



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PUBLIC HEARING
AND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024
7:30 P.M.**

City Clerk Stuart welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled May City Council meeting and introduced Council Member Casey R. Ambrose, Council Member Mindy Fernandes, 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 Ackley.

PLEDGE TO FLAG & INVOCATION

Invocation by Mayor Pro Tem Woods.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ackley, Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Council Member Ambrose, Council Member Fernandes, Council Member Lublin, and Council Member Owsinek

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Whitt, Assistant 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, Human Resources Director Sears, and City Clerk Stuart

Those attending via hybrid format were from Walled Lake, Michigan.

CM 05-01-24

**MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER LOCH FROM
TONIGHT'S MEETING**

Motion by Woods, seconded by Fernandes, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To excuse Council Member Loch from tonight's meeting.

PRESENTATION

1. Oath of Office Administered to Firefighter Jonathan Chin

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Gonzalez presented Firefighter Jonathan Chin with his pin. Firefighter Chin has been with the department since November 2022 as a part-time firefighter. He moved to Michigan and attended the Oakland Fire academy in the fall of 2017 before coming to us. Once hired by the Walled Lake Fire Dept. Jon went back to Oakland Community College

and completed his Emergency Medical Technician course. Firefighter Chin has shown remarkable progress during his probationary period. His dedication, resilience, and commitment to the job have been evident from day one. Firefighter Chin has grown more confident in his abilities and has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic. He has eagerly taken on new challenges and has shown a willingness to learn and improve. Firefighter Chin has not only embraced the physical demands of the job but has also shown compassion and empathy towards those in need. His exceptional performance and positive attitude have made him stand out amongst his peers, earning him the respect of the entire Walled Lake Fire Dept.

Deputy Clerk Sears provided a ceremonial Oath of Office.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 Budget Appropriations

- **Proposed Resolution 2024-15 Adopting the Operating and Capital Budget Appropriations of Funds and Levy of Taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

Open Public Hearing 7:36 p.m.

No public comment.

Close Public Hearing 7:37 p.m.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Council Meeting of April 16, 2024

**CM 05-02-24 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2024**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Ambrose, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve regular council meeting minutes of April 16, 2024.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6) Fernandes, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (1) Loch
Abstain (0)

COUNCIL REPORT

Council Member Fernandes reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Discussions included the upcoming Memorial Day Parade which will include a memorial ceremony recognizing the fallen service members. She said the Walled Lake Market place is doing very well.

Council Member Lublin said the library continues to operate within budget and the renovations are fully complete. Council Member Lublin said the election on August 6, 2024 will have the library millage proposal. The library is working with the Friends of the Library group for a mailing, promotional book markers, and posters to promote support of the millage renewal.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Ackley said the Masonic Temple located at Walled Lake Drive and Angle Road will be celebrating their 100 years here in the City. The event will begin shortly after the parade and run most of the afternoon, all are invited.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

CM 05-03-24 APPROVAL OF CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6) Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (1) Loch
Abstain (0)

City Manager Whitt asked Public Safety Deputy Director Shakinias to provide a report on enforcement issues. Deputy Director Shakinias explained several code enforcement issues have been resolved and others are still in the courts. Deputy Director Shakinias explained the fire damage clean up and restoration at 14 Mile Road apartments is currently being pursued in the courts, there have been three summons issued for blight. The courts granted the city's request to have the blight removed; a 40-yard dumpster was filled. Deputy Director Shakinias said this is the second fire at this location. Deputy Director Shakinias explained at 121 N Pontiac Trail has reached a settlement. It will be a long road before satisfactory clean up, but all the tenants are out of the building and will not be permitted to come back. Deputy Director Shakinias explained 1705 E. West Maple, D&M Motors has had several infractions issued with the courts, a court order was issued granting permission to the city to tow vehicles from the site. Deputy Director Shakinias said a letter was sent to all the business owners along the parade route requesting maintenance of their sites. Deputy Director Shakinias said the Code Enforcement Officer is working with the businesses along the city's linear trail for cleanup.

City Manager Whitt explained the 14 Mile property owner will have a lien placed on the property by the city if it is not cleaned up. City Manager Whitt explained there were recent arrests on Woods Court which began with an investigation in Troy. City Manager Whitt explained a total of 8 individuals were indicted, approximately 400 vehicles including some high-end vehicles from the LaFontaine dealership in Walled Lake, which was also the biggest target of the operation. City Manager Whitt explained the Walled Lake Police Department fully participated in the investigations.

