



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING VILLAGE COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

6:30 PM

Village Hall – 21 East Church Street, Lake Orion, MI 48362

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

1. Call to Order

The April 16, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Rutt.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT

President Teresa Rutt

Council member Carl Cyrowski - arrived at 6:32PM

Council member Nancy Moshier

Council member Michael Lamb

Council member George Dandalides

Council member Alex Comparoni Jr

ABSENT

President Pro Tem Stan Ford

STAFF PRESENT

Village Manager Darwin McClary

DDA Executive Director Matthew Gibb

DDA Assistant Director Janet Bloom

Police Chief Mark Amundson

DPW Director Wes Sanchez

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lynsey Blough

MOTION made by Council member Comparoni Jr., Seconded by Council member Moshier, to excuse President Pro Tem Ford from the April 16, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting.

VOTING YEA: Rutt, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Ford

MOTION: Carried

3. Call to the Public

Francesco Komendera expressed confusion over the 75/25 split. He praised the Village Council for being more engaged and constructive and requested updates on Council member Lamb's complaint to the Treasury Department, as well as more details about large sums being diverted from public necessities in the budget.

4. Other Items

A. Review and Discuss Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget

Village Manager McClary responded to Mr. Komendera's question about the Public Infrastructure Fund contribution and the DDA debt. After that, he suggested updating tax revenue estimates to reflect recent property values, resulting in a projected \$1,040,000 in DDA tax capture and also increasing the DDA bond debt payments from \$1,000-\$2,000.

MOTION made by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Moshier, to temporarily suspend the standard rules regarding speaking time limits and the number of times a member may speak, in order to allow open discussion of the budget.

VOTING YEA: Rutt, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Ford

MOTION: Carried

DDA Executive Director Gibb explained why the budget was presented in spreadsheet format instead of the BS&A format. Council member Lamb expressed concerns about not using the BS&A format. DDA Executive Director Gibb also mentioned a correction to the DPW contractual services line, increasing it from \$20,000 to \$29,351.

President Rutt briefly interjected to note she had to leave.

MOTION by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Comparoni Jr, to elect Council member Dandalides as Chair of the meeting.

VOTING YEA: Rutt, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Ford

MOTION: Carried

President Rutt left at 7:16PM.

Council member Dandalides began chairing the meeting.

Council member Dandalides spoke about DDA establishments prior to 1993. A discussion followed between Brenda Beyer and DDA Executive Director Gibb regarding the cost of the trolley. Councilmember Lamb expressed support for budget reductions and suggested parking meters as a potential source of revenue.

Council member Dandalides shared an idea to attract more visitors to the downtown area and emphasized the importance of a transparent budgeting process between the DDA and the Village. Councilmember Moshier expressed appreciation for the clarity of this year's budget, despite some adjustments.

Village Manager McClary reviewed the DDA budget approval process in accordance with state law. He recommended delaying approval until the updated service agreements are finalized.

A discussion took place between Council member Cyrowski and DDA Executive Director Gibb regarding the Gazebo Concert Series.

DDA Executive Director Gibb and Council members agreed that the DDA budget cannot be approved at this time. However, there is an alignment between both parties, and the subcommittee must be reactivated to finalize the service agreements.

5. Call to the Public

Brenda Beyer inquired about the source of forecast numbers, and DDA Executive Director Gibb explained they are provided by the Oakland County Equalization Division.

Council member Cyrowski exited the meeting at 7:50PM.

Council member Lamb provided a detailed explanation of income and expenses, while Francesco Komendera spoke about the DDA and TIF, emphasizing the importance of transparency.

Council member Lamb exited the meeting at 7:51PM.

Council member Cyrowski returned at 7:51PM.

Council member Lamb returned at 7:52PM.

Council member Comparoni Jr exited the meeting at 7:52PM.

Mr. Komendera raised questions about millages and emphasized the need for better understanding among the council regarding the TIF and audit deficiencies.

Council member Comparoni Jr returned at 7:54PM.

Council member Lamb clarified the type of entity the DDA is and how it is governed by state law. He also praised Village Manager McClary for improving oversight and financial practices compared to previous management. Mr. Komendera expressed appreciation for the Council's efforts.

Police Chief Amundson stated that DDA funds would support enhanced, rather than basic, police services. He expressed general agreement with the DDA on the budget and is awaiting a formal services agreement. He also mentioned having a list of proposed enhancements, some of which are still under discussion.

6. Adjournment

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Comparoni Jr., to adjourn the April 16, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting.

VOTING YEA: Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt, Ford

MOTION: Carried

The April 16, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Teresa Rutt
President

Lynsey Blough
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Sonja Stout
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented on April 28, 2025