



**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 PM, Wednesday, May 7, 2025
IONIA CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Milewski called the meeting of the Ionia City Council to order at 6:37 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor John Milewski led everyone present with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed a Quorum with Councilmembers Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman, and Mayor John Milewski present. Councilmember Dawn Ketchum was absent.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With no changes or additions, Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(II.1.) April 2, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Minutes from the regular meeting of April 2, 2025, were reviewed. Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Winters, to approve the April 2, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

III. PROCLAMATIONS

(III.1.) Proclamation Honoring Gary Cunningham

Mayor John Milewski presented and read a Proclamation honoring Department of Public Works Director Gary Cunningham for nearly 40 years of service to the community.

***Proclamation Honoring Gary Cunningham
May 7, 2025***

WHEREAS, Gary Cunningham has served as an employee of the City of Ionia with dedication and professionalism for nearly 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Gary began his career as a Mechanic at the Ionia Department of Public Works on November 25, 1985; and

WHEREAS, Gary's commitment went beyond his day-to-day duties, reflected in his service as Union Steward for the State, County and Municipal Workers Local 214, Teamsters, providing support, advocacy, and guidance to his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, due to his steadfast work ethic and outstanding performance, Gary was promoted to the Director of Public Works in July 1996, now leading the department where he had worked in all its positions as a Truck Driver, Mechanic, and Heavy Equipment Operator; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Gary has overseen countless public works projects, demonstrating a commitment to the betterment of our community and ensuring that the City of Ionia remains a vibrant and safe place for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, through his vast experience, Gary has led the Public Works Department through both routine operations and emergency responses, exemplifying the highest standards of public service and fostering a culture of excellence within the department; and

WHEREAS, after nearly four decades of dedicated service, during which Gary has seemingly memorized the location of every main, valve, service box, manhole, catch basin, etc. throughout the City of Ionia, Gary has decided to embark on a new, well-deserved journey in retirement that will likely include a lot of unfettered car racing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, John R. Milewski, Mayor of the City of Ionia do hereby recognize and honor Gary Cunningham for his distinguished 39-year career at the Ionia Department of Public Works. With profound appreciation for his many years of service, the City and entire community wish him much peace and relaxation as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ASSOCIATED ACTION

(V.1.) Public Hearing to receive comments on Resolution 2025-09, a resolution adopting a final project planning document for water system improvements and designating an authorized project representative

Mayor Milewski opened the public hearing for comments on Resolution 2025-09 at 6:42 PM.

Civil Engineer Tyler DeNooyer of Prein and Newhof presented on the City's planned application to the Drinking Water State Resolving Fund (DWSRF) low interest loan program and the project planning document.

Councilmember Millard asked Mr. DeNooyer if he knew how much it would cost for a home with galvanized pipes to replace the plumbing inside the home. DeNooyer responded that he did not know the cost for the replacement of interior plumbing, however the exterior work is estimated to cost \$10,000 per water service in the City.

Councilmember Lee asked what action will be taken if the application is not successful. City Manager Garland noted that the City would resubmit the application in the future. Public Utilities Director Lafler added that an annual report must be submitted to the state indicating that 5% of the line were replaced. Mr. DeNooyer further clarified that state and federal government have deadlines and performance standards that must be met.

Councilmember Cowling inquired if changes have been made to the City's construction projects to ensure compliance with new safety standards. Mr. DeNooyer indicated that the City was an early adopter of copper water lines to maintain public health. City Manager Garland explained the City's proactive approach in recent infrastructure projects to verify water services during construction and replace services in need of replacement.

Following no additional public comments, Mayor Milewski closed the public hearing at 7:05 PM.

Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve Resolution 2025-09, authorizing submission of a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application for the City of Ionia FY2026 Water Services Replacement Project.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2025-07



**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL PROJECT PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED
PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE**

The following Resolution was offered for adoption by City Council Member Cook and was supported by City Council Member Millard:

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia recognizes the need to make improvements to its existing water treatment and distribution system; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia authorized Prein&Newhof to prepare a Project Planning Document, which recommends the replacement of existing lead/galvanized water services in the City of Ionia; and

WHEREAS, said Project Planning Document was presented at a Public Hearing on May 7, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. and all public comments have been considered and addressed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ionia hereby formally adopts said Project Planning Document and agrees to implement the replacement of existing lead/galvanized water services in the City of Ionia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager, a position currently held by Precia Garland, is designated as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the project referenced above, including the submittal of said Project Planning Document as the first step in applying to the State of Michigan for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan to assist in the implementation of the selected alternative.

