



CITY OF WALLED LAKE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024
7:30 P.M.

City Clerk Stuart welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled April 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 Pro Tem Ryan Woods, and Mayor Linda Ackley.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Woods.

PLEDGE TO FLAG & INVOCATION

Invocation by Council Member Lublin.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ackley, Mayor Pro Tem Woods, 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, Public Safety Deputy Director Shakinas, Acting Police Chief Kolke, Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Gonzalez, City Attorney Vanerian, DPW Superintendent Ladd, and City Clerk Stuart

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES

City Manager Whitt explained there were several prior employees who retired from the city in the audience this evening who wished to speak on recent communications they received from the city, he requested the three-minute time limit be waived.

Council Member Owsinek requested to add an agenda item under new business, item #6 recognizing the members of the boards and commissions that serve without pay.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Bill Nicholas said he retired from the Walled Lake Police Department and was a sergeant for 23 years. Mr. Nicholas explained he retired under an agreement with the city that provides retiree healthcare funding. Mr. Nicholas explained we agreed for a health stipend payment from the date of retirement under the collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Nicholas said he is asking for this to continue. Mr. Nicholas explained they received communications from the city that the stipends were going to stop as of March 31, 2024.

City Manager Whitt said if there is an agreement, he will honor the agreement. The communications were sent as a notice regarding the blanket resolution that carried forward year to year healthcare for those who left the city. City Manager Whitt said he intends to pay anyone who has a contract, council does not have to vote on this. City Manager Whitt explained there are some contracts that are independent of the union agreements. City Manager Whitt said no payments have been missed. City Manager Whitt said hard copy letters were sent with paper checks and correspondence was also emailed.

Mr. Nicholas asked if a resolution is required every year. Mr. Nicholas said there is nothing in his contract that explains a resolution had to be provided every year.

City Manager Whitt said retired Police Officer Paul Schneider was present and of the same and this will be resolved. City Manager Whitt explained retiree Mrs. Joyce Golden has an independent employment contract and has different requirements.

John Woychowski explained he retired from Walled Lake after serving 19 years as a police captain. Mr. Woychowski said his contract says the city owes an \$800 payment for healthcare. Mr. Woychowski said he would not have retired without this benefit. Mr. Woychowski said the employees gave up things to receive retiree healthcare benefits. Mr. Woychowski said he did not receive the letter in a timely manner. Mr. Woychowski said if the city is having a problem with an ex-employee it should not affect the other retirees.

City Manager Whitt explained letters were sent along with checks. City Manager Whitt said if there are agreements, independent of union contracts, all will be reviewed and if entitled to it, the folks will receive it.

Wayne Morgan a retired public works employee explained we just received the letter, no warning.

Ed Hammond a retired public works employee explained he worked with the Walled Lake DPW and retired October 2007. Mr. Hammond said he has not received healthcare benefits from anyone else. Mr. Hammond thanked City Manager Whitt for his attention to this matter and asked where he needs to go from here.

Finance Director Pesta explained Mr. Hammond's contract was received by the city and will be reviewed.

City Manager Whitt explained some employees have separation agreements and others had independent separation agreements. City Manager Whitt said each one will be reviewed and resolved quickly.

Terry Croft said he worked for the city for 20 years and he negotiated the healthcare clause in the contract. Mr. Croft said he worked with the Fire Department, and he is really upset about this. Mr. Croft said he wants to see this straightened out, please take care of it.

City Manager Whitt explained the contracts will be reviewed and each will be resolved. There is no action from the council required.

Mayor Ackley said she agrees, the blanket resolution was for employees who left the city without a contract. It was a year-to-year renewal for those specific individuals. The City Manager will get it straightened out.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Council Meeting of March 19, 2024

**CM 04-01-24 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2024**

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve regular council meeting minutes of March 19, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Alyssa and James Dena, “Gaming and Company” Grand Opening Thank You

Assistant City Manager Jaquays explained there was an email received from new business owners Alyssa and James Dean thanking those in attendance for their grand opening and this included Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Council Member Fernandes, City Manager Whitt, and myself.

