



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**AND
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019
7:30 P.M.**

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Ackley.

Invocation led by Mayor Pro Tem Owsinek.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ackley, Mayor Pro Tem Owsinek, Council Member Ambrose, Council Member Costanzo, Council Member Loch, Council Member Lublin, Council Member Robertson

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

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Whitt, Assistant City Manager Pesta, Police Chief Shakinas, Fire Chief Coomer, Finance Director Barlass, City Attorney Vanerian, Deputy City Clerk Gross, and City Clerk Stuart

REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES:

Council Member Ambrose requested to add discussion of a proposed resolution for a cost sharing agreement for sidewalk repairs in the Chestnut Hills subdivision. Mayor Ackley added under New Business as item number 5.

Mayor Pro Tem Owsinek requested to add discussion of a proposed resolution directing and authorizing an inquiry pursuant to the city charter into the activities and complaints filed against Council Member Gabriel Costanzo. Mayor Ackley added under New Business as item number 6.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Public Hearing 7:30 p.m.

Manager Whitt explained that there had been multiple city meetings to discuss and prepare the proposed city budget and that the public hearing gives citizens an opportunity to make comments.

1. 2020 Fiscal Year Budget Appropriations

No comment.

Close Public hearing 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular Council Meeting of April 16, 2019

**CM 5-3-19 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF
APRIL 16, 2019**

Motion by Loch, seconded by Lublin, CARRIED: To approve the April 16, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.

Discussion

Council Member Costanzo said he had edits he wanted made to the city council meeting minutes. Mr. Costanzo opined there were significant omissions from the record and that he wanted his comments included. Council Member Costanzo stated the minutes failed to note his comments.

Council Member Costanzo made several dilatory and improper motions to amend the council minutes to include his personal remarks about the Downtown Development Authority. Each dilatory and improper motion failed for lack of a second.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (6)	Ambrose, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ackley
No (1)	Costanzo
Absent (0)	
Abstain (0)	

2. Special Council Meeting of May 9, 2019

**CM 5-4-19 MOTION TO APPROVE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF
MAY 9, 2019**

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Loch, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve the May 9, 2019 Special Council Meeting minutes.

Discussion

Council Member Costanzo said that he had heard from several residents they did not know about the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Costanzo, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mindy Fernandes, 45400 W. Pontiac Trail – she is the new staff legislative director for State Representative Kathy Crawford and offered any assistance to the administration of Walled Lake in achieving their goals for the city.

Evan Riskin, 120 Leeds and Keith Wagner, 127 Leeds – said it has come to their attention the owners of the property in Novi that is leasing the organization that is running Driftwood were turned down for a commercial dock in Novi. Mr. Riskin said the owner who is leasing the property also owns the land on the Walled Lake side of the beach, which is residential and has leased the property to the organization for a dock for the commercial restaurant. Mr. Riskin explained; the residents are opposed to this site being used as commercial dock in Walled Lake for Driftwood in Novi. Mr. Riskin said this will create an unnecessary pedestrian traffic hazard.

City Manager Whitt explained that the administration will look into the issue.

COUNCIL REPORT:

Mayor Pro Tem Owsinek explained the Great Lake to Lakes Trail is coming along nicely, however the interlocal agreement is still being worked on.

Council Member Ambrose explained a few items that were discussed at the last DDA meeting including the budget amendment for the Decker Road, sidewalks, etc. Mr. Ambrose said there were several DDA board members that have taken exception to Council Member Costanzo's comments. Mr. Ambrose said Mr. Costanzo attended the last DDA meeting. Mr. Ambrose said the DDA board members issues, were regarding comments made on Facebook and other social media entities. Council Member. Ambrose explained that there was a breakdown of the proposed funding of the Decker Road match by the DDA and that sheet was distributed at that time. Council Member Ambrose explained that he provided Council Member Costanzo a copy of the financial breakdown. Council Member Ambrose opined that for Mr. Costanzo to give the impression that he was not aware of the costs cause members of the DDA to take exception. Council Member Ambrose explained to Council Member Costanzo that he should attend DDA meetings and ask questions at the DDA meeting, and not make remarks at the City Council meetings as if DDA issues had never been discussed before.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

1. Departmental / Divisional Statistical Reports

- a. Police
- b. Fire
- c. Finance
 - Warrant
 - Investment Report March 2019

**CM 5-5-19 TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL /
DIVISIONAL STATISTICAL REPORTS**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To receive and file the monthly Departmental / Divisional Statistical Reports.

