



CITY OF WALLED LAKE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023
7:30 P.M.

Assistant City Manager Jaquays welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled February City Council meeting. Ms. Jaquays introduced City Officials; City Attorney Vanerian, City Clerk Stuart, Finance Director Pesta, HR Director/Deputy City Clerk Gross, Assistant to the City Manager Schrader, DPW Superintendent Ladd, Fire Chief Coomer, Police Chief Shakinas, Deputy Police Chief Kolke, Planning Commission Member Dennis O'Rourke 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 Mayor Pro Tem Lublin.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ackley, Mayor Pro Tem Lublin, Council Member Ambrose, Council Member Fernandes, Council Member Owsinek, and Council Member Woods

Those attending virtually from Alpena, Michigan, There being a quorum present, the meeting was declared in session.

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Whitt, Assistant City Manager Jaquays, Finance Director Pesta, Assistant to City Manager Schrader, Police Chief Shakinas, Deputy Police Chief Kolke, Fire Chief Coomer, DPW Superintendent Ladd, City Attorney Vanerian, HR Director/Deputy Clerk, Gross, and City Clerk Stuart

CM 02-01-23 MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER LOCH FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING

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

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES

Council Member Woods asked to add a discussion of recent automobile thefts.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Council Meeting of January 17, 2023

CM 02-02-23 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2023

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve regular council meeting minutes of January 17, 2023.

Roll Call Vote

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

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Owsinek explained at the recent Planning Commission meeting, Savvy Sliders applicant for 1186 E. West Maple Road received tentative site plan approval contingent upon zoning board of appeals approval. Council Member Owsinek said they will be going before the zoning board of appeals next week. Council Member Owsinek explained the Planning Commission also made a motion to refer to the council a request for an amendment to the ordinances and deferred to City Attorney Vanerian.

City Attorney Vanerian explained at the Planning Commission meeting last week, Commission member O'Rourke proposed a change to the accessory structure opportunity on lakefront lots reducing the setback for accessory structures from the lake from 30 feet to 10 feet, side yard setback from 3.5 feet to 3 feet, and also limit the size of sheds to no larger than 8 feet x 10 feet with no more than one being permitted. Attorney Vanerian explained council can take action to instruct him to draft an ordinance amendment, refer back to the Planning Commission for further study, or no action at all.

Council Member Fernandes explained at the recent Parks and Recreation Commission meeting that discussion was held on the upcoming summer concerts series at Sims Park on Wednesday evenings and the creation of pickleball courts in the city parks. Council Member Fernandes said she really appreciates DPW Superintendent Ladd and all his research on pricing, design, and layout of the potential courts. Council Member Fernandes said she is really excited about it.

City Manager Whitt asked DPW Superintendent Ladd to provide an update on research for the installation of pickleball courts.

DPW Superintendent Ladd explained there was a discussion of rehabbing the tennis court at Sims Park and the other option is to create three brand new courts at Riley Park. DPW

Superintendent Ladd explained the cost to renovate and rehab the tennis courts at Sims Park is approximately \$15,000 but the resurfacing will be very difficult. DPW Superintendent Ladd explained the Riley Park location, is behind the gazebo which would allow for three brand new courts, leaving the gazebo intact and installing a nice pedestrian walkway. DPW Superintendent Ladd opined that Riley Park was a really good option placing new courts and cleaning up the park, the cost would be \$30,000 to \$50,000.

City Manager Whitt explained it is still being pursued and no recommendation has been made yet. City Manager Whitt explained council will have final approval. City Manager Whitt explained there was a recent water main break downtown and requested DPW Superintendent Ladd to report.

DPW Superintendent Ladd explained there was a water main break on E. Walled Lake Drive and Pontiac Trail. DPW Superintendent Ladd said he contacted Oakland County Water Resource Commission (WRC) and they confirmed it was a water main along E. Walled Lake Drive at Pontiac Trail over to Liberty. DPW Superintendent Ladd said the main was fixed and there was no boil water advisory required. DPW Superintendent Ladd explained sections of the sidewalk in the area had to be removed and there was a temporary cold patch placed until permanent repair.

