



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AND
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024
7:30 P.M.**

City Clerk Stuart welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled February City Council meeting and introduced Council Member Casey R. Ambrose, Council Member Mindy Fernandes, Council Member Tamra Loch, Council Member Bennett Lublin, Council Member John Owsinek, Mayor Linda Ackley and special guest Oakland County Commissioner Dr. Ajay Raman.

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

PLEDGE TO FLAG & INVOCATION

Invocation by Council Member Lublin.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ackley, Council Member Ambrose, Council Member Fernandes, Council Member Loch, Council Member Lublin, and Council Member Owsinek

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Whitt, Assistant to the City Manager Jaquays, Finance Director Pesta, Acting Police Chief Kolke, Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Gonzalez, City Attorney Vanerian, HR Director/Deputy Clerk Sears, DPW Superintendent Ladd, and City Clerk Stuart

CM 02-01-24 MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRO TEM WOODS FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING

Motion by Loch, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To excuse Mayor Pro Tem Woods from tonight's meeting.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES

Mayor Ackley requested further discussion of the sale of the antique fire truck and she placed under Unfinished Business as item 1.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. DDA Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan Reinstatement/Extension**

Managing DDA Director Jaquays explained the required notices were published in the paper and mailed to the required recipients.

Open Public Hearing 7:35 p.m.

No audience participation.

Close Public Hearing 7:36 p.m.

PRESENTATION

1. Public Safety Improvement Technology Proposal for Eliminating Crime and Keeping Walled Lake Safe – by Flock Safety

Acting Chief of Police Kolke introduced Mike Dushane from Flock Safety to discuss software for a license plate reader program.

City Manager Whitt explained Council Member Loch had provided information on this product to him and it was very interesting. City Manager Whitt said a meeting was set up and a presentation was provided, this is a stunning product.

Mike Dushane from Flock Safety said thank you to the City Council for letting him present their product this evening. Mr. Dushane explained the Flock Safety License Plate Reader (LPR) is a camera that will recognize a vehicle and take pictures of the rear of the vehicle, although they are not real-time images. Mr. Dushane explained the cameras are mounted and do have solar power capability, a full installation team is available, and equipment is updated and maintained with the assistance of Flock Safety. Mr. Dushane explained the picture identifies unique features of vehicles and you can filter down on images, save manpower and hours searching for information. Mr. Dushane explained this product is not a facial recognition system or used for traffic enforcement. Mr. Dushane explained the captured data is stored for 30 days with the data being owned by Walled Lake. Each user will have a login to the software. It is not tied to any third-party databases such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mr. Dushane explained the Flock Safety LPR provides the opportunity to join a vast network throughout the nation. It takes an image of every license plate, the only time it would be accessed is if the police officer searched and provided information for the image.

City Manager Whitt said this system takes pictures it does not tag people.

Council Member Loch asked how many of our neighboring communities utilize these LPR systems.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Brian Toohy, 9345 Holy Crossing, said he was the high bidder of the 1956 Ford Fire Truck for the 2023 auction. Mr. Toohy said he started his career in Walled Lake at 15 as a cadet and has

several years with the City of Walled Lake Fire Department. Mr. Toohy said he wants the truck to keep it alive, get it back in the Memorial Day Parade, and have it pump water again. Mr. Toohy said he does not plan to get rid of it or part it out. Mr. Toohy said he had a place to store it.

Mayor Ackley said if the City Council had no objections she would like to act on the item now. Mayor Ackley said the issue of the sale just came up and surprised everyone. Mayor Ackley said she found her answers and feels very satisfied Mr. Toohy will provide the care for this truck; it is part of our history to continue.

Council Member Owsinek explained the City Charter grants the City Council the authority to dispose/sale of items. Council Member Owsinek said this truck is going to someone who has the heart to tinker with this vehicle, there is a passion to bring it back to life.

CM 02-02-24 TO ACCEPT THE BID OF \$1,000 FROM BRIAN TOOHY FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE 1956 FORD FIRE TRUCK

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Ambrose: UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To accept the bid of \$1,000 from Brian Toohy for the purchase of the 1956 Ford Fire Truck.

Discussion

Council Member Fernandes said this truck brings back a piece of Walled Lake's history, it is important and thanked Mr. Toohy.

Roll Call Vote

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Council Meeting January 16, 2024

CM 02-03-24 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2024

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve regular council meeting minutes of January 16, 2024.