Discussion

Council Member Costanzo questioned staff on page 45 of the check disbursement report what the \$5,971 buyout of Toshiba was.

City Manager Whitt said this is not the time for people to perform and hold a gotcha moment.

Council Member Costanzo said rise to a point of order as the remarks were a personal affront to a council member. Council Member Costanzo asked the chair whether the point of order is taken or not.

Mayor Ackley disposed of the point of order by ruling there was no breach of the assembly rules by the prior speaker and corrected Council Member Costanzo by reminding him that it was the council member who had promised that if he had questions he would bring those question to the attention of staff before the council meetings. Mayor Ackley explained to Council Member Costanzo that the City Manager would gladly sit down with him at any point and answer questions.

City Manager Whitt explained to Council Member Costanzo the expenditure was for a buyback when the city went to a new company, it was a wash, \$5,000 out and \$5,000 back. Manager Whitt explained to Council Member Costanzo that a phone call could have answered this question. Mr. Whitt said the city changed copy machine companies because there was a superior deal. Mr. Whitt explained that nothing sinister occurred with this transaction and opined that Council Member Costanzo wanted to perform.

Council Member Costanzo said he rises to a point of order; this is a personal affront against him.

City Manager Whitt suggested council take a vote if these actions were a personal affront to Council Member Costanzo.

Mayor Ackley disposed of the point of order by ruling there was no breach of the assembly rules by the prior speaker and calling for a roll call vote on the pending motion.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Costanzo, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

Mayor Ackley explained she received an email from Ms. Amy Aubry from Oakland County in regards to the City's application for grant monies for road improvements.

City Manager Whitt explained the notice was that the city grant application was approved and will receive a match from the County and will go before the County Commissioners for approval at their next meeting.

Assistant City Manager Pesta explained this is a new program through the County and it is in its fourth year of operation. Mrs. Pesta explained the purpose is for economic development by matching limited funds specifically targeted for maintenance on the roadways and or improvement projects on the roadways. Mrs. Pesta explained the city submitted the project this year with a total project cost of \$32,000 and the County will match up to half. Mrs. Pesta said the County match for this year is \$13,138. Mrs. Pesta said the plans are to address the entrance of N. Eddie Street and an exposed culvert, fix manhole covers off Market Street and Chestnut Ridge.

City Manager Whitt explained he met with DDA Chairman Ambrose about the city's continued road program and he had also met with staff representatives of the Road Commission of Oakland County. Mr. Whitt said there will be road work along Pontiac Trail from Welch to S. Commerce. City Manager Whitt explained County Commissioner Long was in attendance at the Road Commission staff meeting and it is clear Commissioner Long is working for Walled Lake.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Pro Tem Owsinek requested Clerk Stuart to read three letters of correspondence into the record.

*Mayor and City Council
City of Walled Lake
1499 E. West Maple Road
Walled Lake, MI 48390*

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

This letter is to register a formal complaint about the misconduct of City Council Member Gabriel Costanzo. I am calling for a formal investigation into the actions of Council Member Costanzo using the badge and indicia of his office of City

Council Member to demonize, vilify and defame members of our business community and other officials by use of social media platforms.

I am proud of the City of Walled Lake and the direction it has taken in recent years and want to continue as a long-term property and business owner in our fine community. The continued misrepresentations about the conduct of our Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board members by Council Member Costanzo is unwarranted, unprofessional and is doing irreparable harm to the business interests of our community. Given the facts available in the public record it seems apparent that the actions of Costanzo are ethics violations.

As many of you know, I am the newest member of the DDA. I have been on this board for less than eight months and do not understand motives for the kind of dirty politics used by Costanzo and his political partners. Although I may be the newest member of the DDA, I want each of you to know that I am one of the longest standing tax-paying business owner and resident in Walled Lake. Erin Industries has been doing business in the city since 1974, and I was born in the City of Walled Lake in 1961. So, in one aspect or another, I have paid taxes to Walled Lake for over fifty-eight years.

I found it to be a compliment to be nominated by the Mayor to the DDA board and to be approved by the City Council for board membership. I felt that it was an invitation to be involved in growing new and existing businesses in our community.

