

CITY OF IONIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, Wednesday, June 17, 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 Taryn Altobelli, Precia Garland, John Krueger, Mark Ludema, Tricia Meyers, Zachary Sheehan, Dustin Sommer, Benjamin Weller, Ryan Wilson present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Rice presented the Ionia High School Art Department with an \$800 contribution in recognition of its outstanding partnership and creative efforts on the Bulldogs Unleashed project. The students' artwork played a key role in the success of the initiative, which helped bring public art, community engagement, and increased visitation to downtown Ionia. Danna Fuller was present to accept the contribution on behalf of the Ionia High School Art Department. The Board expressed its appreciation for the students' talent and the department's collaboration in making the project a success.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

(IV.1.) To approve the June 17, 2026 meeting agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(V.1.) To approve the minutes from May 20, 2026 meeting.

Board Member Sommer made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ludema, to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

(VI.1.) To accept the Account Payables for the DDA: April 26, 2026 - May 25, 2026 in the amount of \$3,831.44.

To accept the Account Payable for the DDA: April 26, 2026 - May 25, 2026 in the amount of \$11,358.19.

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

To accept the Accounts Payables for the DDA: April 26, 2026 – May 25, 2026 in the amount of \$3,831.44.

To accept the Accounts Payables for the Theatre: April 26, 2026 - May 25, 2026 in the amount of \$11,358.19.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

VII. DDA DIRECTOR REPORT

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

Director Rice reported continued business outreach, redevelopment coordination, and downtown marketing efforts, including Bulldogs Unleashed and planning for the Downtown Brick Adventure. Updates were provided on summer event planning, including Pickin' Through Ionia, the City Fireworks Display, and coordination of community events and street closures. Director Rice also reported continued participation in City meetings and collaboration with the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce and community partners to support downtown development and promotional initiatives.

VIII. THEATRE REPORT

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

Director Rice reviewed the May Theatre Report, highlighting admissions, concession sales, popcorn membership revenue, free movie attendance, and films shown during the month. An update was provided on the Glad All Over/404 Delux Benefit Concert and the growing number of private bookings and community rentals scheduled throughout the summer. Director Rice also highlighted the upcoming release of Toy Story 5 and anticipated increased attendance as part of the theatre's summer programming.

IX. BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

(IX.1.) Staff Report - 2027 M66 Easements

Board Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by City Manager Garland, to approve granting of the requested drainage and grading easements to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and authorize the DDA Secretary to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the

DDA.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

(IX.2.) Staff Report - Downtown Brick Adventures

Board Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sheehan, to approve the Downtown Brick Adventure pilot program for the 2026 season and authorize staff to implement the initiative with an initial budget not to exceed \$1,750, using available funds within the 2025-2026 marketing budget.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS

(X.1.) City of Ionia Fireworks Display

The Board reviewed the annual fireworks display and its long-term sustainability. While the event is highly valued by the community, staff noted rising costs, fundraising demands, and staffing capacity concerns.

The Board discussed several alternatives, including partnering with a nonprofit or private group, forming a volunteer committee, moving to a biennial schedule, incorporating the event into a larger festival, transferring management to another organization, or reallocating funds to support downtown events throughout the year.

No decision was made. The Board will revisit the item and take a formal vote at next month's meeting.

XI. OTHER

No other items discussed.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Sommer made a motion, seconded by Board Member Garland, 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

