second Reading C-348-20 Oakland County Cross Connection Control Program**

**CM 4-4-20 MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING C-348-20 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OAKLAND COUNTY CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM AND DESIGNATING OAKLAND COUNTY AS THE AGENT FOR ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, CARRIED: To approve second reading C-348-20 an ordinance adopting the Oakland County Cross Connection Control Program and designating Oakland County as the agent for administering the program.

Discussion

Council Member Costanzo said in section 82-81 paragraph (a), he would not support an ordinance that grants this type of access to private property for a non-emergency instance.

Council Member Costanzo moved to amend ordinance section 82-81 paragraph (a), language regarding, *representative shall have right to enter to say shall have right to enter only after being granted permission by the owner* and strike the *refusal of access shall deem as evidence of cross contamination*.

Motion dies for lack of support.

Main Motion  
Roll Call Vote

Ayes (5)	Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Lublin, Ackley
Nays (1)	Costanzo
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

**2. BDS Medical Growers, LLC Appeal Case 2020-01**

City Attorney Vanerian explained he prepared a legal review and recommendation as instructed by council. Attorney Vanerian explained the packet is available to the public if anyone is interested and it is in the council packet this evening. Attorney Vanerian explained his recommendation and that is to affirm the administrative denial of the applicant's application. Attorney Vanerian opined the administrative decision maker did not breach a duty or make a mistake in the interpretation of the application or city ordinances.

Mayor Ackley said City Attorney Vanerian's legal opinion is very complete and informative.

City Attorney Vanerian explained the applicant's attorney, Mr. Kelly is available for comment. Attorney Kelly explained the denial letter issued to BDS misquotes and misapplies the city's ordinances and warrants a reversal of the administrative decision of denial. Attorney Kelly

opined there was not an existing provisioning center within 500 feet of BDS and there was no existing provisioning center that had been issued a city operating license. Attorney Kelly explained there was not an existing provisioning center within 500 feet of BDS's location on the date of the denial, on the date the appeal was filed, or on the date of the public hearing.

Attorney Kelly asked that council also take action on the variance requests by BDS. Attorney Kelly explained this situation should not have occurred and opined one like it should never occur again. Attorney Kelly said there should not be a situation where an applicant is awarded a state license and not a city license. Attorney Kelly explained his client spent a significant amount of money. Attorney Kelly explained the city has the power to remedy this situation.

Attorney Kelly said the decision should be based on the administrative record, the city attorney was the official that issued the denial letter originally in November and he asked council to indicate if they had an opportunity to review the administrative record.

Attorney Kelly said he wanted to remind council that they did vote to recuse Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose from consideration of this issue.

City Attorney Vanerian explained he provided council the notice of denial, but he was not the administrative decision maker. Attorney Vanerian clarified he only notified opposing counsel of the action on the application and the reasons that the administrative decision maker relied upon in making its decision.

Attorney Christyn Scott who represents Attitude Wellness spoke on behalf of her client. Attorney Scott explained that Attorney Vanerian's packet outlines the case very well. Attorney Scott said the city ordinance outlines specific procedures for an applicant to obtain priority under the ordinance and that is exactly what Attitude Wellness did by establishing new sewer and water hook ups. Attorney Scott explained obtaining a state license does not automatically grant an applicant a city operating license. Attorney Scott explained her client followed all the procedures outlined in the ordinance to obtain priority over BDS. Attorney Scott explained there are five criteria to obtain a variance, none of which BDS met.

**CM 4-5-20 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-14 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE DENYING APPLICANT'S APPEAL IN CITY COUNCIL CASE 2020-01 AND AFFIRMING THE ADMINISTRATIVE DENIAL OF APPLICANT'S SITE PLAN APPLICATION FOR A PROVISIONING CENTER**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Owsinek, CARRIED: To approve resolution 2020-14 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Walled Lake denying applicant's appeal in City Council Case 2020-01 and affirming the administrative denial of applicant's site plan application for a provisioning center.

## Discussion

Council Member Costanzo explained there is a pending litigation on this case, and he cannot comment on it, but he was going to make his decision based on what was presented and discussed at the January meeting. Council Member Costanzo asked City Attorney Vanerian if the judge recommended this action by council.