AYES: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dawn Ketchum

RESOLUTION 2025-09 DECLARED ADOPTED

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

(VI.1.) Request from Ionia Cruisin' Classic Car Show for Street Closure with Mobile Food Vending Units - June 7, 2025

Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lee, to approve the application for street closure with mobile food vending units, for June 7, 2025, in conjunction with the Ionia Cruisin' Classic Car Show, contingent upon final staff approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(VII.1.) Schedule Public Hearing - First Amendment to 425 Agreement

Redevelopment planning for the former Deerfield-Riverside prisons site led to the discovery that a portion of the site was inadvertently excluded from the original 425 Agreement with Berlin Township, dated July 12, 2000. Since the site cannot be fully redeveloped with the required public utilities unless it is included in the conditionally transferred area, a proposed, "First Amendment to Berlin Township and City of Ionia Public Act 425 of 1984 Agreement" was prepared. Along with the land addition, the original 425 agreement would be amended to provide for an equal sharing of general operating property taxes levied by the City. All other terms of the original agreement would remain the same, including term length (April 18, 2000 through April 17, 2050).

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to schedule a public hearing for 6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at Ionia City Hall, for the purpose of

receiving comments regarding the proposed First Amendment to Berlin Township and City of Ionia Public Act 425 of 1984 Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.2.) Schedule Public Hearing - Single Lot Special Assessment Roll

City Manager Garland explained that Section 210.23 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia outlines a process for Single Lot Assessments to convert delinquent, unpaid invoices for prior labor, materials, and/or services provided by the City into property tax liens. Drafted Resolution 2025-13 was provided to Council which would approve the single lot special assessment roll.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to schedule a public hearing for 6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at Ionia City Hall, for the purpose of receiving comments regarding the 2025 Single Lot Special Assessment Roll.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.3.) Resolution 2025-10 - 2025 Sidewalk Improvement Program

City Manager Garland introduced the Sidewalk Improvement Program for 2025 by explaining the process outlined in the City Code under Chapter 1022 - Sidewalks and City Policy 4-002, titled, "Sidewalk Maintenance and Construction Policy." In preparation, the City had conducted an inspection of Quadrants One and Three, which is essentially the entire south half of the City (south of Lincoln Avenue.) A total of 47 properties with 856 linear feet of sidewalk, all 4 inches thick and ranging from 4 to 5 feet in width were identified as in disrepair and in need of removal and replacement.

Resolution 2025-10 with Attachment A was presented identifying the specific properties where sidewalk is to be removed and replaced and directing the adjoining property owners to make such replacements within 30 days of the date of the resolution, or the City will complete the improvements at the property owner's expense. The resolution provided the anticipated rate of City financial participation in these repairs and established parameters for qualifying sidewalk project costs to be spread over a term of years in accordance with a future special assessment role.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to approve Resolution 2025-10, a resolution approving the City of Ionia 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Project.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff

Winters, Troy Waterman
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2025-10



**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF IONIA 2025 SIDEWALK
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Ionia, held at the Ionia City Hall, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan, on the 7th day of May, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman
ABSENT: Dawn Ketchum

The following resolution was offered by Council Member Winters and seconded by Council Member Cook:

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of City residents that the City have a sidewalk system that provides contiguity and is in a good state of repair; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 1022, entitled Sidewalks, of the City's Codified Ordinances and General City Policy 4-002 together outline the process the City must follow for replacing or constructing sidewalk; and,

WHEREAS, after inspection of the City's sidewalk system, the City Manager has recommended that certain sidewalks be replaced or constructed in the southwest and southeast quadrants of the City; and,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the sections of current sidewalk marked with a pink dot by the City's designated inspector are in disrepair for one or more of the following reasons:

Difference in Elevation: An elevation difference between sidewalk squares of 1 1/2" or greater.

Cracks: A crack that is 1/2" or wider in width and 24" or longer in length or a crack that is 3/4" or wider in width of any length.

Surface Spalling: A chipping away or crumbling of the sidewalk surface in excess of 2 square feet per sidewalk square and an average of 1/2" deep.

Multiple Cracks: A sidewalk square containing multiple cracks of any width, length and/or depth.

