



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Monday, March 24, 2025

7:30 PM

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

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

1. Call to Order

The March 24, 2025 Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Rutt.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT

President Teresa Rutt

President Pro Tem Stan Ford

Council member Carl Cyrowski

Council member Nancy Moshier

Council member Michael Lamb

Council member George Dandalides

Council member Alex Comparoni Jr

STAFF PRESENT

Village Manager Darwin McClary

DDA Executive Director Matthew Gibb

Police Chief Mark Amundson

DPW Director Wes Sanchez

4. Presentations

None.

5. Call to the Public

None.

6. Approval of Agenda

MOTION made by Council member Comparoni Jr, Seconded by Council member Dandalides, to approve the March 24, 2025 Village Council Regular Meeting Agenda, as presented.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

7. Consent Agenda

All items on the Consent Agenda are approved by one vote.

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to approve the Consent Agenda by one vote.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

A. Approval of Village Council Regular Meeting minutes of March 10, 2025

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to approve the March 10, 2025 Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

B. Receive and File of Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to receive and file of Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024, as presented.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

C. Receive and File of Board of Zoning Appeals Special Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to receive and file the BZA Special Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024, as presented.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

D. Receive and File of Downtown Development Authority Board Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2025

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to receive and file the DDA Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2025, as presented.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

E. Receive and File of Public Infrastructure Fund Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2025

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to receive and file the Public Infrastructure Fund Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2025, as presented.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

F. Receive and File of Public Infrastructure Fund Ad-Hoc Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to receive and file the Public Infrastructure Fund Ad-Hoc Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025, as presented.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

G. Approval of Special Event: Art and Flower Fair

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to adopt Resolution 2025-007 to approve the Art and Flower Special Event Application and the License Agreement between the Village of Lake Orion and Orion Art Center for the use of various Village properties on May 17, 2025 through May 18, 2025, and to authorize the Village Council President and Village Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the Village.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

H. Receive and File of Invoice Distribution Report for March 25, 2025

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to receive and file the bills in the amount of \$81,873.60 of which \$ 26,337.30 are DDA bills for a net total of \$55,536.30 and to receive and file the DDA bills.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

I. Acceptance of LOLA Donation for MSA Marine Training

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to accept \$1,300 donation from LOLA to fund 2 officers to attend the MSA State Marine Training Academy.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

8. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Other Items

A. Appointments to Board of Ethics

A discussion took place between Council member Lamb, Council member Cyrowski, and President Pro Tem Ford regarding the possibility and consequence of postponing appointments until next meeting.

MOTION made by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Comparoni Jr, to appoint **Chad Scribner** to the Board of Ethics for a term of one (1) year to expire on June 30, 2026; to appoint **Lisa Flynn** to the Board of Ethics for a term of two (2) years to expire on June 30, 2027; to appoint **Kenneth Mogill** to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years to expire on June 30, 2028.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

B. Sidewalk Improvement Program District #1 – Preparation of Special Assessment Roll

Council Member Lamb inquired if the bid package included a contractor qualification statement and asked how the low bidder's qualifications would be verified. Village Manager McClary confirmed the contractor provided relevant references and that engineers were already checking past work. President Rutt then questioned why bid #3 was recommended over bid #2,

given the small \$1,000 difference. McClary explained that recommending bid #3 provided the council more flexibility, especially if one of the lowest bidders couldn't complete the project.

MOTION #1 made by President Rutt, Seconded by Council member Moshier, to direct the Assessor to prepare the proposed special assessment roll for the 2025 Sidewalk Improvement Program – District #1 utilizing the unit costs contained in low bid #3 from JS Development LLC for the purpose of calculating the proposed special assessments for each parcel.

Council Member Lamb asked about the assessor, and Village Manager McClary confirmed it was the Oakland County Equalization Division.