City Attorney Vanerian explained the judge did implore the parties to pursue these administrative remedies. Attorney Vanerian said the appeal process is provided by ordinance. Attorney Vanerian explained there was a lawsuit filed prior to the appeal. Attorney Vanerian explained typically the appeal process can be done without litigation and is typically done prior to a lawsuit being filed. Attorney Vanerian explained in this case the lawsuit was filed prior to the instant appeal. City Attorney Vanerian explained this appeal is not part of the lawsuit, this is outside scope of the litigation and lawsuit itself and is an administrative appeal before council.

Council Member Costanzo explained that everybody should look at the BDS timeline and opined they are relevant. Council Member Costanzo explained the packet provided in January by Attorney Kelly is thorough and outlines the submittal of attestations, applications, the certificate of occupancy and state licensing grant.

Mayor Ackley stated this is all relevant and opined the timelines as outlined by City Attorney Vanerian are equally as relevant.

Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose recused himself from vote.

## Roll Call Vote

Ayes (4)	Woods, Lublin, Owsinek, Ackley
Nays (1)	Costanzo
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

City Attorney Vanerian affirmed the administrative denial of application with City Council and explained there were also two variance requests that need to be addressed.

City Clerk Stuart provided viewing of the proposed resolution through a shared screening process for council and public to view.

**CM 4-6-20 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-15 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE DENYING APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE 500 FT. SETBACK REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 21.50(E)(7) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE REASON THAT**

**APPLICANT HAS FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE A PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Owsinek, CARRIED: To approve resolution 2020-15 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Walled Lake denying applicant's request for a variance from the 500 ft. setback requirement in section 21.50(E)(7) of the zoning ordinance for reason that applicant has failed to demonstrate a practical difficulty.

Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose recused himself from vote.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (4)	Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ackley
Nays (1)	Costanzo
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

City Clerk Stuart provided viewing of the proposed resolution through a shared screening process for council and public to view.

**CM 4-7-20 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-16 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE DENYING APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE TWO (2) FACILITY NUMERICAL LIMITATION IN SECTION 21.50(B) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE REASON THAT APPLICANT HAS FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE A PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, CARRIED: To approve resolution 2020-16 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Walled Lake denying applicant's request for a variance from the two (2) facility numerical limitation in section 21.50(b) of the zoning ordinance for the reason that applicant has failed to demonstrate a practical difficulty.

Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose recused himself from vote.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (4)	Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ackley
Nays (1)	Costanzo
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. First Reading C-350-20 Amendment to Chapter 50 pertaining to Tobacco, Vapor and Alternative Nicotine Products by Minors**

**CM 4-8-20 MOTION TO APPROVE FIRST READING C-350-20 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 50, "OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS" TO ENACT OFFENSES PERTAINING TO THE USE AND POSSESSION OF TOBACCO, VAPOR AND ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE PRODUCTS BY MINORS**

Motion by Costanzo, seconded by Ambrose, **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**: To approve first reading C-350-20 an ordinance to amend Chapter 50, "Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions" to enact offenses pertaining to the use and possession of tobacco, vapor and alternative nicotine products by minors.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6)	Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Costanzo, Ackley
Nays (0)	
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

- 2. Proposed Resolution 2020-17 Authorizing the City Manager to Pursue agreement for title of vacant lot on Gamma Road to dedicate as park space to Marshall Taylor Park**

**CM 4-9-20 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-17 A RESOLUTION INSTRUCTING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND AGREE UPON TERMS AND FINALIZE THE ACQUISITION OF VACANT PARCEL AT THE ENTRANCE OF MARSHALL TAYLOR PARK TO ADD AS PART OF THE PARK**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Woods, **CARRIED**: To approve resolution 2020-17 a resolution instructing and authorizing the City manager to negotiate for an agree upon and finalize terms for the acquisition of vacant parcel at the entrance of Marshall Taylor Park to add as part of the park.

Discussion

Council Member Costanzo asked if this property was being donated to the city.



City Manager Whitt explained it was discovered by the owner that her husband before his passing had purchased the property and they had been paying taxes on it. Mr. Whitt explained the owner approached administration and the DDA about negotiating terms for the property ownership to be transitioned to the city. City Manager Whitt explained the parcel is at the entrance of the park and has been assumed to be part of the park. Manager Whitt opined there is no substantial cost and if it does become substantial it will come back before council. Mr. Whitt said this resolution allows for the discussion and negotiating to begin.