Roll Call Vote

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

COUNCIL REPORT

Council Member Fernandes said Parks and Recreation met last week, flyers are available for the annual Spring Egg Hunt on March 30th at Sims Park. Council Member Fernandes said the Memorial Day Parade was discussed, seven bands are lined up for the summer concerts series, and the Walled Lake Market Place is going to start in May.

Council Member Lublin said the library board met last Friday, there is a millage renewal request that will be coming before the voters. Council Member Lublin reminded everyone the public safety millage is on the February 27, 2024 ballot and that please support our police and fire department.

MAYOR'S REPORT None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1. Consent Agenda Written Departmental / Divisional Statistical Reports**
 - a. Police
 - b. Fire
 - c. Finance
 - Warrant

CM 02-04-24 APPROVAL OF CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve City Manager's Consent Agenda items.

Roll Call Vote

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

2. Discussion on Public Safety Millage Vote – February 27, 2024 Election

City Manager Whitt said the city has a public safety millage on the ballot for the February 27, 2024 election; it is critical to obtain a positive vote to continue the city services currently

provided. City Manager Whitt said the fire and police unions support this millage and have sent mailers as well. This public safety millage is important.

Mayor Ackley said this public safety millage is to maintain the current services provided.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Memorandum Oakland County Treasurer's Office Foreclosure Prevention

Finance Director Pesta read into the record at the request of Oakland County Treasurer Robert Wittenberg a memo about foreclosure prevention.

Oakland County Treasurer's Office Foreclosure Prevention

The Oakland County Treasurer's Office is in the final stretch of our Foreclosure Prevention efforts. The tax foreclosure deadline for the 2021 or prior year taxes is on April 1, 2024. That means if these taxes aren't paid off by April 1st or any interested party hasn't entered into a repayment schedule with the Treasurer's office by then, the property will be foreclosed.

Since December of 2023, the Treasurer's office has conducted over a thousand Taxpayer Assistance Meetings to assist taxpayers with keeping their properties by working with them to get on a repayment schedule and/or by identifying resources that may be beneficial to them and their situation. We are here to help and strongly encourage taxpayers to contact us before the tax foreclosure deadline if they have delinquent taxes for 2021 or prior tax years. Taxpayers interested in scheduling a Taxpayer Assistance Meeting may call us at 248-858-0611 or they may visit www.oakgov.com/treasurer

Some of the resources available to assist taxpayers include:

- **Financial Empowerment Center** in the Treasurer's Office which provides one-on-one financial coaching and services to help taxpayers achieve their financial goals. Contact Reda at nafsor@oakgov.com or 248-807-5287.
- **Lakeshore Legal Aid** provides free legal services to people who are low-income and seniors. 1-888-783-8190 is the number for new clients.

Again, we are here to help and strongly encourage taxpayers to contact the Treasurer's office if they have delinquent taxes for 2021 or prior tax years. If taxpayers are interested in scheduling a Taxpayer Assistance Meeting, they may call us at 248-858-0611 or they may visit www.oakgov.com/treasurer.

Thank you!

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Vanerian explained he does not have a report this evening, but he does have items on the agenda under New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Flock Safety Proposal – A Public Safety Improvement Program

Provided earlier in the meeting.

2. Proposed Resolution 2024-01 Healthcare Benefit Renewal for Full-Time Employees for Plan Year 2024 to 2025

Human Resources Director Sears explained there is an increase of approximately 6% with the renewal of BCBS and Blue Care Network, while the increase for HAP is 35% and Priority Health at 15%. Administration is asking for a renewal with the city's current provider.

City Manager Whitt explained the administration is seeking approval of the renewal for full-time employees and remain with BCBS and Blue Care Network.

CM 02-05-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-04 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES FOR THE PLAN YEAR APRIL 1, 2024 TO MARCH 31, 2025

Motion by Loch, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-04 a resolution approving a health care benefit package for full-time employees for the plan year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Discussion

Council Member Lublin clarified the plans offered for renewal are BCBS and Blue Care Network.

Finance Director Pesta said yes and those that request BCBS PPO do pay an out-of-pocket cost.

Roll Call Vote

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

3. Second Reading C-372-24 Amendment to Chapter 26, Article II, Division 2, Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan

CM 02-06-24 MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING C-372-24 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2 “DEVELOPMENT AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLANS” OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO EXTEND AND REAFFIRM THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLANS

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve second reading C-372-24 an ordinance to amend Chapter 26, Article II, Division 2 “Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans” of the City of Walled Lake Code of Ordinances to extend and reaffirm the Downtown Development Authority Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans.

