



**CITY OF IONIA**  
**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**8:00 AM, Wednesday, May 20, 2026**  
**IONIA THEATRE**

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

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

IACC Director provided updates on upcoming Chamber events, including the Annual Golf Outing, Lunch & Learn, and Thirsty Thursday. It was also noted that the May Ionia County Connect meeting will not be held in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**(IV.1.) To approve the May 20, 2026 meeting agenda.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**(V.1.) To approve the minutes from April 15, 2026 meeting.**

Board Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sommer, to approve the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

**MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.**

**VI. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**(VI.1.) To accept the Account Payables for the DDA: March 26, 2026 - April 25, 2026 in the amount of \$1,155.56.**

**To accept the Account Payable for the DDA: March 26, 2026 - April 25, 2026 in the amount of \$13,827.34.**

Board Member Weller made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ludema to:

To accept the Accounts Payables for the DDA: March 26, 2026 – April 25, 2026 in the amount of \$1,155.56.

To accept the Accounts Payables for the Theatre: March 26, 2026 – April 25, 2026 in the amount of \$13,827.34.

**MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.**

## **VII. DDA DIRECTOR REPORT**

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

Director Rice reported that one Match on Main application was submitted to MEDC to support downtown business investment. She also shared that the anticipated downtown event schedule had been released to assist businesses and community partners with planning, while research into future façade grant opportunities and coordination with business and property owners on redevelopment and infrastructure projects continues.

Updates were also provided on special events and community programming, including ongoing planning for the "Pickin' Through Ionia" initiative, the "Turn Crowds into Customers" workshop, City fireworks, and other downtown marketing efforts. Director Rice noted continued participation in City and community meetings and organizations, as well as ongoing operational support for the Ionia Theatre, including field trips and recent special events.

## **VIII. THEATRE REPORT**

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

Director Rice reviewed the monthly theatre report, highlighting recent movie showings, admissions and concession activity, popcorn membership sales, and free movie attendance. She also provided updates on upcoming films, special events, field trips, and other community programming scheduled at the theatre, noting the continued growth in private screenings scheduled with summer hits and the transition to a new free movie day schedule (Sundays at 1pm.)

## **IX. BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **(IX.1.) MiPitch Funding Support**

Member Garland made a motion, seconded by Board Member Weller, to Approve the continued support of MiPitch in the amount of \$1,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Precia Garland, Tricia Meyers, Dustin Sommer, Benjamin Weller

Nays: John Krueger

Abstentions: Mark Ludema, Ryan Wilson

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **X. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **(X.1.) Marketing Committee Update**

Marketing Committee updates were provided on Bulldog Unleashed, District Communications, Downtown Ducking/Scavenger Hunt concept, as well as additional ideas to continue to develop and expand on. Thoughts on a Discover Ionia QR Code sticker for businesses and increasing synergism were also noted.

#### **(X.2.) City of Ionia Fireworks Display — discussion on continuance.**

The Board held a brief discussion regarding the future direction of the City of Ionia Fireworks display. Staff was requested to explore and present potential options for the program, including possible future approaches, for discussion at a later meeting. It was also noted that a new fireworks contract (generally a 2 year commitment) has not yet been executed.

### **XI. OTHER**

### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Rice, Recording Secretary  
for Taryn Altobelli, Secretary