Council Member Costanzo said what he recalled from July of last year, the property was brought before council because of an outstanding bill and if the property was donated would the bill then be waived. Council Member Costanzo requested any negotiation and terms come back before council for review and discussion.

Council Member Lublin explained he has trust and faith in City Manager to address this if there are nominal transfer fees or something of this nature they will be addressed.

City Manager Whitt said Council Member Lublin stated it correctly, that should there be some outstanding nominal fees that can be waived, that would make it different than a direct purchase turning it to be a donation of sorts. Mr. Whitt said again, if there a large cost associated with it, it comes back before council.

#### Roll Call Vote

Ayes (5)	Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Ackley
Nays (1)	Costanzo
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

### **3. Proposed Resolution 2020-18 Healthcare Plan Renewal 2020 Fulltime Employee**

**CM 4-10-20 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-18 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PACKAGE PLAN FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES FOR THE PLAN YEAR APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2020-18 a resolution approving a health care benefit package plan for full-time employees for the plan year April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

#### Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6)	Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Costanzo, Lublin, Ackley
Nays (0)	
Absent (1)	Loch

Abstention (0)

#### 4. Bids for Downtown Storm Sewer and Beautification

City Manager Whitt explained there were two bids received \$747,016 and \$733,351 both of which were considered by administration to be extremely high. Mr. Whitt said the bids were way more than expected and he recommended the bids be rejected by council and instructed to be rebid. City Manager Whitt explained the bid packet needs to be restructured and asked council to reject the bids.

#### CM 4-11-20 MOTION TO REJECT THE APRIL 1, 2020 DOWNTOWN STORM SEWER AND BEAUTIFICATION BIDS

Motion by Costanzo, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To reject the April 1, 2020 downtown storm sewer and beautification bids.

#### Discussion

City Manager Whitt explained rejecting the bids in no way indicates slowing the project down it is intended to get a better price, but we want it as good a price as the city can get.

#### Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6)	Woods, Ambrose, Costanzo, Lublin, Owsinek, Ackley
Nays (0)	
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstention (0)	

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Ackley explained on March 10<sup>th</sup> she and the City Manager worked to declare a state of emergency in the City of Walled Lake. Mayor Ackley explained we are directed by the federal, state and county governments. Mayor Ackley explained that if down the line if there are funds to be dispersed, Walled Lake will be eligible. Mayor Ackley explained City Manager Whitt has experience in crisis situations from his prior employments. He is capable of handling and directing the staff. Mayor Ackley explained the city Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW crew and city administration have been working diligently. Mayor Ackley explained she is in constant communication with City Administration and staff. Mayor Ackley commends the city council and city residents and said Walled Lake is a great town we need to get through this and do things the right way.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Whitt explained Mayor Ackley had been in contact with Erick Phillips, Senior Business Consultant for Oakland County Business Center and orchestrated meetings issuing grant money for the small businesses. City Manager Whitt explained there were four businesses picked to receive funding from this grant and the Oakland County Executive will announce the recipients tomorrow. City Manager Whitt explained the four nominees are in downtown Walled Lake on E. Walled Lake Drive. Mr. Whitt said the recipients will be getting a substantial amount of money, should they choose to use it to invest in improving their sidewalks as part of their match request with the DDA for doing sidewalks, they will be able to do that.

City Manager Whitt explained this is the first time he had been involved with a pandemic, but it was the same situation where there is a local state of emergency. Manager Whitt explained he and the Mayor drafted the local state of emergency and right after that it was determined that we had presumptive cases in Oakland County. City Manager explained staff was placed on standby, adjustments were made to city hall which included closing the city hall lobby to the public. Manager Whitt said staff is there to take phone calls and answer emails and processing things we can. City Manager Whitt said not only as the City Manager but also the Public Safety Director he and the Deputy Public Safety Director Police Chief Shakinias and Emergency Management Coordinator Fire Chief Coomer all have acted in accordance with the emergency management state law and ultimately the county has the final say on how we are to deal with emergencies. City Manager Whitt explained their role is to provide first responder activity, whether it is police or fire. During this crisis under the city's mutual aid agreements, first responders have gone as far as Southfield. City Manager Whitt said he has met with every single council member, except one, and has had daily conversations with some and the Mayor.

Police Chief Shakinias explained in early February administration was preparing, he asked that people be patient and stay home as much as possible. There have been calls for violations of the Governor's orders and only in extreme cases have citations been issued.

