MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Monday, March 09, 2026

6:30 PM

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

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

1. Call to Order

The March 9, 2026 Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Pro Tem Ford at 6:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT
President Pro Tem Stan Ford
Council Member Michael Lamb
Council Member George Dandalides
Council Member Eric Papacek

ABSENT
President Teresa Rutt
Council Member Nancy Moshier
Council Member Alex Comparoni Jr

STAFF PRESENT
Village Manager Darwin McClary
Police Chief Mark Amundson
Clerk/Treasurer Sonja Stout
DPW Director Wes Sanchez

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford to excuse President Rutt, Council Member Comparoni, Jr and Council Member Moshier from the March 9, 2026 Regular meeting.

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

4. Presentations

A. Public Presentation Recognizing Lake Orion & Oxford Masonic Lodge #46

Chief Amundson recognized the Lake Orion & Oxford Masonic Lodge #46 for their generous $1,000 donation. The funds were used to establish a training room and briefing area for the Lake Orion Police Department to support special events and large-scale operations. Lodge representatives shared that they are proud to be part of the community and pleased to support the Lake Orion Police Department.

5. Call to the Public

Demar Byas, Community Engagement Representative for the Water Resources Commissioner's Office, provided background information on assistance programs available to Oakland County residents for water and sewer services, including those within the Village of Lake Orion. He also provided informational folders for Village Administration to distribute to residents and make available at Village Hall.

Timo Nicholaou spoke regarding the seawall located at the dead-end of Flint Street, stating he has received conflicting information about responsibility for repair costs. He also asked about potential assessments related to road improvements and requested clarification.

President Pro Tem Ford advised Mr. Nicholaou to contact Village Administration and the Village Manager for further information regarding the seawall and the road improvement project. Council Member Dandalides noted that a portion of the Street Improvement Project is included on the current meeting agenda.

Jeff Flaugher addressed Council regarding concerns shared by residents on Longpointe about the pump station staging and storage area. He stated the area has become an eyesore and limits residents' access to overflow parking, and he requested an update on the status of the project.

6. Approval of Agenda

MOTION made by President Pro Tem Ford, seconded by Council Member Lamb, to approve the agenda for the March 9, 2026, Village Council Regular Meeting with the following changes:

- Removal of Item 10.D – *Award of Contract: Atwater Park Basketball Court Replacement Project (Titan Pavement)*
- Switch Item 10.F – *Create Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Alternative CIP Funding Strategies (requested by Council Member Dandalides)* with Item 10.G – *Revised Process for Budget Development (requested by Council Member Dandalides).*

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

7. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to approve the March 9, 2026 Village Council Regular Meeting Consent Agenda with the following changes:

- Removal of item 7. E *Receive and File of Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2025* for further discussion
- Removal of item 7. H *Receive and File of Invoice Distribution Report for March 9, 2026* for further discussion

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

A. Budget Amendment - Administration Computer Workspace

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to approve Budget Amendment BA-2026-101-260-03, increasing the Capital Outlay line item (101-260-977-000) in the amount of $13,048, funded from General Fund balance, and to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to coordinate with VC3 to complete the workstation upgrades.
VOTING YEA: Ford, Lamb, Dandalides, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt, Comparoni Jr, Moshier
MOTION: Carried

B. Budget Amendment - EPA Grant Reimbursement

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to approve budget amendment BA-2026-592-02 as presented by administration.
VOTING YEA: Ford, Lamb, Dandalides, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt, Comparoni Jr, Moshier
MOTION: Carried

C. Approval of Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to approve the Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026, as presented.
VOTING YEA: Ford, Lamb, Dandalides, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt, Comparoni Jr, Moshier
MOTION: Carried

D. Receive and File of Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file the Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026, as presented.
VOTING YEA: Ford, Lamb, Dandalides, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt, Comparoni Jr, Moshier

MOTION: Carried

E. Receive and File of Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2025

Removed for further discussion.

F. Receive and File of February 2026 Planning and Zoning Monthly Report by McKenna

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file February 2026 Planning and Zoning Monthly Report by McKenna, as presented.

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

G. Receive and File Financial Statements- February 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file the financial reports for February 2026.

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

H. Receive and File Investment Report- January 2026

Removed for further discussion.

I. Receive and File of Invoice Distribution Report for March 9, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file the bills in the amount of $662,451.04 of which $320,481.88 are DDA bills for a net total of $341,969.16 and to receive and file the DDA bills.

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

J. Receive and File of February 2026 Police Department Activity Report

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file the February 2026 Police Department Activity Report.