Other: Any other form or type of sidewalk deterioration that, in the opinion of the City's designated inspector, may be a safety hazard; and,

WHEREAS, in cases where new sidewalk is proposed to be installed, the installation of the new sidewalk will complete the sidewalk network in defined areas and eliminate gaps in the current sidewalk system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby directs the owners of the real properties identified in Attachment A, to replace or construct the length of sidewalk within thirty (30) days after the date of this Resolution, as identified in Attachment A. In all cases, the sidewalk specifications prescribed by Chapter 1022 and General City Policy 4-002 shall be followed and the required permit obtained, with the normal permit fee waived.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to the requirements contained in Chapter 1022 and General City Policy 4-002, the City Council hereby determines that the City shall participate financially in the cost of replacing or constructing the sidewalk identified in Attachment A as follows:

Sidewalk Replacement (includes demolition of old concrete and replacement with new concrete)

4 foot wide sidewalk, 4 inches thick – \$7.69/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$30.75 per linear foot to replace)

4 foot wide sidewalk, 6 inches thick – \$8.69/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$34.75 per linear foot to replace)

5 foot wide sidewalk, 4 inches thick - \$9.69/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$38.75 per linear foot to replace)

5 foot wide sidewalk, 6 inches thick - \$10.69/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$42.75 per linear foot to replace)

Sidewalk Construction (no demolition; new construction only)

4 foot wide sidewalk, 4 inches thick - \$6.13/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$24.50 per linear foot to construct)

4 foot wide sidewalk; 6 inches thick - \$7.63/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$30.50 per linear foot to construct)

5 foot wide sidewalk, 4 inches thick - \$7.06/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$28.25 per linear foot to construct)

5 foot wide sidewalk, 6 inches thick - \$8.81/LF or 25% of cost of installation, whichever is less (based on City estimate that it will cost \$35.25 per linear foot to construct)

Reimbursement shall be made by the City to the property owner for the City's share of the cost upon request by the property owner for reimbursement and after a satisfactory

inspection of the replaced or constructed sidewalk by the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in instances where a property owner's portion of the cost of replacing or constructing a sidewalk is greater than \$500, the property owner shall be permitted to spread their cost of replacing or constructing the sidewalk by paying installments to the City over a term of years. The term of years shall be calculated by dividing the total cost of replacing or constructing the sidewalk by \$500 and rounding up to the nearest whole number. Installments shall be due and payable on July 1st of each year commencing July 1, 2026, until paid in full. Except for the final installment, each installment shall include the principal amount of \$500, plus interest at the rate of 6% per annum on the unpaid balance. The principal amount for the final installment shall be the remaining outstanding balance, and any amount of principal for the final installment shall bear interest at the same rate

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby directed to serve upon the property owners identified in Attachment A, by first class mail, addressed to such owner under the name and at the address as shown upon the City's latest tax assessment roll, a copy of this Resolution, which identifies their requirement to replace or construct sidewalk, and copies of such other sidewalk-related documents as she deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the property owner fails to repair the sidewalk by June 6, 2025, the City will proceed to have the sidewalk repaired or constructed. The cost of repairing or constructing sidewalk will be charged against and shall become a lien upon the abutting property. The lien will be of the type applicable to special assessments.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dawn Ketchum

RESOLUTION 2025-10 DECLARED ADOPTED.

(VII.4.) Resolution 2025-11 - Act 51 Street Segment Decertification

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to approve Resolution 2025-11, a resolution that would decertify certain segments of streets from the City of Ionia Act 51 map and revise major and local street mileage accordingly.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2025-11



A RESOLUTION DECERTIFYING SECTIONS OF CITY STREETS AND RELATED MILEAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 51 OF 1951

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Ionia, held at the Ionia City Hall, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan, on the 7th day of May, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman
ABSENT: Dawn Ketchum

The following resolution was offered by Council Member Starr and seconded by Council Member Millard:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation requires annual mileage certification for all public streets within the City of Ionia’s jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, it was recently determined that several sections of streets with associated mileage exist only on plat maps, etc. and not in reality; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to delete these street sections from the City’s annual Act 51 Map to ensure accuracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby decertifies the following street sections:

1. Apple Tree Drive – between the North Street/Cyrus Street intersection and the paved end of Apple Tree Drive for a total decertification length of 1,035 feet.
2. Townsend Street – between the north dead end of Townsend and E. Fargo Street for a total decertification length of 425 feet.
3. Webber Street – between Jefferson Street and Mill Street for a total decertification length of 690 feet.
4. Jefferson Street – between the end of Jefferson Street at W. Webber Street to E. Webber Street for a total decertification length of 265 feet.
5. Mill Street – between Webber Street and its platted termination for a total decertification length of 655 feet.
6. Brown Street – from the intersection of Harrison Street north for a total decertification length of 175 feet.
7. Forest Hill Avenue – from the end of Park Street to E. Washington Street for a total decertification length of 300 feet.
8. Pleasant Court – from the intersection with W. Lytle Street north for a total decertification length of 295 feet.
9. Brooks Street – from the intersection with Branch Street north for a total

decertification length of 70 feet.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dawn Ketchum

RESOLUTION 2025-11 DECLARED ADOPTED.

(VII.5.) Payment and Release Agreement

City Manager Garland reported that a recent review of the Public Act 425 Agreement that includes the Austin Pines Planned Unit Development determined that property tax revenues were not accurately shared between the City of Ionia and Berlin Township from 2018 to 2023, resulting in \$24,285.18 now owed by the City to the Township. A "Payment and Release Agreement Between the City of Ionia and Berlin Township" was prepared by the City Attorney to correct this situation by resolving the underpayment and releasing the City from any further liability or claims regarding the matter.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to approve the following "Payment and Release Agreement Between the City of Ionia and Berlin Township," subject to final approval by the City Manager and City Attorney regarding any minor adjustments requested by the Township as to form, which would result in the payment of \$24,285.18 to Berlin Township to correct for previous underpayment of tax revenues related to the Austin Pines 425 Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

PAYMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF IONIA AND BERLIN TOWNSHIP

This Agreement is made on May 8, 2025, by and between the City of Ionia (the "City") and Berlin Township (the "Township") (collectively the "Parties"). For and in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements hereinafter set forth, the Parties agree as follows:

RECITALS

Whereas, the parties previously entered into a "Contract for Conditional Transfer of Property Public Acts 425 of 1984," dated February 22, 2005 ("Contract") and commonly referred to as the Austin Pines 425;

Whereas, Section 4 of the Contract provides, in part, that the City had the right to capture qualified property taxes generated by the conditionally transferred property site under a separately approved

Brownfield Development Plan and a related Development Reimbursement Agreement (collectively, “BRA Plans”);

Whereas, under the BRA Plans the City agreed to reimburse the developer of the conditionally transferred property for qualified site improvement expenses. Once that reimbursement obligation was met, the Township and City were to share equally the City’s collected general operating millage levied against the conditionally transferred property for the remainder of the Contract’s term (i.e., until 2055);

Whereas, based on a review of its financial records, it is the City’s understanding that the last reimbursement payment to the developer for eligible expenses was made in 2012 (in the amount of \$20,002). Thereafter, under the BRA Plans, the City’s Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (“BRA”) was entitled to receive the captured taxes from the conditionally transferred property for an additional five-year period (i.e., from 2012 until 2016);

Whereas, the City recently discovered that the City/BRA continued to capture the subject property taxes after 2016 without conveying to the Township its share as provided for under the Contract (i.e., the City continued to collect without remitting to the Township between 2016 and 2024);

Whereas, consistent with how the City has handled similar matters, the City agrees to go back six years to remediate the Township’s losses (i.e., beginning with collections for 2019) and the City will therefore pay to the Township the amount due from the conditionally transferred property from 2019 through 2024;

Whereas, the Township is agreeable to receive the total sum of \$24,285.18 to resolve any and all disputed claims with the City as to outstanding taxes and collections owed to the Township regarding this Contract.

Now therefore, the City and the Township have come to the following agreement to resolve any and all claims related to the underpayment of taxes to the Township by the City per the Contract.

AGREEMENT

1. Affirmation of Recitals. The parties acknowledge and agree that the recitals set forth above are accurate and shall be deemed an integral part of this Agreement for all purposes at law.
2. Payment to the Township. Within five days of the execution of this Agreement by both parties, the City shall pay to the Township the amount of \$24,285.18, representing the amount the Township is owed for the excess capture as set forth above (the “Payment”).
3. Release. In exchange for the negotiated Payment, the Township and the City agree to release and forever discharge each other from any and all liabilities, actions, suits, debts, sums of money, damages, demands, claims, counterclaims, and/or causes of action of any kind or nature, which were brought or could have been brought against the other related to or pertaining in any way to the underpayment by the City and/or BRA to the Township for the conditionally transferred properties, the BRA Plans, and all other related matters. The Parties further agree that they will not solicit, claim, or pursue in any other manner any money, damages, demands, claims, counterclaims, and/or causes of action, of any kind or nature, against any third party which relate to or pertain in any way to the underpayments

resolved by this Agreement.