I am a university graduate and the other DDA board members with whom I serve are high-level professionals with college educations. Indeed, of the DDA board Members with whom I serve; one is a lawyer, one is a certified public accountant, another is a license general contractor and developer and there are other board members who are university graduates who are prominent business owners and one even serves as an assistant to a Michigan State Representative. This group of highly educated individuals have a sound understanding of the Michigan DDA law, the rules and guidelines set out by the State, County and City of Walled Lake. We as DDA board members make sound, rational decisions within those parameters.

It would never have occurred to me that a Walled Lake City Council Member and his cohorts would use social media platforms to purposely misguide City residents regarding the official actions of the volunteer DDA board members. It is unclear to me why the personal attacks are occurring, but he is damaging this community.

Council Member Costanzo stated at the council meeting that he had read the DOD law and that the DDA board's decision to match the grant to fix Decker Road (a gateway to downtown) was outside the scope of DDA authority yet he suggested that the DDA could spend money in places that is clearly outside the

authority of the statute. Council Member Costanzo also made a patently untrue statement that the State of Michigan funds the DDA and another untrue statement that he was not given information about the DDA budget amendment that provided DDA funding to match the grant to fix Decker Road.

These untrue statements, and the unqualified legal opinion begs the questions about Council Member Costanzo's motives, his employment and business experiences, his educational background, and overall his credentials. I want those questions answered.

While the DDA has no legal authority or ability to fix any city subdivision, it can do a lot to help the community at large as was the example of our actions to provide matching funds for the Decker Road gateway. According to the rules and guidelines we must follow, we may only direct funds for business development which, in the long run helps to fix the community at large and strengthens the business community.

Council Member Costanzo's reckless disregard for truth continues to damage the Walled Lake business community and the city as a whole. I call on this City Council to take appropriate action.

Sincerely,

*Steven A. Atwell
President*

*Steven G. Blair
Murray's Parts City
707 N. Pontiac Tr.
Walled Lake, Michigan*

*Walled Lake Mayor & City Council
1499 E. West Maple Rd.
Walled Lake, Michigan 48390*

Dear Mayor & City Council Members,

It is time to examine the actions of one of your own.

I have been on the Walled Lake DDA since September of 2012. I have been in business in Walled Lake since February of 1975. Back in 2012 when I was asked to serve on the DDA I looked at it as an opportunity to give back to the community by participating. I have been a huge supporter of all community activities for many years. My serving on the Downtown Development Authority

(DDA) was an opportunity to attract more business to our great city and help fellow business owners.

I have sat through numerous DDA meeting and have paid careful attention to what is discussed during the course of these meetings.

Sadly, I read topics reported on social media with absolutely no accuracy as compared to what has been discussed by the businessmen and businesswomen who volunteer for the DDA board.

Gabriel Costanzo has used his office as a council member to make numerous posts on social media that were derogatory and false. Furthermore, it is not now, or will ever be, the DDA's responsibility to direct funds to repair a subdivision within the city. DDA money is used for various activities to promote downtown business development that will benefit the community.

I don't believe any member of our city council should be falsely reporting anything on social media and claiming that something sinister occurred during a DDA meeting, a planning commission meeting or city council meeting. It's bad enough for the image of our businesses and our community that certain people who are political associates of council member Costanzo are falsely reporting and making libelous posts on social media but it's even worse when these efforts are fostered by our own elected public official.

I love this city and have seen it grow exponentially over the last 45 years. The improvements made in recent years have been huge. These recent improvements are things we can all be proud of. For a sitting council member to continuously fuel dissention in our city is counterproductive for everyone.

I ask that this council consider the options for correcting the problems created by this Council Member's inappropriate use of his public office.

*Steven Blair
Murray's Parts City*

May 20, 2019

*City Council
City of Walled Lake
1499 E. West Maple Rd.
Walled Lake, Mi. 48390*

Dear Council Member:

I am sending this letter to address the comments were made by Council Member Gabriel Costanzo recently. I have served on the DDA as a Board Member for

approximately 27 plus years; one year after it was created. The City Council and the DDA have worked very hard together to create an efficient infrastructure and stabilize the business community all for the benefit of the residence and property owners in our City with great success! I have lived and worked in the City of Walled Lake for 70 years and have seen a lot of changes. The DDA and City Council have played a major role in creating and maintaining an active and vibrant City. I feel offended that one of our community leaders has such a negative view as to the operations of the DDA and City Council! We have put many hard "VOLUNTEER" hours into the various improvements that have taken place throughout the years. Millions of dollars, not thousands, have been obtained and spent on many improvements in our City. Some being the widening of Pontiac Trail, improved unities along Pontiac Trail and Maple Road, the extension of Maple Road, the street light installations, landscaping along the main thoroughfares, improvement to our parks, installation of a public parking lot, historical preservations, creation of a lake front vision plan, a Facade Grant Program, a Sign Improvement Grant Program, and not to mention the many different activities that we have had and now still have, etc., etc, etc. All this, so that we can have an enjoyable and safe community to live and work in.