1. Proposed Resolution 2024-08 Recognizing “Game and Company” and Declaration of “Game and Company Day”

**CM 04-02-24 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-08 A RESOLUTION TO
RECOGNIZE “GAME AND COMPANY” BUSINESS AND
MAYOR ACKLEY’S DECLARATION OF “GAME AND DAY” ON
APRIL 6, 2024**

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-08 a resolution to recognize “Game and Company” business and Mayor Ackley’s declaration of “Game and Day” on April 6, 2024.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Fernandes, Loch, Lublin Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

COUNCIL REPORT

Council Member Fernandes said at the recent Parks and Recreation Commission meeting the Memorial Day Parade was discussed and will be upon us shortly; applications are available on the city website. The Walled Lake Market Place begins May 1, 2024. Council Member Fernandes thanked the staff and commission members for a great egg hunt.

City Manager Whitt explained Ms. Loretta Whitt and her crew provided free face painting, it was hugely successful. The event offered a magician, pony rides, and an Easter Bunny. It was a good free event.

Council Member Loch said she liked how much of the park space was utilized this time, it was further back into the park away from the parking lot, it was nice.

Council Member Lublin said the library board meets this Friday and will hold discussions on the library millage renewal.

Council Member Owsinek said the Planning Commission reviewed and approved a request for seasonal outdoor tent sales at the bowling alley.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- 1. Proposed Resolution 2024-08 Recognizing "Game and Company" and Declaration of "Game and Company Day"**

Addressed earlier in agenda.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

CM 04-03-24 APPROVAL OF CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

2. Downtown Development Authority Activity Report

City Manager Whitt said the council has a resolution this evening amending the budget to approve the DDA's appropriations to fund the purchase of Flock Safety cameras and new seals for the city's gateway signs. City Manager Whitt said the most notable item was the majority of the DDA board recognizing the opportunity of resurfacing Ladd from Enterprise to McCoy and into Wolverine Lake. City Manager Whitt said if we do not do something the city would have a gravel road that meets up to a new road. City Manager Whitt explained that Mr. Ladd the city's Public Works Superintendent brought to his attention the potential to partner with a developer to resurface Ladd Road. City Manager Whitt explained Ladd Road is in the DDA district, and the worst road in Walled Lake not to mention this road is a gateway entrance to the city. City Manager Whitt explained Ladd Road is a gateway to downtown, access road to Walled Lake Elementary, and provides access to the school administration building. City Manager Whitt explained the majority of the DDA had a unanimous vote to move forward to resurface Ladd Road. City Manager Whitt opined the City of Walled Lake has the hardest working DDA board.

City Manager Whitt said the parade will be covered by Fox 2 News by Ms. Maurielle Lue who will also be the parade grand marshal. City Manager Whitt said Ms. Lue is proud of our parade and provides great support.

City Manager Whitt said we have one our police officers assigned to the DEA task force, there was a notable arrest made but not a lot of information is public yet. He will advise the council as information becomes available.

Council Member Fernandes asked for an update on the devastating fatal crash that occurred at Decker and Maple Road.

Public Safety Deputy Director Shakinis explained the passenger of the vehicle that struck and killed the young girl accepted a no contest plea. Deputy Director Shakinis explained the homicide in December 2020 went through four assistant prosecuting attorneys', there were mistakes made and a mistrial was declared. There is another trial set, and they are pursuing a guilty verdict.

Council Member Lublin asked about a new sound system for the parade.

DPW Superintendent Ladd said the sound system is ordered and should be here mid-next week.

City Manager Whitt said the city is creating their own honor guard and they will perform for the first time at this year's parade.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Vanerian explained judgements have been issued for some ongoing zoning violation cases. Attorney Vanerian explained there are complicated cases being pursued to bring uses into compliance. Attorney Vanerian explained there is another potential case involving a failing retaining wall that may require possible condemnation but he will bring before council if necessary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Resolution 2024-09 2024 Portable Restroom Services at City Parks and Events

CM 04-04-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-09 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 PORTABLE RESTROOM SERVICE PROPOSAL FOR CITY PARKS AND EVENTS WITH METRO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Motion by Loch, seconded by Fernandes, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-09 a resolution to approve the 2024 portable restroom service proposal for city parks and events with Metro Environmental Services.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Loch, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

2. Proposed Resolution 2024-10 Walled Lake Police and Fire Dispatch Service Agreement between Oakland County and City of Walled Lake

Deputy Director Shakinis explained the city has been utilizing county dispatch since September 2009. There is an increase with the contract renewal, 15% for the first year, 5% the second year, and so on each subsequent year. Deputy Director Shakinis explained the increase for us is much smaller than Wolverine Lake who saw a 45% increase as well Milford who also saw a 45% increase. The agreement now provides for a new third-party fee to analyze all their contracts. Deputy Director Shakinis explained he met with Novi as they have their own dispatch, lodging,

etc. Deputy Director Shakinis explained the union hurdles were too much to create that partnership and he recommends staying with the county.