Deputy Director Shakinias reported that LaFontaine had seven stolen vehicles in 2022, sixteen vehicles in 2023, and ten this year to date.

City Manager Whitt said Lieutenant Brandon Jousma will returning from his DEA assignment and will be back on duty in our offices.

Deputy Director Shakinias explained having a partnership with the DEA is great, it offers an area wide, multijurisdictional task force. Deputy Director Shakinias explained on Feb 21st of this year there were 3 fatal overdoses. On April 3rd there were search warrants issued and the DEA recovered two kilos of cocaine, an AK 47, and \$25,000 in cash. Deputy Director Shakinias explained the ring leader has been indicted. Deputy Director Shakinias said having a Walled Lake officer be a part of bringing this crime down is a great partnership between the DEA and the city.

City Manager Whitt explained Green for Life has been missing pickups whether trucks break down or staffing, this is not satisfactory. City Manager Whitt opined GFL management is the problem. City Manager Whitt said there was a point when the city's public works department had to go out and pick up trash in the city. City Manager Whitt explained there have been frequent DTE outages, we do not control DTE.

Mayor Pro Tem Woods explained the DTE outages are continual and the reports he is receiving is that the power is going off at the substations themselves, not during a storm. City Manager

Whitt said someone from DTE may be watching our meetings and they need to pay more attention to the substations.

City Manager Whitt explained he attended the recent WOTA meeting and there was a presentation provided by the independent auditing firm. The City Clerk will receive and file the audit. City Manager Whitt said the auditors found deficiencies, lack of financial policies, and nonconformance with the uniform chart of accounts. City Manager Whitt explained not one of the board members read the audit report, but he did. City Manager Whitt explained WOTA's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was required by the Michigan Department of Treasury because WOTA was found to have violated the fiduciary rules. City Manager Whitt explained the audit confirmed what Walled Lake members have been saying all this time. City Manager Whitt said the outstanding items are fixable, but only if you know how. City Manager Whitt said the city has had audits the last 14 years while he has been here and never had this type of report.

CM 05-04-24 MOTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2023 WOTA AUDIT

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To receive and file the 2023 WOTA audit.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6) Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (1) Loch
Abstain (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Vanerian explained there is progress being made with ordinance violation cases. Code Enforcement has been keeping him busy prosecuting code enforcement matters.

City Manager Whitt said City Attorney Vanerian has been instrumental in this progress. City Manager Whitt explained the court orders are integral in moving these enforcement matters forward.

Finance Director Pesta explained there would possibly be two liens placed, one on the 14 Mile apartment property discussed earlier and one on Fisher Maple Fuel at 1237 E. West Maple.

City Manager Whitt explained DPW Superintendent Ladd had a lot to do with moving items forward on permitted clean up by the city. DPW Superintendent Ladd explained the owner of the

14 Mile apartments caught wind the city was going to clean up the property, the city did intervene and clean up the site.

City Attorney Vanerian explained that the owner Jeff Burgoon of the Fisher Maple Fuel at 1237 E. West Maple has moved to Indiana and is non-responsive to the city's most recent actions to abate the code violations of the site. City Attorney Vanerian explained we do pursue liens to bring the property into compliance and any assessed fees are rolled onto the tax roll. If not paid, it is subject to tax foreclosure. City Attorney Vanerian explained because the city is a part of the Fire Insurance Withholding program, the city is provided a portion of the insurance money. City Attorney Vanerian explained the site contains a burned-out building, this is labeled a dangerous building and is in the courts for action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Proposed Resolution 2024-15 Adopting the Operating and Capital Budget Appropriations of Funds and Levy of Taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

CM 05-05-24 APPROVAL RESOLUTION 2024-15 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND LEVY OF TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-15 a resolution adopting the Operating and Capital Budget Appropriation of Funds and Levy of Taxes for fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6) Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Lublin, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (1) Loch
Abstain (0)

- 2. Proposed Resolution 2024-16 Budget Amendment FY June 2024**

CM 05-06-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-16 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-16 a resolution amending the operating and capital budget appropriation of funds for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Discussions