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

K. Foreclosure Prevention- Oakland County Communication

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file the communication from Oakland County's Treasurer's office from Robert Wittenburg.

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

8. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

E. Receive and File of Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2025

Council Member Lamb raised concerns about ongoing park maintenance issues. He suggested the Village consider eliminating lifeguard positions and reallocating those funds toward a summer maintenance crew, and requested that the Village Manager and DPW Director provide a proposal outlining potential impacts, including liability considerations.

Council Member Dandalides noted the topic could be addressed through a proposed committee to review park-related issues more broadly. While expressing openness to exploring the elimination of lifeguards, he cautioned against immediately adding maintenance staff due to current financial constraints.

Council members agreed that broader park operations, including maintenance and potential revenue options such as parking permits, could be further reviewed through committee discussion.

MOTION made by Pro Tem Ford, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file of Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2025 as presented.

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

H. Receive and File Investment Report- January 2026

Council Member Dandalides noted the January report showed over $5 million in the Village's Oxford Bank checking account earning minimal interest compared to the Oakland County Investment Pool and expressed concern about lost interest revenue.

Council Member Lamb supported moving funds to higher-interest accounts but noted the Village has not had a formal protocol for transferring funds. He suggested making a motion directing the Village Manager to develop an investment protocol to assist the Clerk/Treasurer in managing Village funds.

Clerk/Treasurer Stout explained that approximately $2.2 million of the balance belongs to the DDA and can only be transferred at the direction of the DDA Director, and that certain bond proceeds cannot be moved until June 2026 due to tax-exempt bond restrictions. She stated administration will review options for transferring excess funds while maintaining required reserves.

Village Manager McClary noted the Village recently adopted an updated investment policy and that administration is reviewing ways to maximize returns while maintaining safety and liquidity.

MOTION made by Pro Tem Ford, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to establish the need for the Village Manager to establish a protocol for an investment strategy for the routine accounts by the April 13, 2026 meeting.

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

MOTION made by Pro Tem Ford, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to receive and file the Investment report for January 2026.

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

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Other Items

A. Green’s Park Boat Dock Access Management Agreements - Tour on Orion, LLC, and Pedal Boat Pub, LLC

Council Member Dandalides asked whether a written opinion had been obtained from the Village Attorney and was informed by the Village Manager that only email communication had been received. Council Member Dandalides requested the item be tabled pending a formal opinion regarding potential liability for the Village related to the agreements. He noted that the prior legal opinion regarding the Paddleboat Pub was several years old and did not address Tours for Orion.

Council discussion followed regarding whether the matter should be tabled or voted on immediately. Several members expressed support for obtaining a formal legal opinion before proceeding, while also noting the operations have historically been beneficial to the Village.

Administration indicated a formal opinion could likely be obtained before the next meeting and asked whether Council intended to review the attorney’s opinion in closed session. Council indicated they would like to review the opinion and then proceed with discussion before taking action. It was noted that discussion of attorney-client privileged communications would need to occur in closed session.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, seconded by Council Member Lamb, to table action on the proposed agreements between the Village and Tour of Orion, as well as the proposed agreement with Pedal Boat Pub, and to direct the Village Manager to request an opinion from the Village Attorney regarding the potential liability risks associated with both agreements for the Village.

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

B. 2026 Street Improvement Program Ad Hoc Committee

Council Member Lamb stated that the idea of reviewing the special assessment policy and paving procedures was raised previously due to the lack of an established protocol and the narrow approval when the policy was originally adopted. The intent of forming a committee would be to review the policy and road project procedures and make recommendations to Council.

The Village Manager explained that the street improvement project is moving forward with surveys and engineering work underway. Council will soon hold the first public hearing regarding the need for the project, and any policy changes should be determined before moving further into the special assessment process.

Council discussed forming a committee of council members to review the assessment policy and procedures while administration continues project planning. It was suggested the committee work within a limited timeframe and include participation from the Village Manager and staff as needed.

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides to form a committee consisting of Council Members Lamb, Comparoni, Jr., and Pro Tem Ford, with Council Member Dandalides as an alternate, for the purpose of reviewing the assessment policy, making a recommendation to the Village Manager regarding Council, and conducting a brief review of the road project protocol, to be completed within a two-month timeframe

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

C. Lumber Yard at Paint Creek Planned Unit Development Eligibility

Council Member Dandalides expressed support for the Planning Commission's recommendation but raised concerns regarding spending, timeline, and resource sufficiency, noting he would vote to move the item forward. Council member Lamb reviewed the Lumberyard purchase timeline, suggested combining the DDA board with the Planning Commission, and emphasized community interest in completing the project, stating the current PUD proposal does not conform to the original plan and indicating he would vote no.