City Manager Whitt said the council now, in addition to the sidewalks downtown needing to be repaired, the council needs to consider what has to be fixed underground before any work commences on sidewalk repair. City Manager Whitt said we do not want to put new sidewalks down there and then pipes under the sidewalks need to be replaced. City Manager Whitt explained the city infrastructure is relatively old, this will be considered before sidewalks go forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Lublin said there have been two recent library board meetings a major renovation project for new bookshelves, flooring, and painting was discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Lublin explained the plan will be presented at the budget meeting and the board is looking to start renovations Labor Day weekend.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Departmental / Divisional Statistical Reports

- a. Police**
- b. Fire**
- c. Code Enforcement**
- d. Finance**
 - Warrant**

CM 02-03-23 MOTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE DEPARTMENTAL / DIVISIONAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

Motion by Woods, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To receive and file the departmental/divisional statistical reports.

Roll Call Vote

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

2. Discussion Public Safety Millage and Library Millage

City Manager Whitt explained the city is looking at two millage renewals, the library and public safety. City Manager Whitt provided copies of the prior resolutions with ballot language for reference. City Manager Whitt asked Finance Director Pesta to confirm when the ballot language had to come before council for approval.

Finance Director Pesta explained next month council will have resolutions before them for approval of the ballot language.

3. **Public Safety Issues Increase Of Stolen Cars**

Police Chief Shakinis explained there is an increase in stolen vehicles. Police Chief Shakinis explained there is a new technology with key fob relay attacks where the thief can access the technology within your key fob that is in your home, start your car, and drive away with it with no damage to the vehicle. Police Chief Shakinis explained seven cars have been stolen in the last seven months models including Dodge Charger, Jeep Grand Cherokee, and Dodge Ram. Police Chief Shakinis explained that three vehicles have been stolen in the last three days alone. Police Chief Shakinis provided a video of suspects walking into a complex, scoping it out, and then driving away with these stolen vehicles. Police Chief Shakinis said there is a problem with vehicle security and it is happening all over the country. Police Chief Shakinis explained he used the software of Crimemapping.com to provide a map for the council of 69 stolen vehicles in the surrounding areas to Walled Lake. Police Chief Shakinis explained Dodge and Jeep products have been hit the hardest. Police Chief Shakinis explained there is a product people can purchase to place their key fob inside of when not using it is called a Faraday bag and they are available through Amazon. Police Chief Shakinis explained that when the key fob is within this Faraday bag, the key fob technology is not accessible to thieves.

City Manager Whitt explained he has appointed a labor negotiation team to work with the fire union on the upcoming renewal of agreements for full-time and paid-on-call. City Manager Whitt said he appointed HR Director Gross, Finance Director Pesta, and Assistant City Manager Jaquays, personnel backup Chief Shakinis. City Manager Whitt said he is requesting a closed session this evening to brief the council on the upcoming labor negotiations. City Manager Whitt explained there are retention issues because other entities offering signing bonuses. City Manager Whitt explained retention is becoming an issue.

CM 02-04-23 MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS

**UPCOMING LABOR NEGOTIATIONS AND INCLUDE
MS. GROSS, MS. PESTA, AND MS. JAQUAYS**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To enter into closed session to discuss upcoming labor negotiations and include Ms. Gross, Mrs. Pesta, and Ms. Jaquays.

Roll Call Vote

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

City Manager Whitt explained the road Enterprise Drive has some development and the development group has reached out to the city asking for consideration of abandonment of the right of way from the City.

Assistant City Manager Jaquays explained a conceptual plan was presented last week at the DDA meeting and she and City Manager Whitt met with real estate agent Mr. Randy Thomas who is representing the development. Assistant City Manager Jaquays explained there is 400 feet of Enterprise Drive from the center lane and Ladd Road in Walled Lake's jurisdiction. Assistant City Manager Jaquays explained while this development is occurring in Commerce Township, the entrance to Enterprise Drive is in Walled Lake.