Finance Director Pesta explained there have been changes to the Uniform Chart of Accounts as directed by the Department of Treasury. Finance Director Pesta explained the Water Capital and Water and Sewer Fund are now under 592, merging of the two funds. She explained everything from capital is all still reserves for capital projects. Finance Director Pesta explained the Transportation fund 588 appropriated funds for bus insurance, the one extra year before WOTA obtained the insurance for the buses.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6) Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Lublin, Owsinek, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (1) Loch
Abstain (0)

3. Proposed Resolution 2024-17 delinquent water, sewer, and refuse receivables for the 2024 tax roll

CM 05-07-24 MOTION TO APPROVE 2024-17 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF THE 2023 DELINQUENT WATER, SEWER, AND REFUSE RECEIVABLES TO THE 2024 JULY CITY OF WALLED LAKE TAX ROLL

Motion by Woods, seconded by Fernandes, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-17 a resolution of the City of Walled Lake authorizing the transfer of the 2023 delinquent water, sewer, and refuse receivables to the 2024 July City of Walled Lake tax roll.

Discussions

Finance Director Pesta explained this resolution addresses past due delinquencies and permits, these amounts are to be placed onto the tax bills. This year the amount is \$135,000.

Council Member Ambrose asked if there were repeat offenders.

Finance Director Pesta said yes some are, one of businesses downtown at 142 E Walled Lake Drive, the Tiki Bar is a habitual offender with continual delinquencies year after year. Another is in our industrial district at 1109 Decker. Finance Director Pesta explained there are also

Wolverine Lake users, one has delinquency of \$1,000. This is not a parcel in the city so we cannot place it on the city's roll.

City Manager Whitt explained, the city did not obtain a concrete agreement when the permissions were granted for Wolverine Lake to connect to Walled Lake water and sewer. However, how do you lien a property that is not in the city. Continuing in the future, if the city provides a connection, there has to be a solid resolution for unresolved collections of water and sewer. City Manager Whitt explained this is not the first time this has happened with this Wolverine Lake property.

Council Member Ambrose asked if services can be withheld from repeat offenders, why do they still have services.

City Manager Whitt explained the Tiki Bar has a history of not paying their bill. They are not good corporate neighbors.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6) Ambrose, Fernandes, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (1) Loch
Abstain (0)

4. Proposed Resolution 2024-18 a resolution to request reimbursement of eligible mosquito control activity under Oakland County's West Nile Virus Fund Program

CM 05-08-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-18 A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT OF ELIGIBLE MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITY UNDER OAKLAND COUNTY'S WEST NILE VIRUS FUND PROGRAM

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-18 a resolution to request reimbursement of eligible mosquito control activity under Oakland County's West Nile Virus Fund program.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6) Fernandes, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (1) Loch
Abstain (0)

4. Receive and File the Resignation of DDA Board Member John Smith

CM 05-09-24 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-19 A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE DDA BOARD MEMBER JOHN SMITH AND TO RECEIVE AND FILE RESIGNATION LETTER

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Woods, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED: To approve resolution 2024-19 a resolution to recognize DDA Board Member John Smith and to receive and file resignation letter.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (6)	Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Ackley
Nays (0)	
Absent (1)	Loch
Abstain (0)	

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Ambrose said he is looking forward to the Memorial Day Parade.

Council Member Fernandes said thank you to the DPW for their hard work, the city looks great. She said code enforcement has made an impact and thank you. She is looking forward to the Memorial Day parade and honoring the fallen.

City Manager Whitt explained along the city's linear park area has been cleaned up by the DPW and is looking fine.

Mayor Pro Tem Woods said he echoes the comments of his fellow council members, our team is getting it done together. The work being done for Memorial Day is a group effort.

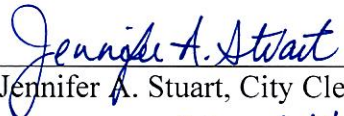
City Manager Whitt explained the city has their very own Honor Guard consisting of police and fire members and we are going to honor the fallen not stolen valor.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Ackley said she echoes her fellow members of all the positive comments. The work of the staff, businesses, and residents has been amazing, and she is proud to be here.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:31p.m.



Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk
approved 6/18/24

Linda S. Ackley, Mayor