



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL - CITYHOOD WORK SESSION

Monday, August 11, 2025

5:30 PM

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

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

PURPOSE: The purpose of the special meeting of the Lake Orion Village Council is to discuss the option of pursuing cityhood.

1. Call to Order

The August 11, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President Rutt.

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

STAFF PRESENT

Village Manager Darwin McClary

Police Chief Mark Amundson

Clerk/Treasurer Sonja Stout

DPW Director Wes Sanchez

DDA Executive Director Matt Gibb

3. Call to the Public

None.

4. Other Items

A. Cityhood Discussion

Council Member Lamb provided a brief overview of the Cityhood packet. President Rutt explained the difference between a city and a village for the residents in attendance. Council Member Lamb outlined additional costs the village would incur upon converting to a city, specifically in areas such as assessing and elections, as covered on pages 9–12 of the packet.

Council Member Dandalides inquired about the current township millages that village residents opted into and potential pushback from the township upon conversion. Council Member Moshier expressed support for Cityhood, noting the potential for reducing taxes for residents.

Council Member Dandalides also raised concerns related to issues with the previous clerk, how Cityhood would impact current staffing, and the potential for contracting fire department services. Village Manager McClary addressed staffing concerns, suggesting the possibility of training with the Village of Oxford—who conducts their own tax processes in-house—to evaluate whether additional hires would be necessary.

Council Member Lamb and President Rutt explained that the conversion process could take 2–3 years and outlined the steps to Cityhood. Council Member Dandalides asked for clarity regarding the specific cost savings or increases involved in the transition to Cityhood.

Harry Stephens noted that a city charter and form of government would change and recalled a previous failed attempt at Cityhood due to significant challenges.

Dave Otto asked about the timing of Clarkston’s incorporation as a city and inquired about personal property tax percentages.

President Rutt and Council Member Lamb discussed the future Downtown Development Authority (DDA), stating it would remain with the city upon incorporation. They also touched on financial changes associated with Cityhood.

DDA Executive Director Matt Gibb emphasized that a successful transition would require a collaborative effort, given the interconnectedness of departments and entities. Council Member Lamb proposed forming a committee of three council members and several residents to help formulate a recommendation. Council agreed to include the committee proposal on the agenda for the next Regular Council Meeting.

5. Call to the Public

None.

6. Adjournment

MOTION made by President Rutt, Seconded by Council member Lamb to adjourn the August 11, 2025 Village Council Special Meeting.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

The August 11, 2025 Village Council Special Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Teresa Rutt
President

Sonja Stout
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented on August 25, 2025