Gene Peterson inquired about the Hawkswell sidewalk project, which President Rutt confirmed was deferred until next year due to the need for more engineering work. Peterson expressed concerns about the project, particularly regarding the street's design and potential harm to old trees, and asked if residents would be notified to voice their objections.

Village Manager McClary explained that additional engineering work was needed before making recommendations, and the District No. 1 sidewalk connections would be addressed next year alongside District No. 2. He assured that residents would be notified as they were this year.

President Pro Tem Ford asked about the opt-out procedure for residents, questioning if they could petition against sidewalks. McClary clarified that the Village Council would decide after reviewing studies, and Council Member Lamb emphasized the program's focus on filling gaps, not imposing sidewalks.

Gayle Kusch raised concerns about notification, and McClary assured that residents would be notified next year if new sidewalks were proposed. Public input would be considered before any final decisions, and President Rutt confirmed that petitions or letters could be submitted to the council.

VOTING YEA:	Rutt, Ford, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr
VOTING NAY:	None
ABSENT:	None
MOTION:	Carried

Village Manager McClary clarified that the Village Council had approved using the unit prices from the low Bid #3. However, after the hearing and once the bidders' qualifications are confirmed, there's a possibility that the assessments and unit prices could be lowered to match the low bidder if that contractor is deemed qualified.

MOTION #2 made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to schedule a public hearing on the proposed special assessment roll for 2025 Sidewalk Improvement Program (SWIP) – District #1 for Monday, April 28, 2025, at 7:30 PM, and direct the Village Clerk to publish and mail the required notices regarding the same.

C. DDA Public Infrastructure Fund Calculations and Agreement

Council member Lamb expressed concerns about Motion #1, questioning why it was needed since the calculation method was already included in the agreement. He was worried that restating it in different language could cause confusion. Village Manager McClary explained that the motion clarified the calculation process in more detail, even though the agreement included an example of the calculation. Council member Lamb asked DDA Executive Director Gibb if the motion aligned with what was agreed upon in the committee, and DDA Executive Director Gibb confirmed that it was consistent, adding that the motion just elaborated on Village Manager McClary's methodology.

MOTION #1 made by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Dandalides, to adopt the method of calculation of the annual contributions from the DDA to the Public Infrastructure Account pursuant to the resolutions adopted by the Village Council on November 28, 2022, and the DDA Board of Directors on December 13, 2022, as follows: (1) the estimated contribution amount for the ensuing fiscal year shall be calculated based on the post-March Board of Review captured taxable value within the DDA district multiplied by the estimated millage rates for all captured taxing units (total current tax captured revenue) less the base year 2022-23 tax revenue as billed by the Assessor (\$896,788) and then multiplied by 75%; and (2) the actual annual contribution amount shall be calculated based on the total DDA captured tax revenue billed by the Assessor in July and December less \$896,788 and then multiplied by 75%.

Council Member Dandalides expressed a preference for Motion #1, noting that while it might not have sounded concise when read, it clearly outlined the steps for the calculation.

VOTING YEA:	Rutt, Ford, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr
VOTING NAY:	None
ABSENT:	None
MOTION:	Carried

MOTION #2 made by President Pro Tem Ford, Seconded by President Rutt, to approve the "Agreement Between the Village of Lake Orion and the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority Regarding Responsibilities and Cost Allocation for Capital Improvement Projects Within the Downtown Development District" as recommended by the 2025 DDA Public Infrastructure Fund Committee and authorize the Village Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Village.

VOTING YEA:	Rutt, Ford, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr
VOTING NAY:	None
ABSENT:	None
MOTION:	Carried

MOTION #3 made by President Rutt, Seconded by Council member Moshier, to adopt the recommendation of the 2025 DDA Public Infrastructure Fund Committee to approve the sidewalk gaps and Paint Creek Bank stabilization as the priority projects within the DDA district for use of the DDA Public Infrastructure Account.

