



# CITY OF IONIA

## CITY COUNCIL

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

5:30 PM, Wednesday, May 6, 2026

### IONIA CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor John Milewski called the special meeting of the Ionia City Council to order at 5:30 PM.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

#### **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.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

#### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **III. REVIEW PROPOSED FY2026-2027 CITY BUDGET**

##### **(III.1.) FY2026-2027 City of Ionia Budget (Draft) and Work Session Presentation**

City Manager Precia Garland presented the proposed FY2026-2027 City Budget to City Council. Garland described the difficult financial position the City will be in due to the General Fund's anticipated loss of \$1,528,500 in state fire protection funding. She noted that even with a 12.9% reduction in the General Fund's expenses, there would still be an \$823,000 gap. Garland requested policy guidance from Council on how to address the gap.

Public Safety Director Corland McDiarmid expressed concern to City Council about the current staffing levels of the Ionia Department of Public Safety. He referenced a recent staffing study conducted by an independent source that indicated a need for additional public safety officers and noted challenges in hiring new officers.

City Manager Precia Garland reviewed highlights from each of the City's dedicated funds within the proposed FY2026-2027 City Budget.

#### **IV. SCHEDULE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 3, 2026**

**(IV.1.) Schedule Public Hearing - FY2026-2027 City Budget** Councilmember Cook made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Millard, to schedule a public hearing for 6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at Ionia City Hall, for the purpose of receiving comments regarding the proposed FY2026-2027 City Budget.

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**

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan T. Bowman  
Ionia City Clerk