Fire Chief Coomer explained he has been meeting daily with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of Oakland County and attending several meetings within Oakland County. He explained the Fire Department has responded to twenty COVID 19 type of emergencies. Chief Coomer explained the department amped up on the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and they did obtain additional equipment through Oakland County. Chief Coomer commended the fire fighters and paramedics, who are on the front line. He thanked the first responders and their families.

City Manager Whitt explained not only are the city first responders working but the post office workers are essential workers as well. City Manager Whitt explained Council Member Loch is working tonight, that is why she is not at tonight's meeting, she works for the post office and is filling a spot on the front line because the post office is down employees due to COVID 19.

City Manager Whitt said Mayor Ackley has shown great leadership and he appreciates her leadership as well as the council members meeting with him Saturdays and Sundays and even in the evenings. Manager Whitt explained the city has professionals in the Police Department and Fire Department. Manager Whitt opined the city is not Chicago or New York but we have the same pandemic they do.

Council Member Costanzo asked why there were no statistical and divisional reports.

City Manager Whitt explained to Council Member Costanzo that the city is amid a pandemic, those reports are not a high priority. If Council Member Costanzo wants them, he can obtain copies, they will be in the next meeting packet. City Manager Whitt opined administrative staff can only be commended for what they are doing, they are putting in hours over and above their normal workdays under conditions like everybody else out there that is considered an essential worker, they are giving their time.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Mayor Ackley explained this is a new process hosting electronic meetings platforms and asked for patience. Mayor Ackley explained those who wish to speak will need to provide their name and address and will have three minutes to speak. If speaker refuses to give their, they will be muted, and the next speaker will be called upon.

Kyler Pilnick, 1428 N. Pontiac Trail – asked the Mayor and City Manager Whitt if they noticed the activity at the Green House today.

Erik Hall, 545 Winwood Ct – said he is concerned about the lack of city support of business owners. Mr. Hall explained his mother and father have owned a building in the city since 1978. Mr. Hall said he is seeking help from the people that are supposed to be working for the business owners rather than themselves. Mr. Hall explained he wants council to back the people that pay taxes rather than one person who gives them money.

Cathy Fitzgerald, 221 W Walled Lake – said she lives down the street from Green House and last Thursday she filed a police report due to being harassed by a Green House employee's friend. She said she is tired of the accidents, the traffic jams trying to get home and tired of being denied the opportunity to walk her dogs across the public parking lot to a public park. She said she raised a concern about people smoking weed outside the building and she messaged Green House on Facebook. She said she has grandchildren that walk in the area. She said the owner of Green House had an opportunity to reach out and apologize and explain how he would address the issue and he did nothing but take her post down. She opined the owner does not know how to be a member of this community and therefore she asks that he not be treated as a member of this community. She said no more using the public parking lot, taking all the spaces downtown, favoritism or allowing him to intimidate the neighbors of this community. She said her neighborhood looks like the hood, there are orange barrels all over the place, there are sign's

falling, there are people flipping her off. She said there will be more legal actions that we will have to pay for as citizens of this community.

Aaron Birdseye, 933 N Pontiac Trail – My concern is the fact that I've been the one who streamed hours and hours of the police not doing anything in that town. With thousands of people watching every day. Today we watched Linda Ackley circle a lady hugging a tree while they chopped it down above her head. Linda Ackley circled there are pictures and video of all of this. Dennis Whitt drove in a DPW truck with Mr. Ladd driving, stopped looked and then left. So why did it take Gabe to come there and then be intimidated by the Green House employee/owner. The fact that there is a lady over 80 years old still sitting outside and being harassed by the police is despicable. How are you guys sitting their tooting your own horns when you can't even do something so simple and so easy and so applicable done. If you think that you are as city officials, you are fucked. Linda is that you are talking.

Deborah Martin, 215 Arvida – said you guys are despicable to let that lady sit there and do nothing all day. I cannot believe the way you guys act. It is disgraceful. Whoever is laughing shut the hell up because this is bullshit. We pay enough taxes in this city to have people on our side. Not on Green House's side. I am not against pot, but that guy is an ass. You all know that. The whole city would like a response on why you guys let this get away. Why did you guys let this happen. You are supposed to be protecting us, the citizens of Walled Lake. You are not doing anything for the citizens. To have an 80-year-old lady hug a tree and cry and she is still sitting there, and you let it happen. This is bullshit.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council Member Lublin said the trail usage looks good and he is excited about the trailhead project that will lead into the city's farmer's market field. He said the trail costs, the city is responsible 33% but only has 10% of the population and 10% of the tax base. He said this is something that needs to be addressed. He asked how much the city has spent total to date on the trail. He said it is his belief the cost of the maintenance of city's portion of the trail is our responsibility 100% and he is not sure the agreement is the way it is and does not see the benefit to the city to remain as a member in the trailway council. He said city council approved the healthcare benefits for the retirees and there are some retirees that are double dipping because they work elsewhere and still collect city benefits. He said this needs to be reviewed and rectified this is not right the city is paying and they are receiving extra from different cities.

Council Member Owsinek said he would like to commend all this city staff especially the fire and police departments, Police Chief Shakinias and Fire Chief Coomer. He said he understands ambulance runs have gone as far as Southfield as part of the mutual aid agreements. He said police and fire have been trained and are capable of any emergency.

Council Member Costanzo said he wanted to address concerns of the residents he spoke with over the past month and half and there is a displeasure with the city's response, particularly around the communications throughout this crisis. Member Costanzo said this is not a good

showing of how we acted through this process with communication to the public. He said the trail operation cost is operating at a fund balance which means the city is not contributing money to the trail, the trailway council is using monies that are from the fund balance. He said the trailway council has several million dollars in grants and donations and that money is still in the account.

Council Member Woods said the first responders mutual aid agreements reaching out to Southfield and supporting other community and ours, kudos to the crew. Member Woods explained there was a telephone line hanging at Commerce and Pontiac and he spoke with the police who communicated to the fire department and they responded right away. They had line fixed with the supplier the next day. Another street had an issue with line of site at Annjo and Commerce, this was addressed, and the twigs and trees will be picked up during the next branch pick up. Member Woods thanked Walled Lake Elementary, after closure due to Governor's orders they donated all their hand sanitizer to the police and fire departments. Member Woods explained a lot of neighbors are helping other neighbors donating their time and that is awesome. Member Woods said city neighborhoods have donated food to hospitality house.

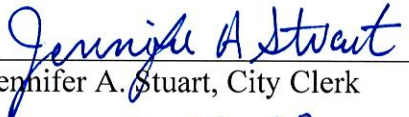
Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose thanked the city officials and police and fire. Member Ambrose said in regard to Council Member Lublin's comments for the trail, the city is still in the process of negotiating a new agreement. Member Ambrose said to correct Council Member Costanzo's comments that the trail costs are coming out of the trail fund balance, the trailway fund balance does not cover the city's portion of the cost for the engineering services brought on by the trailway council which exceed tens of thousands of dollars.

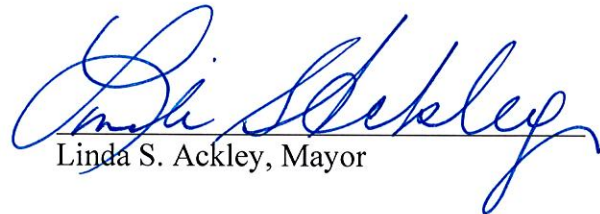
City Manager Whitt explained he submitted to council an electronic copy of the budget presentation so council may begin to review now, and hard copies are available in your mailboxes at city hall. The budget is due, in terms of Charter requirements, in May, council is receiving a copy of the numbers a full month ahead of time which will give them time to review and meet with him individually to discuss issues or questions they may have. He explained the fiscal year begins July 1. He explained the reason council is receiving the budget early is so they can decide how they want to move forward. He explained in the past budget work session were provided. The electronic budget provided shows council the numbers which will show how the money is proposed. He explained the big question will be with the loss of revenue that is being anticipated at the state level how it will affect Act 51 funding and possibly the revenue sharing. He explained right now, we have no way of judging that. Manager Whitt encouraged setting up an individual meeting after review of the proposed budget he provided this evening.

Mayor Ackley explained the City Manager is acting within the Charter requirements, there is nothing in the Charter that requires budget work sessions. Mayor Ackley explained she has her own views on budget work sessions, and they started several years ago. Council input is providing whether there is a budget work session or not.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

  
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Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk  
5-19-20  
approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda S. Ackley, Mayor