CM 04-05-24 MOTION TO APPROVE 2024-10 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE POLICE AND FIRE DISPATCH SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OAKLAND COUNTY AND THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE FROM APRIL 1, 2024 TO MARCH 31, 2027

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Loch, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-10 a resolution to approve Police and Fire Dispatch Service Agreement between Oakland County and the City of Walled Lake from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2027.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Loch, Lublin, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

3. Proposed Resolution 2024-11 Adoption of the Oakland County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

CM 04-06-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-11 AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Shakinis explained this is not new to council, the county ask for each participating community to adopt their plan.

Motion by Loch, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-11 authorizing the adoption of the Oakland County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

4. Proposed Resolution 2024-12 Amending and Appropriating Funds from the DDA Fund Balance

City Manager Whitt explained Ladd Road will be resurfaced with the assistance of the DDA. Ladd Road is very clearly part of the DDA. City Manager Whitt said the opportunity for the Ladd Road resurfacing was brought to DDA as soon as we received the information. He thanked Council Member Lublin and Mayor Ackley for their support of this during the DDA meeting.

**CM 04-07-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-12 A
RESOLUTION AMENDING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
FROM THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND
BALANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 TO ADDRESS
GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL
PURCHASES FOR EQUIPMENT**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Loch, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-12 a resolution amending and appropriating funds from the Downtown Development Authority fund balance for fiscal year 2023-2024 to address gateway improvements and public safety capital purchases for equipment.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Ambrose, Fernandes, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

**5. Proposed Resolution 2024-13 Directing the City Manager and the City Attorney to
Draft Zoning Ordinance for 615 N. Pontiac Trail**

City Manager Whitt said City Council has the authority to rezone this parcel. There will be push back from those that do not want any changes. City Manager Whitt said the Walled Lake Consolidated School district has not moved forward on this property since 2018 after the demolition. City Manager Whitt said the City Council did authorize the pursuit to file a lawsuit for the city to purchase the property and develop it. City Manager Whitt said the prior school district leadership did not want to act at all.

Council Member Lublin said redevelopment creates revenue.

City Attorney Vanerian explained council has broad discretion going forward.

**CM 04-08-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-13 A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND THE CITY ATTORNEY
TO COLLABORATE IN DRAFTING A ZONING ORDINANCE
FOR 615 N PONTIAC TRAIL**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-13 a resolution directing the City Manager and the City Attorney to collaborate in drafting a zoning ordinance for 615 N. Pontiac Trail.

Roll Call Vote

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

6. Proposed Resolution 2024-14 a resolution to recognize and honor the contributions of city board members

CM 04-09-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-14 A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CITY BOARD MEMBERS

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-14 a resolution to recognize and honor the contributions of city board members.

Roll Call Vote

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Loch said the city staff is wonderful and she is thankful for all the work they do.

Council Member Owsinek said everybody on this council works, the staff works, the board and commission members work to make this city.

Council Member Ambrose said he echoes his fellow council members; Walled Lake has a lot of positive things going on.

Council Member Lublin said the DDA resolution to appropriate funds and the city council resolution approving those appropriations were saved funds. Council Member Lublin said he commended the resolution this evening to honor the city board members.

Council Member Fernandes thanked everyone who works to make our city better every day. April 27th is a drug take back day and there will be a drop box at the police station. May 7th is an election for the school bond renewal and encouraged voters to educate themselves on this before voting.

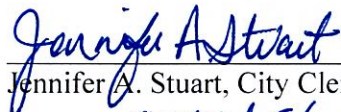
Mayor Pro Tem Woods said he also echoes his fellow council members, adding Burger King is back, Gus's carryout is thriving, and new business downtown, Game and Company. All the commissions and boards, the road work above and underground, and new lights. Mr. Woods said looking around the city is growing and all the hard work is coming to fruition.

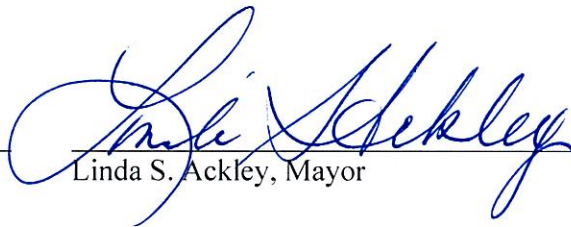
MAYOR'S COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.


Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk
approved 5/21/24


Linda S. Ackley, Mayor