City Manager Whitt said the purchaser of this property wants this road abandoned however, the city has a say. City Manager Whitt explained this development area is a big stretch of land and they are already begun moving dirt. City Manager Whitt explained some years ago, developers placed all the infrastructure in but then there was a downturn and it stalled. City Manager Whitt explained he would like to leverage getting all of Ladd Road redone with this development, which will enhance not only Walled Lake but portions of Commerce Township and the Village of Wolverine Lake. City Manager Whitt explained we have about 1500 feet of Ladd Road in need of repair and he would like to coordinate with the developer. City Manager Whitt explained County Commissioner Dr. Ajay Raman was involved in the discussions and he is in favor of the improvement. City Manager Whitt explained the developer wants the council to give up the rights and abandon the road. City Manager Whitt said the council has the first right of refusal and deferred to City Attorney Vanerian.

City Attorney Vanerian explained there's a statutory process to abandon a road. City Attorney Vanerian explained there could be a role the city could play; the city would have the right of first refusal. City Attorney Vanerian explained he has spoken with the realtor, attorney of the buyer, and deputy attorney of the road commission based on those discussions; everyone was handing the ball off to everyone else. City Attorney Vanerian explained it seems all talk at this point nothing formal. City Attorney Vanerian explained once he does know anything further he will advise the council.

City Manager Whitt explained once the road is abandoned, it does not mean it becomes privatized. City Manager Whitt explained it does not guarantee there will be a road there. City Manager Whitt said the law says the city has the first right of refusal if abandoning.

Mayor Pro Tem Lublin explained abandonment of the road opens setbacks for development.

CORRESPONDENCE None

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

1. Planning Commission Zoning Ordinance Amendment Recommendation

City Attorney Vanerian explained council has options to address the request of the Planning Commission. City Attorney Vanerian explained council can leave the ordinance as is, instruct the attorney to draft the proposed amendment or send it back to the Planning Commission for study and review.

Mayor Ackley explained she is not aware of the discussions on this. Mayor Ackley said she is aware of prior ordinance changes for lakefront property. Mayor Ackley said before any action is taken by the council she needs to see a write-up of the amendment and asked what the council's wishes were.

Council Member Woods explained the request places some constituencies in the area.

Council Member Owsinek said he would like the opportunity to review and take some time to see if this is a good idea, what parts if any he wished to change, and have input from the lakefront owners who would be affected by this. Council Member Owsinek said this request is not imperative, we need input from the lakefront owners.

Mayor Ackley asked if the council wished to have a public meeting with lakefront owners. Mayor Ackley said she would like to hear from the lakefront owners. Mayor Ackley said she does not understand where the numbers and figures came from in this proposal.

Council Member Owsinek explained Planning Commission Member Dennis O'Rourke, who made the request to the Planning Commission is present this evening.

Mayor Ackley asked Mr. O'Rourke to address it.

Mr. Dennis O'Rourke said he is on Planning Commission, and he put forth the motion, as we have seen a lot more sheds and structures on the lakefront. Mr. O'Rourke explained we have the opportunity to control this now. Mr. O'Rourke said Novi has different structures, sizes, and number of sheds on their lakefront lots while Walled Lake's view is clean and pristine with the site line. Mr. O'Rourke said being a lakefront owner, storage is needed, the proposal looks at lakefront sizes, shoreline sizes, and structure sizes. Mr. O'Rourke explained the proposal will still provide visibility of the lake but still allow storage sheds. Mr. O'Rourke explained this

proposal will eliminate other types of structures and permit lakefront owners to have storage on their lakefront property.

Mayor Ackley said there are a lot of variables here, the council needs to hear from the public and lakefront owners. Mayor Ackley said she agrees with the site line and beauty of the lake.

Mr. O'Rourke said he also agrees but right now as a city, we have an opportunity to place ordinances to allow storage structures. Mr. O'Rourke said working as a community, we can determine what these structures should look like, the number of structures, and the location of the structures. Mr. O'Rourke opined the time is now as more and more new people are moving into the area, and we can help ensure the beauty of the lake.

Council Member Owsinek said to have the Planning Commission hold a public hearing next month, invite those with riparian rights to voice their pros and cons. Council Member Owsinek said then the Planning Commission can take this information and bring it back to the council.

Council Member Ambrose said he agrees public input with a public hearing will be necessary.