Council Member Dandalides expressed satisfaction with the Public Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee's work and collaboration but was disappointed that the DDA Board did not extend the committee to work on the Administrative Services Agreements. Council Member Lamb agreed with the recommended projects, especially the bank stabilization and sidewalk gaps, and appreciated the DDA's cooperation. He asked about the timeline for the bank stabilization project, and Village Manager McClary estimated it would take around two years to complete, requiring additional funding for full completion.

Council member Lamb then raised concerns about the cemetery and park bridge projects and suggested reconsidering the sidewalk funding to focus on the bridge. Village Manager McClary clarified that the use of funds could be discussed annually between the council and the DDA. President Rutt suggested the Children's Park bridge could fall under the Paint Creek Bank Stabilization project. Council member Lamb confirmed that any changes would require DDA Board approval, and Village Manager McClary confirmed that the village could submit a project plan for DDA approval at any time.

VOTING YEA: Rutt, Ford, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION: Carried

D. Green's Park Schedule and Fees and Boat Dock Fees

MOTION made by President Rutt, Seconded by Council member Cyrowski, to adopt the Resolution # 2025-008 establishing Green's Park Schedule and Fees and Boat Dock fees for the 2025-26 season.

Council Member Comparoni suggested that Village residents should be able to use park facilities for free, arguing that other parks in the Village offer free access. He believed residents should get something in return for their tax dollars. Council Member Lamb agreed, noting that many dock users are from the Township and that the Village doesn't receive any of the parks millage funds. He raised the question of how much is spent on park maintenance and asked Village Manager McClary for a rough estimate. Village Manager McClary responded that the total parks and recreation budget was around \$50,000, and it would increase to \$62,000 in the upcoming budget due to park improvements and additional lifeguard costs.

Council member Lamb commended the Village for managing park fees well, covering costs without raising taxes. President Rutt, who had served on the Parks and Recreation Committee, explained the necessity of park staff for maintenance, including cleaning up after geese, and ensuring the park is safe and enjoyable. Council member Lamb asked if any dock space is free, and President Rutt clarified that one dock is available for drop-offs if the person being picked up has a park pass. Council member Lamb supported allowing some dock space for free drop-offs in the future while maintaining some paid areas.

VOTING YEA: Rutt, Ford, Cyrowski, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

E. Community Newsletter

MOTION made by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Dandalides, to direct the Village Manager to switch the current water bill format to a full-size, 8.5" x 11" page in an envelope, with the quarterly newsletter included to save on postage and that the Administration would decide whether the newsletter should be printed in color or black and white based on cost and necessity.

The discussion led to the decision to begin the change with the summer billing in July. This transition would enhance readability and enable the newsletter to be mailed alongside the utility bills. Council Member Dandalides and President Rutt supported color printing to improve the visual appeal and effectiveness of the newsletter, while Council Member Moshier preferred black and white to reduce costs.

Council Member Comparoni expressed concern about the manpower needed for folding and stuffing the envelopes. Village Manager McClary clarified that this task would be handled in-house by administrative staff. The overall goal was to improve communication and ensure the newsletter remains informative.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

F. DIA Inside Out – Public Art Program

MOTION made by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Comparoni Jr, to accept and approve the 2025 Detroit Institute of Arts Inside Out Program at the ten (10) locations described in the DIA Reproduction Inventory, with all installations to be installed with the advice of the Department of Public Works Director and Police Chief and removed not later than October 31, 2025.

Council Member Ford mentioned that, based on the review, there is only one site near the Village Hall that might pose an issue, as it is near a corner. The rest of the sites are located on buildings, which would not be a problem.