I understand that all this communication with negative comments, has been generated relating to the City Council and DDA agreeing to use DDA funds to help in the costs of the improvement of Decker Road. This road is so deteriorated and is such an "Eye Sore" to one of the main "Gate Way Entrances" into our City, that it is our obligation to our community to improve this situation as soon as possible! We always check the law to make sure that our actions are within the legal limits and have found that this project can be done using the DDA funds. Mr. Costanzo has been to almost all our meetings and should understand the importance of this project and the method of getting it completed.

Mr. Costanzo also should understand and appreciate the commitment of the DDA Board Members and City Council Members. The improvements to our City would not have happened without the hard work of the Volunteers of these members! Our DDA members, City Manager, and some Council Members went to the State of Michigan Offices years ago and met with the Senators and Legislatures to obtain the funding for the Maple Road Extension-most at their own expense. Without this action that project would have never happened! My question is what are you doing Mr. Costanzo; other than making noise, to see that our infrastructure, that is in need of much repairs, are completed? Where is Mr. Costanzo's solutions to these problems that are confronting us right now? We need to work together to achieve our solutions in lieu of causing confusion and controversy.

*Sincerely
J&W
Properties, Ltd.*

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Vanerian explained that the city and one of the unions that represents the bargaining units have had an ongoing disagreement concerning an interpretation on contractual provisions within the agreement regarding administrative procedures. Attorney Vanerian explained the city has filed a declaratory relief action, asking the court to issue a declaratory ruling.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Resolution 2019-2 Withdraw from the Commerce, Walled Lake, and Wixom Trailway Management Council

CM 5-6-19 MOTION TO TABLE RESOLUTION 2019-2 A RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMERCE, WALLED LAKE, AND WIXOM TRAILWAY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

Motion by Owsinek, second by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To table resolution 2019-2 a resolution to withdraw from the Commerce, Wixom, Walled Lake Trailway Management Council until the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Costanzo, Loch, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

2. Second Reading C-345-19 Amendment to Chapter 86 Vegetation

Council Member Ambrose said he has been contacted by developers and some items that may have been included or excluded with regards to costs and asked the second reading be postponed for further discussions to see if advantageous for development.

CM 5-7-19 MOTION TO POSTPONE SECOND READING C-345-19 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 86, "VEGETATION" TO AMEND AND ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR THE REMOVAL AND PROTECTION OF TREES WITHIN THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Loch, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To postpone second reading C-345-19 an ordinance to amend Chapter 86, "Vegetation" to amend and adopt regulations for the removal and protection of trees within the City of Walled Lake for further discussions.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Costanzo, Loch, Lublin, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Resolution 2019-27 Adoption of the Budget Appropriations and Levy of Taxes for Fiscal Year 2020

CM 5-8-19 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-27 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS AND LEVY OF TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Robertson, CARRIED: To approve resolution 2019-27 a resolution adopting the operating and capital budget appropriations of funds and levy of taxes for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (6) Robertson, Ambrose, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Ackley
No (1) Costanzo
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

2. Proposed Resolution 2019-28 tax Millage for Summer 2019

CM 5-9-19 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-28 A RESOLUTION FOR SUMMER 2019 MILLAGE REQUEST REPORT TO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ANNUAL LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR THE CITY

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Loch, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2019-28 a resolution for summer 2019 millage request report to County Board of Commissioners for the annual levy and collection of taxes for the city.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Ambrose, Costanzo, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

3. Proposed Resolution 2019-29 MERS 457 Deferred Compensation

CM 5-10-19 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-29 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE TO AUTHORIZE THE ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEMS 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Robertson, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2019-29 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Walled Lake to authorize the adoption of Municipal Employees' Retirement Systems 457 Deferred Compensation Retirement Program.

Discussion

Council Member Lublin asked for an explanation if this was a consolidation.

