



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by DDA Chairman Blair

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

ABSENT: Millen

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

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

DDA 11-01-24 MOTION TO EXCUSE DDA BOARD MEMBER MILLEN

Motion by McDonald, supported by Lublin: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse
DDA Board Member Millen.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular DDA Meeting of October 8, 2024

**DDA 11-02-24 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 8, 2024
MEETING**

Motion by McDonald, supported by Amin: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve
the minutes from the October 8, 2024 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

xxx

EXECUTIVE & MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT:

1. Decker Road Improvements

City Manager Whitt said there is no change to report on the development at Decker Road and 14 Mile Road, the Starbucks drive through is still with Oakland County Road Commission. City Manager Whitt said there were no updates for the Maple and Decker Road development, 7-Eleven - Speedway. City Manager Whitt noted taco Bell at 800 N. Pontiac Trail has received their temporary certificate of occupancy as of today. City Manager Whitt pointed out there are store front vacancies in the city that need to be filled, indicating a potential area for future developments and business opportunities.

DDA Chairman Blair said he had reached out to the Bob's Big Boy chain and informed them the site at 1163 E. West Maple will be vacated and it is already prepped as a drive thru.

City Clerk Stuart reported the site owner of the 1163 E. West Maple did reach out to the city requesting plans of the building for a potential tenant of Bob's Big Boy.

City Manager Whitt said there is a new mexican restaurant, El Patio that just opened at 674 N. Pontiac Trail. City Manager Whitt said he and council members have visited the site, the owner's name is Orlando, and they did a good job in the renovations. It is nice inside. City Manager Whitt said Ladd Road, a city gateway road has finally reached completion for repaving and is currently being marked for lane stripes. City Manager Whitt explained Ladd Road from McCoy in Wolverine Lake all the way over to Pontiac Trail has been resurfaced. City Manager Whitt said the city has been working with several individuals to get this road repaved, it was one of, if not the worst section of road. City Manager Whitt said the city requested additional inches of asphalt when the repaving was done. City Manager Whitt said the city has now completed repaving of the worst road in Walled Lake. City Manager Whitt explained the downtown survey is underway and there will be a report possibly at the next meeting.

2. Public Safety Activity Report

City Manager Whitt said there were fatalities on Pontiac Trail near Decker Road heading toward M-5, reports are the driver lost control and exited the roadway going 97 MPH. City Manager Whitt explained the city's team was there and it was one of worst scenes in Walled Lake. City Manager Whitt said the driver survived but the passengers were killed, it was the most egregious of accidents.

Public Safety Deputy Director Shakinias explained the driver was heading eastbound on Pontiac Trail east of Decker, the driver was leaving the establishment Up In Smoke Hookah Bar at 1264 S. Commerce. Deputy Director Shakinias explained there is a radar sign dedicated to this area as complaints of speeding were regular. Deputy Director Shakinias explained the radar reported the vehicle was traveling at a speed of 97 MPH, the driver lost control and hit an oak tree head on. The passenger was killed instantly; the back passenger was transported to Providence Park where they later passed. Deputy Director Shakinias said the extraction of the driver took emergency crews almost an hour, there were three different fire departments on hand. Deputy Director Shakinias said the driver is a parole absconder and came to Walled Lake to the Up In Smoke Hookah Bar. Deputy Director Shakinias said the driver upon being released from the hospital was released to the Department of Corrections. Deputy Director Shakinias said the driver is also wanted on attempted murder charges in Sterling Heights. Deputy Director Shakinias said Code Enforcement has issued several citations to Up In Smoke Hookah Bar.

Chairman Blair asked why the city cannot close them down immediately.

Deputy Director Shakinias opined the business does not need to be open until 1 to 2 am this is past the bar closing hours. This tragic accident occurred during the week on a Tuesday.

City Manager Whitt said there is due process, the city must catalog events before the city has authority to revoke a license. City Manager Whitt explained it is not as simple to shut down a business, the process is being followed. City Manager Whitt explained the business Up In Smoke Hookah bar is doing more than just smoking, they are gambling and drinking within the premises. City Manager Whitt said the attendees are treating it like a speak easy, the security brandishes A-15's, tactical vests, and handguns.

Fire Chief Gonzalez explained the occupancy load permitted is only 34, the business is holding 66 plus attendees.

Deputy Director Shakinias said the shooting at Dover Hill was before the court and bound over, the prosecutor asked for additional charges of home invasion, and attempted murder. The case should move quickly.

3. Ladd Road Resurfacing

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

WARRANT REPORT:

1. October 2024

**DDA 11-04-24 APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WARRANT FOR
OCTOBER 2024**

Motion by Lublin, supported by Allen: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To receive and file the warrant for October 2024

City Manager Whitt reminded everyone of the Tree Lighting ceremony Monday, December 2, 2024.

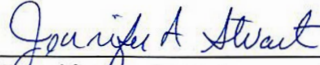
DDA BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:


DDA 11-05-24 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McDonald, seconded by Lublin: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 4:40 P.M.



Jennifer A. Stuart
City Clerk

*1/14/25
Approved*



Steve Blair
DDA Chairman