Discussion

Council Member Fernandes asked where the proposed project plans were available for viewing.

Managing DDA Director Jaquays said the plan is on the city’s website.

Roll Call Vote

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

4. First Reading C-373-24 Amendment to Chapter 51, Section 17 Impervious Surface Regulations for Single-Family Lots

City Attorney Vanerian explained this ordinance amendment was created to close a loophole in the current ordinance based on the current reading. Attorney Vanerian explained the language in the amendment makes the wording clearer that each part of the lot is only covered by 35%.

CM 02-07-24 MOTION TO APPROVE FIRST READING C-373-24 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 51, “ZONING”, OF TITLE V, “ZONING AND PLANNING”, THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE ZONING ORDINANCE, TO AMEND ARTICLE 17.00 “SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS”, SECTION 17.02 “NOTES TO (M) “IMPERVIOUS SURFACE IN SINGLE-FAMILY DISTRICTS” AS PROVIDED BY THIS ORDINANCE.

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Loch, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve first reading C-373-24 an ordinance to amend Chapter 51, "Zoning", of Title V, "Zoning and Planning", the City of Walled Lake Zoning Ordinance, to amend Article 17.00 "Schedule of Regulations", Section 17.02 "Notes to (m) "Impervious Surface in Single-Family Districts" as provided by this ordinance.

Roll Call Vote

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

5. Conditional Rezoning Agreement: NE Corner of 14 Mile Road and Decker Road, Parcel No. 92-17-35-400-055 and 92-17-35-400-045

City Attorney Vanerian explained this case went before the planning commission and city council, in this case, the land owner agreed, that if rezoned it would be limited to the use and development approved by the planning commission. City Attorney Vanerian explained the proposed agreement does meet all the requirements and the applicant's attorney has reviewed and concurs with the proposed agreement.

CM 02-08-24 MOTION TO APPROVE CONDITIONAL REZONING AGREEMENT FOR THE NE CORNER OF 14 MILE ROAD AND DECKER ROAD, PARCEL NO. 92-17-35-400-055 AND 92-17-35-400-045

Motion by Loch, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve conditional rezoning agreement for the NE corner of 14 Mile Road and Decker Road, parcel no. 92-17-35-400-055 and 92-17-35-400-045.

Discussion

Managing DDA Director Jaquays explained the applicant is proposing retail space and a drive-thru Starbucks.

City Manager Whitt said no architectural drawings have been submitted yet. City Manager Whitt explained the building will be in Walled Lake and the parking lot in Commerce Township. City Manager Whitt explained there have been conversations with Commerce Township and this is what was agreed upon. City Manager Whitt said administration is recommending a vote of yes.

Council Member Lublin clarified that the site is on the northeast corner of 14 Mile and Decker.

Council Member Loch said thank you to City Manager Whitt for clarifying the information and coordinating between the two communities, this is a joint venture.

Council Member Fernandes asked if the developer had other projects going on within the city. Ms. Jaquays said she was not familiar.

Roll Call Vote

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Loch said the parks look great, she has been to Sims Park recently and it looks great. Council Member Loch said there was a hazardous tree on Wanda removed, looks good, and thanked the DPW for its removal. Council Member Loch thanked Flock Safety for coming out and said the technology is phenomenal.

Council Member Owsinek said the public works department does a wonderful job, as does the city staff, and the city council, thank you.

Council Member Fernandes reminded everyone of the February 27, 2024 election, early voting started on Saturday, February 17, 2024. Council Member Fernandes said to support our police and fire.

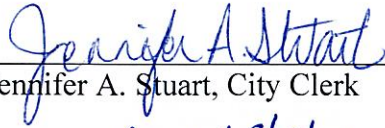
Council Member Lublin said we want to continue support of our police and fire departments and vote yes on February 27, 2024.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

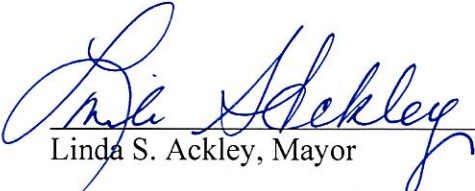
Mayor Ackley said she has heard good things about the license plate reader software and is looking forward to the March presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk
Approved 3/19/24



Linda S. Ackley, Mayor