City Manager Whitt said that prior to his arrival the city created several plans and the city has to administer them. Mr. Whitt said this plan is an efficiency option, this program is a consolidation and will encourage employees to transition.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Costanzo, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

4. Proposed Resolution 2019-30 Budget Amendment FY 19

CM 5-11-19 MOTION TO RESOLUTION 2019-30 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Owsinek, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2019-30 a resolution amending the operating and capital budget appropriations of funds for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Costanzo, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

5. Proposed Resolution 2019-31 Chestnut Hills Subdivision Cost Sharing Sidewalk Repair

Council Member Ambrose introduced this resolution for Chestnut Hills subdivision, a cost sharing for sidewalk repair. Council Member Ambrose explained he supported this partnership effort with the Chestnut Hills subdivision stating that discussions were held by staff with the president of the Chestnut Hills Subdivision Association.

City Manager Whitt explained the propose partnership agreement is similar to what was approved for Glenwood Hills Subdivision, the subdivision works with the city to complete the project for sidewalk repairs.

CM 5-12-19 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-31 A RESOLUTION APPROVING COST SHARING SIDEWALK REPAIR IN CHESTNUT HILLS SUBDIVISION

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Owsinek, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2019-31 a resolution approving cost sharing sidewalk repair in Chestnut Hills Subdivision.

Discussion

Mr. Ryan Woods, a representative of the Chestnut Hills Neighborhood Association, explained they have been working on this for over two years. Mr. Woods said the association has made repairs to light posts, the sign in front of the subdivision and catching up on items of maintenance within their neighborhood and much by themselves and saved money. The association took a vote, the dues were not raised, and payments were worked out with payments with the cement company. Mr. Woods explained the subdivision is a closed loop sidewalk and it does have a lot of traffic. Mr. Woods thanked council.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (7) Lublin, Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Costanzo, Loch, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

6. Proposed Resolution 2019-32 Directing and Authorizing the City Manager to Make Inquiry into Activities and Complaints Against Council Member Gabriel Costanzo

CM 5-13-19 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-32 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE DIRECTING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE INQUIRY PURSUANT TO THE CITY CHARTER INTO THE ACTIVITIES AND COMPLAINTS FILED AGAINST COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIEL COSTANZO

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, CARRIED: To approve resolution 2019-32 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Walled Lake directing and authorizing the City Manager to make inquiry pursuant to the City Charter into the activities and complaints filed against Council Member Gabriel Costanzo.

Discussion

Council Member Costanzo said the resolution calls for the City Manager to do the investigation and Council Member Costanzo said he feels the City Manager is biased to conduct any type of investigation.

Roll Call Vote

Yes (6) Owsinek, Robertson, Ambrose, Loch, Lublin, Ackley
No (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

Clerk's Note: Council Member Costanzo refrained from voting as per City Charter Chapter 6, Section 6.6(c) 'No member of Council shall vote on any question concerning his own conduct'.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Robertson invited everyone to the city's Memorial Day Parade.

Council Member Costanzo said he would like to address the comments regarding our Decker Road project stating he believes it is a direct correlation to the omissions in the minutes.

Council Member Costanzo stated that at the last council meeting, he specifically brought up that the DDA had opined that they could do work outside of the DDA boundaries but there was no breakdown of the remaining \$307,000. Council Member Costanzo said that nothing was presented to council; nothing was presented to him at the DDA meeting; nothing was presented explaining where that money was going to be spent.

Council Member Costanzo stated he made the request per the City Charter stating he wanted to know where every dollar was being spent. Council Member Costanzo stated that the vote by the city council on the budget amendment was "irresponsible". Council Member Costanzo further

stated that, "Nobody had read that document other than a member to the DDA. I stand behind that."

Council Member Costanzo stated, "I opposed the two employee contracts which I thought were fiscally irresponsible and I advocated our duties as council members I thought it was irresponsible and I stand by that and I believe what is going on here is retaliation in part because of my opposition to the DDA funding as well as my opposition to the employee agreements that I thought were excessive with the fringe benefits, their rates, their salaries and such'.

Council Member Costanzo stated, "When I discussed about the contracts at last meeting, I asked the city attorney if I would be violating any ethics or laws if I were to discuss the contracts. The contracts were a matter of public record. I am allowed."

Council Member Costanzo stated, "I will not submit my questions in advance where the monies are going, that is why we get the council packet. I stand behind that and I'll stand behind everything I say. So, the three members of the DDA oppose, write letters, I stand by my actions.

