



CITY OF IONIA

CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

6:15 PM, Wednesday, October 15, 2025

IONIA CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Milewski called the meeting of the Ionia City Council to order at 6:15 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(VII.1.) Lawton Street Watermain Project

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to approve the bid of \$124,055.50 from CL Trucking of Ionia, Michigan for the Lawton Street watermain project with funds budgeted for the project in the Water Fund, 591-560.000-980.000, Capital Outlay.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.2.) Ionia County Hazard Mitigation Plan - 2025

Councilmember Starr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to approve Resolution 2025-26, a resolution to approve the Ionia County Hazard Mitigation Plan - 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2025-26



A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF IONIA ADOPTING THE IONIA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN OF JUNE 10, 2025

At a special meeting of the City Council for the City of Ionia held on October 15, 2025, at 6:15 PM, in the Council Chambers at Ionia City Hall, 114 N. Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan, there were:

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

ABSENT: Mary Patrick

The following resolution was offered for adoption by Councilmember Starr and seconded by Councilmember Cook:

WHEREAS, the Ionia City Council recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the City of Ionia and Ionia County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ionia has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the Ionia County Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2024, in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia is a municipality located within the County of Ionia and would benefit from participating in the Ionia County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2024 identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the City of Ionia from impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Ionia City Council demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Ionia County Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF IONIA, MICHIGAN,

THAT: the Ionia City Council adopts the Ionia County Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2024.

RESOLUTION 2025-26 DECLARED ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 15, 2025.

(VII.3.) Purchase of Employee Health and Related Insurances

City Manager Garland presented the City's employee health care insurance renewal proposal from Priority Health, Delta Dental, VSP Vision, and Lincoln Financial. She indicated that funds for this expense have been budgeted in the appropriate employee fringe benefit accounts across the FY25-26 City of Ionia budget, and that the health care insurance program would increase in cost by 6.4% over the prior year's rate. Based on the historical 80/20 cost share with employees that the City has done since 2011, Garland detailed the City's actual cost in 2026 to be \$751,113.29 for health insurance, \$54,118.32 for dental and vision, and \$17,128 for term life and long-term disability.

Councilmember Millard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lee, to approve the renewal proposal from Priority Health for 2026 employee health insurance, along with Delta Dental and VSP for dental and vision insurance, and Lincoln Financial for life and disability insurance, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

(VII.4.) PA 152 - 80/20 Cost Sharing of Publicly Funded Health Insurance

Councilmember Cowling made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Waterman, to approve Resolution 2025-27, to implement the 80/20 cost share for the healthcare plan year beginning January 1, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2025-27



**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 80/20 COST SHARING OPTION AS SET FORTH IN
2011 PUBLIC ACT 152, THE "PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE
CONTRIBUTION ACT"**

At a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Ionia, held at the Ionia City Hall, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan, on the 15th day of October 2025 at 6:15 p.m.

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

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Cowling and seconded by Councilmember Waterman.

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

1. Section 3 - “Hard Caps” Option - limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
2. Section 4 - “80/20” Option - limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body;
3. Section 8 - “Exemption” Option - a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ionia has decided to adopt the 80/20 option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Ionia elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the “Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act”, by adopting the 80/20 option for the medical benefit plan coverage year January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

RESOLUTION 2025-27 DECLARED ADOPTED.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER/ CITY COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

City Clerk Bowman: (1) Reported that weekend election office hours will be held on Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at City Hall; (2) Reminded everyone that the polls will be open at the Armory on November 4 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM and that absentee ballots must be returned by 8:00 PM on Election Day.

Tom Millard: (1) Indicated that the Ionia County Historical Society will host its annual cemetery tour at Highland Park Cemetery on Sunday, October 19; (2) Reminded everyone of the upcoming Autumn Celebration and Chili Dawg Challenge on October 23.

Brenda Cowling: (1) Provided a reminder of the upcoming free movie "Gremlins" on October 27 at the Ionia Theatre.

Mayor John Milewski: (1) Commented that the homecoming parade and football game were on October 17; (2) Announced that a legislative aid from State Representative Outman's Office will be present at the next City Council meeting to discuss the State budget.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Lee made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starr, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan T. Bowman
Ionia City Clerk