4. Property Tax Limitation. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Township is responsible for ensuring that the receipt of the Payment complies with the Township's responsibilities under existing property tax limitation laws.
5. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among and between the Parties regarding the underpayments resolved by this Agreement.
6. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed, interpreted, and enforced according to the laws of the State of Michigan, notwithstanding its choice of law principles or any other rule, regulation, or principle that would result in the application of any other state's law.
7. Binding Nature. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, successors, and assigns of the parties hereto and those affected hereby.
8. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in duplication, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument which shall represent the agreement of the Parties.
9. Authorization. The undersigned represent and agree that they are authorized by the Party for which they sign to execute this Agreement and that all actions permitted or required by law for such execution and approval have been taken.

The undersigned have read the foregoing Agreement and understand and approve all its terms and conditions and agree to be bound by all its terms and conditions.

(VII.6.) Transportation Services Agreement

City Manager Garland presented an agreement for public transportation services between the City of Ionia and Easton Township to address an expiring agreement. The new agreement term would start July 1, 2025, and end June 30, 2027. The terms of the agreement were the same as past agreements regarding hours of operation. However, the agreement proposed to expand the service area to include all of Easton Township on a demand-response basis, subject to the City's capacity. The agreement also amended the payment schedule for each fiscal year, increasing by \$1,500 annually.

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to approve the Public Transportation Services Agreement between the City of Ionia and Easton Township as presented for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.7.) Deerfield-Riverside Site - Engineering Services Proposal

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to approve negotiation of a professional services agreement with engineering firm Prein & Newhof of Grand Rapids, Michigan, consistent with its request for qualifications submittal and total price estimate of \$290,200 for design and construction engineering of the Deerfield High-Tech Business Park as budgeted in 101-728.000-801.000 Economic Development.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.8.) Public Safety Policy Update Project

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve the proposal from The Rossow Group in the amount of \$30,000 to review all of the Ionia Department of Public Safety's current policies and revise those policies in need of updates.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.9.) Policy Update: 5-007 Advertising Policy for City Transit Vehicles

Councilmember Winters made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to approve the updated Policy 5-007: Advertising Policy for Transit Vehicles.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.10.) Transit Vehicles Advertising Project

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Winters, to approve the proposed Transit Bus Advertising Agreement with Dynamic Ads for commercial advertising on all Ionia Dial-A-Ride Transportation vehicles (Dial-A-Ride and I-Go).

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. APPOINTMENTS

None.

IX. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

(IX.1.) Accounts Payable

May 15 - Councilmember Millard and/or Councilmember Cowling

May 29 - Councilmember Starr and/or Councilmember Lee

(IX.2.) April Reports & Minutes

Written department reports and minutes from various City boards and commissions were provided to Council.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER/ CITY COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

City Manager Precia Garland: (1) Invited everyone to attend the retirement party for longtime Department of Public Works Director Gary Cunningham on May 16; (2) Announced the launch of the City of Ionia Facebook page; (3) Informed everyone of the City's Arbor Day celebration on May 16 at Jefferson Elementary.

Tim Lee: Congratulated Gary Cunningham on his retirement.

Margot Cook: Wished Gary a "Happy Retirement."

Tom Millard: (1) Congratulated Gary; (2) Reminded everyone of the upcoming Car Show and Memorial Day Parade; (3) Announced that applications for the Ionia Free Fair Parade are "live."

Rich Starr: (1) Thanked Gary for his service and Officer Skorka for the handling of a recent incident.

Troy Waterman: (1) Congratulated Gary Cunningham on his retirement; (2) Thanked City staff for all the work related to the preparation of the budget.

Brenda Cowling: Thanked Gary.

Mayor John Milewski: (1) Provided reminders about Ionia Public Schools' Commencement and end-of-school year dates; (2) Updated Council on new services offered by the University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Ionia; (3) Commented on excitement about the new City Facebook page.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

(XI.1.) Closed session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Sec. 8 (1)(c) for the purpose of a strategy and negotiation session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement at the City's request.

Councilmember Lee made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Winters, to enter closed session for the purpose of a strategy and negotiation session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement at 7:51 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to end the closed session at 7:59 PM.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

Upon returning to open session, Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve the collective bargaining agreement as proposed with the Teamsters Local 214 for the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Margot Cook, Brenda Cowling, Tim Lee, John Milewski, Tom Millard, Richard Starr, Jeff Winters, Troy Waterman

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cowling, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan T. Bowman
Ionia City Clerk