



CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Tuesday, September 9, 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, Lublin, Marshall, McDonald, Mechigian, Millen,

ABSENT: Amin, Johnston, Raleigh

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Council Member Ambrose, Council Member Fernandes, 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 09-01-25 MOTION TO EXCUSE DDA BOARD MEMBER JOHNSTON
FROM TODAY'S MEETING**

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

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:

DDA Board Member Lublin requested to add discussion of the HAAS Alert Safety Cloud technology that he discussed with Fire Chief Gonzalez as new business item #2.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular DDA Meeting of August 12, 2025

**DDA 09-02-25 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 12, 2025
MEETING**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Mechigian: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: *None*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: *None*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

DDA Chairman Blair requested to discuss the rendering of the sign for the Casey J. Ambrose Public Safety Campus. Chairman Blair explained this was brought up some time ago after the naming of the site, he requested an update.

City Manager Whitt said he agrees and explained this is still on the agenda, when a report is available to bring back to the DDA, he will provide. This did not get lost.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Trunk or Treat

City Manager Whitt explained there were conflicts with schedules in the past, however the date is set for Sunday, October 26th between 12-2p.m.

Mayor Ackley said she is good with October 26th and is very much looking forward to the event.

DDA Vice Chairman Millen explained Calvin Johnson, Rob Simms and Darren McCarty will be there this year. Mr. Millen said he would like to add a contest for best car decorations, and the best costume for both kids and adult.

DDA Chairman Blair stated the DDA participated with the cost of the petting zoo last year and suggested booking and covering the costs of the petting zoo again this year.

**DDA 09-03-25 APPROVAL TO FUND THE PETTING ZOO, PONY RIDES AND
PURCHASE OF HAY TO HOST THE ANIMALS**

Motion by Lublin, seconded Allen: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: Approval to fund the petting zoo, pony rides and purchase of hay to host the animals.

2. HAAS Alert Safety Cloud Technology

DDA Board Member Lublin explained he discussed a new program with Fire Chief Gonzalez that was developed by the Detroit Fire Department. Mr. Lublin explained it is new software that alerts nearby drivers that first responders are in the area. Mr. Lublin explained the software was developed at a new lab in Detroit and will be outfitted in the Detroit Police Department, Detroit Fire Department and other public safety fleet drivers. Drivers can receive alerts and stay out of harms way.

Fire Chief Gonzalez explained HAAS Alert Safety Cloud is a technology designed to enhance safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians around emergency vehicles. It operates by providing real-time alerts to connected vehicles and mobile devices when emergency responders are approaching. The system utilizes a network of smart devices and vehicle-to-everything (V2X)

communication to notify users of potential hazards, helping to reduce accidents and improve situational awareness on the roads. This proactive approach aims to ensure safer interactions between emergency personnel and the public. The Walled Lake Fire Dept has had one unit installed on our engine 19 since we purchased it, the unit came with the truck in 2021. Since that time, the unit has alerted over 3,000 drivers. The units cost \$360 a piece with a \$220 annual service fee. The fire department was looking for assistance and support from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to purchase five additional units for \$1,800 and provide the \$1,320 service fee. Fire Chief Gonzalez explained that in 2025 the cost would be \$3,120 and then moving forward in 2026 and beyond it would be \$1,320 per year service fee for all six Fire Dept Emergency vehicles. He explained he and Deputy Director Shakinis have spoken about the software and they both suggested beginning with fire department later integrating into the police department.

City Manager Whitt said none of this was discussed with him prior to its introduction today, he was not aware of any of this, if the board acts on this a budget amendment will be required. City Manager Whitt said back-channel discussions that have been had with Council Member Lublin, he knew nothing about. City Manager Whitt said the DDA is a component unit, this item was not budgeted. City Manager Whitt said if the board approves, amendments will have to be made.

DDA Board Member Lublin explained he and Fire Chief Gonzalez were discussing the city's Flock cameras and the HAAS software was brought up. DDA Board Member Lublin said he wanted to discuss with the board this was not the Fire Chief's suggestion.

