



CITY OF IONIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, Wednesday, April 15, 2026
IONIA THEATRE

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson 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, John Krueger, Mark Ludema, Dustin Sommer, Benjamin Weller, Ryan Wilson present. Board Members Precia Garland, Tricia Meyers, Zachary Sheehan were absent.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce Director provided an update on upcoming Chamber events and member engagement activities. Highlights included promotion of the upcoming Mega Mixer partnership event scheduled for May 7, which will bring together local businesses and community organizations for networking and collaboration opportunities.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

(IV.1.) To approve the April 15, 2026 meeting agenda.

With no changes or additions, Board Member Ludema made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sommer, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(V.1.) To approve the minutes from March 18, 2026 meeting.

Board Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ludema, to approve the meeting minutes of March 18, 2026 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

(VI.1.) To accept the Accounts Payables for the DDA: February 26, 2026 – March 25, 2026 in

the amount of \$8,002.33.

To accept the Accounts Payables for the Theatre: February 26, 2026 – March 25, 2026 in the amount of \$10,977.50.

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

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

VII. DDA DIRECTOR REPORT

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

Director Rice provided updates on economic development activities, noting adoption of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan by City Council following the public hearing process. Staff also reported progress on the Match on Main application, ongoing infrastructure improvements supporting redevelopment projects, continued advancement of the Depot Street Development project, and a ribbon cutting held for Little Learners Preschool. Downtown street concrete milling and filling projects were also noted as efforts to improve safety and aesthetics.

Updates were provided on special events and community programming, including participation in the Ionia County Economic Alliance County Outlook event, continued coordination with community event organizers, collaboration with the Ionia Theatre on programming and promotions, planning efforts for “Pickin’ Through Ionia” in partnership with the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce, and initial collaboration efforts on a documentary project highlighting J.L. Hudson’s Ionia roots.

VIII. THEATRE REPORT

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

The Ionia Theatre reported continued community programming and upcoming special events, rentals, and film offerings. Staff also noted an unanticipated server issue at one theatre station that impacted one movie showing during the month, with efforts made to minimize patron disruption. It was suggested to research a backup Tile or Square to assist with any future hiccups.

IX. BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

No action items were on the agenda for April 2026.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS

(X.1.) DDA Marketing Update

The Downtown Development Authority provided a marketing update highlighting the draft Downtown Events Guide, Free Fair merchant participation opportunities, ongoing Ionia Freak Fair planning efforts, promotion of the upcoming Uncle Sam Jam and fireworks event, and the May 7 Mega Mixer partnership networking event.

XI. OTHER

The City's Dump Your Junk Day was noted to take place on April 18 for City residents from 8am to noon. It was also mentioned that PFCU will have a shred truck available on-site for community and business shredding needs.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sommer, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Rice, Recording Secretary
for Taryn Altobelli, Secretary