**CM 02-05-23 MOTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE
PLANNING COMMISSION AT THEIR NEXT MONTH'S
MEETING**

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To hold a public hearing with the Planning Commission at their next month's meeting.

Roll Call Vote

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

HR Director/Deputy Clerk Gross explained that health insurance is a renewal of the existing plan, with no major changes however the life insurance provider is switching to provider Mutual of Omaha with identical coverage and a two-year fixed rate.

- 1. Proposed Resolution 2023-03 Healthcare Benefit Renewal for Full-time Employees for Plan Year 2023-2024.**

**CM 02-06-23 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-03 A RESOLUTION
APPROVING A HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR**

**FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES FOR THE PLAN YEAR APRIL 1, 2023
TO MARCH 31, 2024**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Fernandes, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2023-03 a resolution approving a health care benefit package for full-time employees for the plan year April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Roll Call Vote

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

2. Proposed Resolution 2023-04 Healthcare Benefit Renewal for Eligible Prior Employees for Plan Year 2023-2024

HR Director Gross explained there are no changes to the eligible prior employees plan benefits.

CM 02-07-23 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-04 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE FOR THE PLAN YEAR APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024 FOR ELIGIBLE PREVIOUS EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2023-04 a resolution approving an appropriation for health care for plan year April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 for eligible previous employees of the City of Walled Lake.

Roll Call Vote

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

3. Proposed Resolution 2023-05 Authorization to Appropriate Funds for Maintenance of the Public Safety Campus Parking Lot

DPW Superintendent Ladd explained this proposal will rehab the current lot, seal coat, and restripe.

CM 02-08-23 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-05 A RESOLUTION

**APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT
FOR SEAL COATING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPUS
PARKING LOT**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2023-05 a resolution appropriating funds and authorizing a contract for seal coating the Public Safety Campus parking lot.

Roll Call Vote

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Fernandes thanked DPW Superintendent Ladd for his hard work, she really appreciates his work and answering of all her questions. Council Member Fernandes said Mr. Ladd works really hard to make sure the city is safe and clean for all of us.

Council Member Woods said the recent ceremony hosted by the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce honoring Mayor Ackley with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award was great and he congratulated Mayor Ackley.

Council Member Ambrose said he echoes his fellow council members and said city staff puts in the hard work and it shows. Council Member Ambrose said congratulations to Mayor Ackley for her award. Council Member Ambrose said there is a new hardware store, Do It Best Hardware that moved in. Council Member Ambrose said supporting local businesses is important.

Council Member Owsinek said what more can be said about the city staff, he supports them. Council Member Owsinek said we need to keep our staff well-paid and happy.

Mayor Pro Tem Lublin said he is excited about the pickleball courts and great new play structure equipment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Public Notice Weekly (PNW) Article-Audit Report

Mayor Ackley said the article that came out on the audit this year was great. Mayor Ackley said she is very proud of City Manager Whitt and the city staff. Mayor Ackley said she hopes we continue to strive. Mayor Ackley said the awards banquet was great, the heartwarming city support was great, and she was overwhelmed and impressed with the whole evening.

Mayor Ackley said it is really nice to have County Commissioner Dr. Ajay Raman present at tonight's meeting.

County Commissioner Dr. Ajay Raman said he is really excited to be the 14-district representative. Dr. Raman said there is obviously time, energy, and deliberation that goes into running this city and a lot of it comes down to money. Dr. Raman said he as a county commissioner has the ability at the county to advocate for the Tri-Party funding and obtain grants. Dr. Raman said we need to make sure those monies and dollars are directed to where they are needed most. Dr. Raman said it is important to maintain and retain staff, to make sure we are competitive. Dr. Raman said to consider him a resource for the city.

8:52 Council recessed

9:04 Council reconvened and entered a closed session

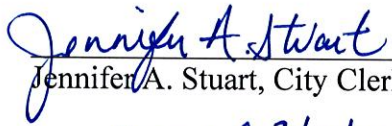
9:45 Council arose from a closed session

9:46 Council reconvened

No further action was taken by the council

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.


Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk
approved 3/21/23

Linda S. Ackley, Mayor