



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

4:00 PM

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

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING: The purpose of the special meeting of the Village Council is to convene into closed session for the purpose of considering an attorney-client privileged communication regarding the recently submitted disincorporation petition and to reconvene into open session and take any action Council may deem appropriate regarding the same.

1. Call to Order

The July 22, 2026 Village Council Special Meeting was called to order by President Rutt at 4:00 PM.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT

President Teresa Rutt

President Pro Tem Stan Ford

Council Member Nancy Moshier

Council Member Michael Lamb

Council Member George Dandalides

Council Member Alex Comparoni Jr

Council Member Eric Papacek

STAFF PRESENT

Village Manager Darwin McClary

Clerk/Treasurer Sonja Stout

Police Chief Mark Amundson

Village Attorney Anthony Chubb (GMH)

3. Call to the Public

Resident, expressed concerns regarding the Village's financial management, stating they were opposed to disincorporation and believed improvements in financial management could better address the Village's challenges.

Harry Stephen encouraged the Council to honor the citizen petition by placing the question before the voters for public consideration.

4. Closed Session Items

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford to convene into closed session for the purpose of considering an attorney-client privileged communication regarding the recently submitted disincorporation petition in accordance with Section 8(1)(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Public Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, being MCL 15.268(1)(h).

VOTING YEA: Rutt, Ford, Moshier, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: Lamb

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

Council entered closed session at 4:05 PM.

A. Consider Attorney-Client Privileged Communication re: Disincorporation Petition – MCL 15.268(1)(h)

MOTION made by Council Member Papacek, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni Jr to reconvene into open session.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

Council reconvened into open session at 5:45 PM.

5. Business From Closed Session

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Moshier to receive and file the disincorporation petition and take no action on the petition.

Council Member Dandalides stated that he believed it was important to provide the public with an overview of the available options. Council Member Lamb raised a point of order, expressing concern that the discussion was not appropriate at that time, and asked the Village Attorney to explain the consequences of the proposed motion.

The Village Attorney advised that if Council took no action, the petition would be placed on the November ballot, where approval would require a two-thirds vote of Village electors. If approved, the Village would immediately transfer its records to Oakland County, and governmental operations would transition to Orion Township. If the measure failed to receive the required two-thirds vote, the Village would continue to operate under its existing Charter.

Pro Tem Ford stated that the public should also be informed of the alternative options should the ballot proposal not succeed. Council Member Comparoni Jr. agreed, expressing support for presenting all available options to the public. Council Member Lamb subsequently withdrew his

point of order, and President Rutt directed the Village Attorney to outline the remaining statutory options.

The Village Attorney explained that an alternative would be for Council to appoint a disincorporation commission, with three members appointed by the Village and three by Orion Township. The commission would be responsible for developing a proposed plan addressing matters such as assets, liabilities, and employees. If a plan were reached, it would be submitted to both Village and Township voters, with approval requiring a majority vote in each jurisdiction.

Council Member Dandalides observed that, regardless of the path selected, the matter would ultimately be decided by the voters. The Village Attorney noted that a third option exists under state law but stated that, due to discussions held in closed session, he was limited in what he could publicly disclose regarding that option.

Council Member Dandalides summarized that proceeding directly to the November ballot would leave the implementation process to Oakland County and Orion Township if approved, whereas establishing a disincorporation commission would allow the Village and Township to collaboratively develop a detailed transition plan for consideration by their respective governing bodies and voters.

Pro Tem Ford commented that the commission process could provide residents with a clearer understanding of the potential financial and tax implications before any final decision was made.

Donald Kindred expressed support for disincorporation, stating that he believed the Village was no longer functioning effectively and that community infrastructure and services had deteriorated.

A resident requested clarification regarding the composition of a potential disincorporation commission, including how members would be selected by both the Village and Orion Township.

Robert Reighard stated that he had assisted in collecting signatures for the petition and expressed support for allowing the matter to be decided by the voters.

Nick Cristy stated that he believed it was time for change and encouraged Council to allow the petition process to move forward without delay.

Jim Cummins stated that, in his opinion, the Village was no longer financially sustainable. Drawing on his prior experience as a Council member, he expressed support for placing the question directly before the voters rather than establishing a commission.

A resident commented on the taxes paid by Village residents and discussed services provided by Orion Township, encouraging Council to preserve the public's opportunity to vote on the matter.

A resident stated that they believed it may be time for the Village to consider disincorporation.

Paul Montgomery stated that he had moved to the Village within the past five years and suggested that the Village establish a prioritized list of goals and needs.

Harry Stephen stated that he had signed the petition and expressed concerns regarding the financial consequences of disincorporation, including the potential allocation of costs and the possibility of special assessments for Village residents.

Don Connery thanked the Council for explaining the available options regarding the disincorporation process.

In response to questions raised during public comment, President Rutt asked the Village Attorney to explain the process for selecting members of a potential disincorporation commission.

The Village Attorney explained that a disincorporation commission would consist of six members, with three appointed by the Village President, subject to Council approval, and three appointed by Orion Township. He noted that state law does not require a specific membership composition and that appointees may include Village residents, Township residents, or elected or appointed officials.

Council Member Dandalides clarified that, regardless of the option selected, Village residents would ultimately vote on the question of disincorporation. He noted that the primary difference between the options was the timing of the vote and whether a commission would first develop a transition plan.

Council Member Lamb stated that his priority was allowing residents to make the decision and commented that proceeding directly to a vote could also provide greater certainty for Village staff amid ongoing recruitment and retention challenges.

Council Members Moshier and Papacek expressed their support for allowing the matter to proceed directly to the ballot.

President Rutt stated that there was no intent to establish a commission solely to delay the process. She explained that while she wanted to protect the Village's interests, she also supported allowing the residents to decide the issue through the voting process.

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

6. Call to the Public

None.

7. Adjournment

MOTION made by Council Member Comparoni Jr, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to adjourn the July 22, 2026 Special Meeting.

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

MOTION: Carried

The July 22, 2026, Village Council Special meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Teresa Rutt
President

Sonja Stout, MiCPT
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented on July 27, 2026