Council Member Costanzo stated, "You can read every one of my posts and there is not one criticism of the DDA. I stand behind that and I will continue to do that. This resolution; do what you want I will fight but I stand behind my actions and my words'.

Council Member Ambrose opined Council Member's Costanzo short memory, stating that Council Member Costanzo sat at the DDA meeting, heard the discussion with an attorney present. Council Member Ambrose stated that the DDA board membership is comprised of an attorney, a professional CPA, and board members with bachelors' and masters' degrees. Council Member Ambrose opined that these members have been on the DDA longer and have fought more fights than Mr. Costanzo has had time in the city.

Council Member Ambrose explained to Council Member Costanzo that he heard the discussion as the DDA meeting, he asked no questions, he heard the numbers, he still asked no questions. Council Member Ambrose stated, Council Member Costanzo sat there speechless and motionless. Council Member Ambrose stated the DDA board members went through all their discussions and voted unanimously for the budget amendment and forward it to council.

Council Member Ambrose opined that Council Member Costanzo gets to the council and he acts as if he never heard the discussions, stating, "This is very disingenuous to the people. The numbers were available at the DDA meeting, they were all discussed with what the costs were the five different categories and what the money was going to be spent on."

Council Member Ambrose explained that the budget amendment was sent to the council for their final approval and Council Member Costanzo asked questions as if he never saw the numbers.

Council Member Ambrose stated that he gave Council Member Costanzo the actual breakdown from the Finance Director and gave the paperwork to Council Member Costanzo with the numbers being entered into the motion.

Council Member Ambrose explained that the DDA stands for Downtown Development Authority, the DDA exists for enhancements and improvements to the downtown; Decker Road is in the gateway to the downtown. Council Member Ambrose explained that the DDA cannot spend money on subdivisions or into residential areas not connected to the downtown.

Council Member Ambrose stated the council is helping and getting work done, there are no special tax assessments, the water lines will be done, and if there is anything further the people want done it will be discussed. There are no special assessments.

Council Member Ambrose reminded everybody of the Memorial Day parade and there will be a special guest joining us.

Mayor Ackley said this will be another great parade, one of the city's local businesspeople have requested, Rup Raj from Channel 2 news join the council in the parade and allow Channel 2 coverage on this great parade.

Mayor Pro Tem Owsinek asked City Manager Whitt how brief the minutes could be.


City Manager Whitt explained the law requires that council actions be included in the minutes, but it does not require names of donors be included. The City Clerk makes the decisions and if council votes to add something the clerk left out then it can be added. Manager Whitt explained that the City Council adopted Roberts Rules of Order and motions to amend may be made, but motions that have no support fail and are not required to be in the minutes. City Manager Whitt explained that the Trail Council staff, prepares bare bone minute packets, they included only the motions. Manager Whitt stated that the Trail Council does leave out at times, significant events. Mr. Whitt explained as an example, that he was in attendance at a Trailway meeting where a donor that Council Member Costanzo requested to have his name in the minutes, spoke and called this Council blackmailers and extortionists. City Manager Whitt explained he walked out of the Trailway Council meeting because of that bad behavior, but those remarks and that action was not recorded in the Trailway Council minutes. City Manager Whitt stated the donor accused the Walled Lake City Council of crimes. This is the same individual that Council Member Costanzo requested to be in the city's minutes. City Manager Whitt explained that Council Member Costanzo was present at the Trailway Council meeting when this occurred, but Council Member Costanzo did not call for that to be placed in the Trailway Council minutes. City Manager Whitt opined that he felt the minutes are fine the way they were present by the City Clerk.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

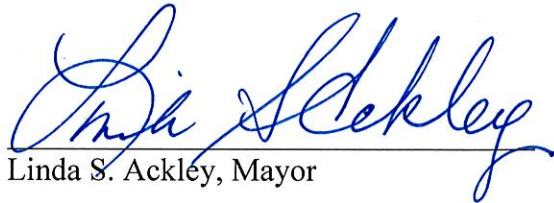
Mayor Ackley said the public deserves to have a general outline of what happens and everyone is entitled to an opinion, but when you have board members like the DDA who serve for no money, they are volunteers, two are here tonight, Mr. Atwell and Ms. Fernandes, when accusations are placed on social media of wrongdoing, misappropriations of DDA funds, it becomes very serious. Mayor Ackley said she does not like to see any volunteer spoken about in this manner.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk



Linda S. Ackley, Mayor

approved 6/18/19