Council Member Dandalides thanked DDA Executive Director Gibb for his efforts in making the application, expressing appreciation for the initiative and its potential benefit to the Village. President Rutt also expressed excitement about the program, praising the art involved. DDA Executive Director Gibb credited Assistant Director Bloom for her work on the project and promised to pass along the thanks.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

G. Village Manager Performance Evaluation Process

MOTION made by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Comparoni Jr, to establish an Ad Hoc Village Manager Evaluation Process Committee comprising of Village Council members Cyrowski, Moshier, and Dandalides and the Village Manager to formulate and implement a process for completing the 2025 evaluation of the Village Manager's performance, with the work of the Committee to be completed by April 30, 2025.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

11. Call to the Public

None.

12. Council Comments

Council member Dandalides shared his experiences from attending the 25th Anniversary of the Oakland County Main Street Summit, where he learned about the resources available to the 29 participating communities and how the Village's Lumber Yard Project was highlighted. He also attended his first Parks and Rec Advisory Committee Meeting and plans to learn more about how their priorities align with the DPW work plan and Village budget. He informed boaters about a shrink wrap recycling program at the Township offices and mentioned two upcoming boater safety classes offered by the Lake Orion Lake Association (LOLA).

Council member Moshier thanked and appreciated the public who attended the meeting. She is looking forward to warmer weather.

Council member Cyrowski was pleased to see that the Village is moving forward with the newsletter.

President Pro Tem Ford shared that a resident from Newton requested sidewalks and a potential connection to the Paint Creek Trail, but the Paint Creek Trail Commission denied the request due to concerns over parking and increased traffic. He also mentioned that Paint Creek Trail will hold a Stakeholders discussion on May 1st as part of their 2025 Master Plan and is currently looking for a Manager for the trail. National Trails Day is scheduled for June 7th, with more details available on the Paint Creek Trail website.

Council member Comparoni asked when Priority Waste would begin collecting yard waste, to which Village Manager McClary responded that it would start in the first week of April. Council member Comparoni then wished everyone a good week.

Council member Lamb raised several concerns, including obstructed site distances behind CVS and possibly at the Village sign on Flint and Broadway. He also noted the absence of a formal protocol

for presentations to the Village Council and plans to request one from the Village Manager. He expressed disappointment that the DDA didn't approve to extend the joint committee to discuss joint services agreements, particularly regarding police funding. He pointed out that while the DDA captures a significant portion of the police millage, it cannot legally return these funds, leading to the rest of the community subsidizing the DDA's police services. He suggested replacing the police millage with a special assessment fee per dwelling unit to more fairly distribute police funding, which he plans to propose to the council.

President Rutt thanked LOLA for their donation covering the cost of police training for two officers at the Marine Training Academy, which will help improve policing and safety on the lake. She also mentioned that additional budget meetings will be scheduled soon and expressed excitement for warmer weather.

13. Village Manager Comments

Village Manager McClary provided an update on several topics, including the Audit Deficiencies, Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Preparation, and upcoming meetings. He thanked Clerk/Treasurer Sonja Stout for addressing Audit Deficiencies and explained that the proposed budget will be presented at the April 14th Meeting, followed by work sessions. He also mentioned ongoing discussions about the DDA services agreement and a new tax collection services agreement with Orion Township Treasurer Matt Pfeiffer. He concluded by highlighting important upcoming dates.

Council member Lamb questioned why the village pays additional fees to the Township for Administrative Services like Assessing, Equalization, and clerical work when those services are already covered by the taxes the community pays. Village Manager McClary explained that he has raised these concerns with Treasurer Pfeiffer, who has been receptive to the Village's position. Village Manager McClary acknowledged that the costs of processing and collecting village taxes in the summer differ from the Township's December tax billing, and that ongoing discussions are focused on finding an equitable solution. He also mentioned concerns about tax collection costs being shifted to the Village's General Operating budget.

14. Closed Session Items

15. Business From Closed Session

16. Adjournment

MOTION made by Council member Comparoni Jr, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to adjourn the March 24, 2025 Village Council Regular Meeting.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

The March 24, 2025 Village Council Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Teresa Rutt
President

Lynsey Blough
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Sonja Stout
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented on April 14, 2025