Pro Tem Ford and Council Member Papacek stressed the importance of moving the project forward and completing it properly. Council Member Dandalides noted that the PUD eligibility had been met per the Planning Commission and encouraged a vote to keep the project moving.

Rosemary Ford, highlighted that businesses are ready to occupy the Lumberyard once completed and spoke about neighboring communities.

Timo Nicholaou inquired about prior spending of $2.2 million, and Mr. Gibb provided details on property acquisition, blight removal, and barn renovation.

Clarification on parliamentary procedure was received from the Village Manager.

MOTION made by Pro Tem Ford, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides to postpone and vote on the PUD eligibility for the next meeting with complete council representation.

VOTING YEA:	Ford, Dandalides, Papacek
VOTING NAY:	Lamb
ABSENT:	Rutt, Comparoni Jr, Moshier
MOTION:	Failed

Village Manager McClary noted that motions and seconds are required before discussion, and the item remains open for a future council agenda.

D. Award of Contract – Atwater Park Basketball Court Replacement Project – Titan Pavement

Removed from Agenda.

E. Marine Watercraft Ordinance Amendment (Adoption of Michigan Marine Safety Act) – Introduction and First Reading

Jeff Flaugher asked Chief Amundson to highlight the differences, and Chief Amundson explained that adopting the state law would allow ordinance officers to enforce lake regulations. Currently, only certified officers have enforcement authority, but the proposed changes would extend this ability to ordinance officers.

MOTION made by President Pro Tem Ford, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides to introduce and give First Reading to Ordinance No. 12.10, an ordinance amending the Village of Lake Orion Code of Ordinances, Title IX – General Regulations, including Chapter 96 (Parks and Recreation) and Chapter 98 (Watercraft and Marine Safety), and to schedule the ordinance for Second Reading and consideration for adoption at the Village Council's April 6, 2026 regular meeting; and to direct the Village Clerk to publish the required public notice.

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

F. Revised Process for Budget Development (Requested by Council Member Dandalides) (Switched with item G)

Village Manager McClary acknowledged Council Member Dandalides' request but emphasized concerns with the budget process. He explained that state statute and the Village Charter assign the Village Manager to prepare the initial budget, which Council then reviews and may modify. The goal-setting discussions earlier in the year were intended to establish targets for funding infrastructure needs, not to mandate specific expenditure reductions before the budget is prepared. He recommended that any direction to reduce the budget, such as $150,000, occur after presenting a proposed balanced budget, allowing Council to provide policy guidance. He asked Council to follow statutory and charter requirements and noted that while both Council and administration aim to fund infrastructure responsibly, they differ on procedural steps.

Council Member Dandalides stated that during the goal-setting workshops, Council established Goal 1 to promote sound financial management, with Objective 1.2 focused on revising the budget process. Specific expenditure targets were not set at the time, but the intent was to identify ways to meet infrastructure needs without overburdening residents through increased water and sewer rates, additional bonding, or special assessments. A preset expenditure target of roughly $150,000 was suggested to be set aside for infrastructure, particularly water and sewer, with the number adjustable during budget development.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to direct the Village Manager to work with the Village Administration and in the development of the 2026-2027 fiscal yar budget that reduces forecast spending by $150,000 from the current budget year and setting this $150,000 aside to offset infrastructure needs identified in this village CIP as part of the process it is recognized there will be likely be policy direction required by council in support of some of the identified reductions and those policy direction requirements would be brought before council for adoption in support of the budget as part of the approval process.

The Village Manager stated that the proposed process does not comply with state statute or the Village Charter. Pro Tem Ford expressed legal concerns with acting contrary to the Charter. Council Member Lamb shared his support for Council Member Dandalides' motion; however, he feels the Village Manager should not be required to respond to direction that clearly violates what the Village Manager believes is against state statute and the Village Charter.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb ***WITHDRAW*** the previous motion after discussion.

Council Member Dandalides stated he would like to have the budget discussions in the council chambers to promote complete public transparency where the meetings are recorded on ONTV.

G. Create Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Alternative CIP Funding Strategies (Request from Council Member Dandalides) (Switched with item F)

Council Member Papacek expressed support for the recommended committee and volunteered to serve on it. Council Members Dandalides and Lamb shared ideas for potential cost savings.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb to form a subcommittee consisting of three council members, the Village Manager, the Clerk/Treasurer, other members of the village staff (at the Manager's recommendation), and a representative from the DDA (at the recommendation of the DDA Board) to investigate alternative funding sources for the completion of Phases 2 and 3 of the sewer pump station project. Areas to investigate to include (but not limited to) budget reductions, revenue generation, leveraging village investments, and DDA funding. The goal of the subcommittee is to identify recommendations sufficient to complete Phases 2 and 3 of the sewer pump station project without further increases in the village water/sewer rates. Target timing for the subcommittee to complete their work and report back to the full council at the April 27, 2026 regular council meeting.