**DDA 09-04-25 APPROVAL TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF THE HAAS ALERT
SAFETY CLOUD TECHNOLOGY AND OUTFIT THE SIX FIRE
DEPARTMENT VEHICLES WITH IT**

Motion by Lublin, seconded Millen: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: Approval to fund the purchase of the HAAS Alert Safety Cloud Technology and outfit the six fire department vehicles with it.

Fire Chief Gonzalez said he apologizes to City Manager Whitt and thanked the DDA for their motion.

EXECUTIVE & MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT:

1. Public Safety Activity Report

City Manager Whitt said a prior dispatcher of the City of Walled Lake was recently appointed the Chief of Police in the City of Jupiter Florida a terrific achievement.

Deputy Director Shakinis explained that the prior dispatcher was the son of City of Walled Lake Firefighter Don Hennessy who recently passed away. Deputy Director Shakinis said Mr. Hennessey's son, Don Hennessy Jr. was named the interim Police Chief of the Jupiter Police Department. Deputy Director Shakinis said Code Enforcement is working on cleanup of the city enforcing the grass ordinance. Deputy Director Shakinis said the police departments DEA

officer ran a bust in the metro Detroit area that recovered \$350,000 cash from a drug home and numerous amounts of illegal narcotics. Deputy Director Shakinas said the city's DEA officer is out there doing a phenomenal job recovering numerous kilos of really bad stuff. He said the Walled Lake Police Department has an amazing impact. Deputy Director Shakinas said Detective McQueen is doing amazing work.

2. Mayor Ackley's Letter of Intent – Signed for Earnest Deposit on Downtown Vacant Lots

City Manager Whitt explained to the board that he and Mayor Ackley worked through the beginning arrangements to purchase the vacant parcels downtown across from the beach. City Manager Whitt said DDA Chairman Blair requested action to pursue purchase, request was taken to City Council and was approved, purchase is moving forward. City Manager Whitt said the Mayor sent a letter, with a good faith check enclosed. City Manager Whitt explained that the Mayor said that the city does not need to have a three-story apartment building upsetting the residents of the community. City Manager Whitt said the DDA Board and City Council will need to discuss what becomes of these lots. City Manager Whitt said the city will be paying cash for the three parcels. City Manager Whitt said one of the goals will be to put the parcels to work for the city.

DDA Board Member Lublin asked if an agreement has been reached on the price.

City Manager Whitt said the city made a good faith offer and is now moving forward with due diligent reviews and continuing negotiations.

DDA Vice Chairman Millen asked what the potential timeline will be for Phase 1 downtown rehabilitation.

City Manager Whitt said discussion on funding and where the city engineer is at with the project needs to come first. City Manager Whitt said this DDA, and this City Council have done more than ever before to move the downtown rehabilitation forward. City Manager Whitt said by buying the parcels downtown, the preliminary Phase I plan for downtown improvements may change.

DDA Chairman Blair said the city has made great strides.

DDA Board Member Lublin said he attended the Parks and Recreation meeting, and discussions were had on getting involved with the Inside out Program with the DIA. Mr. Lublin said he thinks it is a great program, and it does not cost the city anything.

City Manager Whitt said he is concerned the city gets locked into the program, there is always a cost. City Manager Whitt explained the city does not have a Recreation Director; we have an administrative person. City Manager Whitt said anything that costs the city time, costs the city money, staffing, public works maintenance, if programs are added then costs are also being added.

DDA Board Member Lublin said the city participated in it in 2013.

City Manager Whitt said it involved city staff cleaning and maintaining the sites. City Manager Whitt said there is nobody on the Parks and Recreation Commission to do staff work; city staff does what we need to do.

Mayor Ackley asked if there was a staff member that could attend the meeting with the DIA she is concerned by only having a Parks and Recreation member attending, city staff needs to attend to ask the questions.

City Manager Whitt said Mr. Ladd will be going to the meeting.

WARRANT REPORT:

1. August 2025

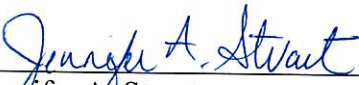
DDA 09-05-25 APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WARRANT FOR AUGUST 2025

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

ADJOURNMENT:

DDA 09-06-25 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Millen, seconded by Allen: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 4:31 P.M.



Jennifer A. Stuart
City Clerk

Approval
10/14/25



Steve Blair
DDA Chairman