

CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Tuesday, June 10, 2025

The Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by DDA Chairman Blair

ROLL CALL: Ackley, Allen, Blair, Johnston, Lublin, Marshall, McDonald, Mechigian, Raleigh

ABSENT: Millen

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Council Member Ambrose, Council Member Owsinek, Public Safety Deputy Director Shakinas, Deputy Police Chief Kolke, Fire Chief Gonzalez, DPW Superintendent Ladd, City Attorney Vanerian, Finance Director Pesta, HR Director Sears, and City Clerk Stuart

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

DDA 06-01-25 MOTION TO EXCUSE DDA BOARD MEMBER MILLEN FROM TODAY'S MEETING

Motion by McDonald, seconded by Johnston: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse DDA Board Member Millen from today's meeting.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: *None*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular DDA Meeting of May 13, 2025

DDA 06-02-25 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 13, 2025 MEETING

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Johnston: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: *None*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: *None*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *None*

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Proposed Resolution 2025-04 A Resolution for a Budget Amendment to Accommodate the Start of the Downtown Sidewalk Improvements Along West Walled Lake Drive and Approve Payment Not To Exceed \$10,000**

Finance Director Pesta explained that two new parking spaces were added downtown on W. Walled Lake Drive as the initial step in the downtown sidewalk improvement project. Director Pesta presented the resolution and requested approval of a \$10,000 budget amendment to support the project.

DDA 06-03-25 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-04 A RESOLUTION FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO ACCOMMODATE THE START OF THE DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS ALONG WEST WALLED LAKE DRIVE AND APPROVE PAYMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000

Motion by Lublin seconded by McDonald: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve resolution 2025-04 a resolution for a budget amendment to accommodate the start of the downtown sidewalk improvements along West Walled Lake Drive and approve payment not to exceed \$10,000.

Discussion

City Manager Whitt explained two parking spaces were added, a decaying tree removed, and a section of sidewalk were reconfigured to make this happen.

EXECUTIVE & MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT:**1. Public Safety Activity Report**

City Manager Whitt explained that the property owner of 218 W. Walled Lake Drive, Mr. Tuttle, expressed concern about a possible encroachment by his neighbor at 132 W. Walled Lake Drive onto his northern property line. After reviewing parcel maps, the City found no evidence to support the claim. City Manager Whitt clarified that this is a civil matter between the property owners and that the City will not be involved.

2. Summer Festival – June 21st

City Manager Whitt explained that the upcoming fireworks event is organized by the Walled Lake Civic Fund, not the City. He emphasized that while the City provides support, the event is not a City-sponsored activity. The Civic Fund has secured use of a vacant downtown property owned by Mr. Keisoglou for the festivities. City Manager Whitt stated he has met with Civic Fund members and City staff to coordinate efforts for the June 21st event, which is expected to be a great community gathering.

DDA Board Member and Walled Lake Civic Fund Member Johnston said Mr. Keisoglou has offered the use of his property for a fee.

City Manager Whitt said he waived the city firework permit fees for this time.

DDA Board Member Johnston said support from the businesses has been strong.

DDA Chairman Blair said the Walled Lake Civic Fund is a great asset to the city.

DDA Board Member Johnston said thank you to the businesses for their support and to the Walled Lake Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments. They are great to work with.

Public Safety Deputy Director Shakinas said he anticipates a traffic control order for street closures on E. Walled Lake Drive between Liberty and Witherall. He said this year they are not closing Liberty.

DDA Chairman Blair asked of the downtown businesses who sponsored the event was the Walled Lake Tavern or Tiki Bar among the supporters.

DDA Board Member Johnston said he approached the Walled Lake Tavern and due to their recent openings not this year they respectfully declined but would be on board for next year, however, the Tiki Bar refused to provide any support.

City Manager Whitt said the Tiki Bar needs to clean up their site in particular the dumpster area and parking lot it looks terrible.

Deputy Director Shakinas explained that he spoke with Mr. Gappy of the Tiki Bar, who confirmed that a band will be performing and that they have received approval from the Liquor Control Commission for an outdoor tent area to serve alcohol. Deputy Director Shakinas emphasized that their dumpster area must be cleaned immediately, again prior to the event, and continually maintained. He said that Code Enforcement has been actively addressing several issues, including progress on fence repairs along the trailway behind 1225 E. West Maple Road and the removal of abandoned batting cages at 1720 E. West Maple Road.

City Manager Whitt explained that the Memorial Day parade was a great success. He noted that Mayor Ackley, who served as this year's Grand Marshal, and his team visited Walled Lake Cemetery the day prior to the parade to place the first ceremonial flag. City Manager Whitt thanked Mayor Ackley for her leadership and dedication. City Manager Whitt recognized DDA Board Member and downtown business owner Mr. Millen, who served as the Master of Ceremonies, commending him for doing an outstanding job. The City of Walled Lake Color Guard delivered a memorable presentation, retiring the American flag and presenting it to Mayor Ackley, while Mayor Pro Tem Woods provided the new flag for placement.


WARRANT REPORT:**1. May 2025****DDA 06-04-25 APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WARRANT FOR MAY 2025**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by McDonald: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To receive and file the warrant for May 2025.

City Manager Whitt said information will be provided on the school property at the next City Council meeting held on June 17, 2025. There were a substantial number of people interested however only four or five that were seriously interested.

ADJOURNMENT:**DDA 06-05-25 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Allen: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 4:28 P.M.



Jennifer A. Stuart
City Clerk
approved 8/10/25

Steve Blair
DDA Chairman