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

Council discussed which members would serve on the committee. Council Member Dandalides noted that President Rutt expressed interest in participating along with himself. Council Member Lamb stated his support for serving but suggested President Rutt should not serve due to her role as presiding officer. Pro Tem Ford disagreed, emphasizing the committee should be well-rounded with diverse perspectives.

MOTION made by President Pro Tem Ford, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides to appoint Council Members Dandalides, President Rutt, and Council Member Lamb, with Council Member Papacek as an alternate, to serve on the Sewer Pump Station Phases 2 and 3 Alternative Funding Sources Subcommittee.

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

H. Resolution of Support for FY 2027 Grant Applications - Sanitary Sewer Pump Stations Improvement Project Phases II and III

Village Manager McClary stated The Village is seeking $8,668,737 in grant funding to complete $10,835,922 in pump station improvements for Phases Two and Three. Although Council adopted a resolution of support in 2024, changes in the project's scope, costs, and phasing require an updated resolution. Funding requests have been submitted to State Representative Steel for the 2027 Legislative Directed Spending Program and to Congresswoman McClain for the 2027 Congressional Community Projects Funding Program. Similar applications will also be submitted to Senators Slotkin and Peters by the end of the month.

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford to adopt the resolution 2026-08 ,expressing the Village of Lake Orion's support for the submission of FY 2027 grant funding requests for Phases II and III of the Lake Orion Sanitary Sewer Pump Stations Improvements Project.

VOTING YEA:	Ford, Lamb, Dandalides, Papacek
VOTING NAY:	None

ABSENT:	Rutt, Comparoni Jr, Moshier
MOTION:	Carried

11. Call to the Public

Rosemary Ford, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, expressed concern that the board was not consulted on lifeguard discussions, despite their advisory role. She emphasized that input from the board would have been valuable, especially regarding safety at Greens Park near the marina due to heavy boat traffic. She also questioned why Agenda Item Ten D, awarding a contract, was removed, noting inconsistencies with attorney positions. She urged the council to involve the board in future relevant discussions.

Pro Tem Ford suggested that Parks and Recreation have a representative available at future council meetings to answer questions.

12. DDA Executive Director Comments

None.

13. Council Comments

Council Member Papacek highlighted the value of hearing diverse opinions and engaging in passionate discussions. They shared a personal experience with the street improvement program, noting conversations with neighbors about funding, project scope, and costs, and emphasized collaboration and finding solutions, especially regarding finances and CIP projects.

Council Member Dandalides also expressed concern about rising water and sewer bills and the need to explore ways to complete projects without further rate increases.

Council Member Lamb thanked Rosemary Ford for consistently attending meetings and speaking her mind, and expressed appreciation for community participation. He stressed that council members' primary responsibility is to carefully manage taxpayer dollars, acknowledged the challenges of overseeing village finances with limited public input, and praised newer council members for being informed and engaged.

Pro Tem Ford noted that every community has Capital Improvement Needs and projects, but not all must be completed immediately. He emphasized that while water and sewer issues are a shared concern, the focus should be on finding solutions rather than just discussing problems. He also commented positively on tonight's attendance and invited the public to participate in upcoming council, ad hoc, and budget meetings, highlighting the importance of community input in governance.

14. Village Manager Comments

Village Manager McClary addressed resident concerns about the sewall, noting it is a work in progress and that he will be making a recommendation to council at an upcoming meeting. Regarding the pump station staging, he acknowledged the project is in a challenging phase, with Phase 1 wrapping up and Phases 2 and 3 upcoming, and apologized for any inconvenience. He explained that the Atwater Basketball Park agenda item was removed because the project had already been bid, and there is a possibility of applying CDBG funding, which may require rebidding.

He also read the Oakland County Treasurer's report on foreclosure notices included in the packet, provided an update on grant funding requests, and highlighted upcoming dates.

15. Closed Session Items

16. Business From Closed Session

17. Adjournment

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Papacek to adjourn the March 9, 2026, Village Council Regular Meeting.

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

The March 9, 2026, Village Council Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

__________________________	__________________________
Teresa Rutt	Sonja Stout
President	Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented at March 23, 2026