



CITY OF IONIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, Wednesday, September 17, 2025
IONIA THEATRE - MAIN FOYER

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson John Krueger called the meeting of the Ionia Downtown Development Authority to order at 8:00 AM.

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Roll call revealed a Quorum with board members Taryn Altobelli, Heather Poland-Sizemore, Benjamin Weller, Precia Garland, Zachary Sheehan, and John Krueger present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Wilson from the IACC noted numerous upcoming events and opportunities, including, September 18th Tri-Chamber event held in conjunction with the MiPitch Competition, Upcoming Legislative Update on September 21st, Coffee and Connect hosted by Just Like Home Adult Daycare on October 28th and the highly anticipated Autumn Celebration on October 23rd with a scarecrow contest lining Main St. with entries due October 16th.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

(IV.1.) To approve the September 17, 2025 meeting agenda.

With no changes or additions, Board Member Garland made a motion, seconded by Board Member Poland-Sizemore, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(V.1.) To approve the minutes from the August 20, 2025 meeting.

Minutes from the regular meeting of August 20, 2025, were reviewed. Board Member Garland made a motion, seconded by Board Member Weller, to approve the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

(VI.1.) To accept the Accounts Payables for the DDA: July 26, 2025 – August 25, 2025 in the amount of \$5,749.61

To accept the Accounts Payables for the Theatre: July 26, 2025 – August 25, 2025 in the amount of \$13,865.07

Financial statements for Fund 248 (DDA) and Fund 250 (Theatre) were reviewed. Members were reminded that any operating shortfalls for these funds are supported by the General Fund. Significant expenditures this year in Fund 250 in the maintenance category included battery backups for projectors and GDCs, replacement bulbs, and upkeep of the marquee sign. The audit is currently taking place and everything should be finalized in a few weeks.

Member Weller made a motion, seconded by Member Sheehan, to accept the financials as presented.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

VII. DDA DIRECTOR REPORT

(VII.1.) Report included in Board Agenda Packet.

Director Rice discussed happenings in the district, including site walk-throughs, the social district opening, event assistance and upcoming events. She also noted the increase of dumpster complaints and will provide downtown locations with a refreshed notice of the dumpster program.

VIII. THEATRE REPORT

(VIII.1.) Report included in Board Agenda Packet.

Assistant Director Rice reviewed the past movies, as well as upcoming screenings. Concession dollars were added to the report to give a snapshot of that line item. Notable upcoming events include the continued partnership with WION and the Free Movies Mondays that are being offered, school field trips and holiday commitments.

IX. BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

(IX.1.) DDA Board Mission and Vision

Following the strategic planning session held at the beginning of the year, the board came away with a number of initiatives to help guide efforts moving forward. It was recently requested to refresh the mission and vision to reflect who we are moving forward and what we want to represent. Director Rice provided four options for both the mission and vision statement. Board members held a brief discussion on the mission options with number three being selected - "To champion the revitalization and sustainability of downtown by supporting local businesses, preserving our historic theatre, strengthening our identity, and expanding opportunities for community connection." The vision options were discussed and the first option was slightly revised to, "Downtown Ionia will be the heart of the community where residents and visitors gather often."

Board Member Manager Garland made a motion, seconded by Board Member Weller, to adopt the mission and vision as read by Director Rice (Mission: To champion the revitalization and sustainability of downtown by supporting local businesses, preserving our historic theatre, strengthening our identity, and expanding opportunities for community connection. Vision: Downtown Ionia will be the heart of the community where residents and visitors gather often.)

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS

(X.1.) Marketing Committee Update

Director Rice reviewed the status of Project Bulldog, website updates and the marketing committee's meeting with Linda Ciangi, which resulted in some great ideas for potential events and partnerships. The marketing committee's next meeting will cover planning for 2026. It was also mentioned that the DDA would like to host a DDA Appreciation Night at the theatre, inviting DDA businesses to join for a movie with hopes of creating more of a downtown development community moving forward.

XI. OTHER

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Sheehan made a motion, seconded by City Manager Garland, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Rice, Recording Secretary
for Heather Poland-Sizemore, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS