



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PUBLIC HEARING
AND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025
7:30 P.M.**

City Clerk Stuart welcomed everyone to the public hearing and regularly scheduled May 20, 2025, City Council meeting then introduced Council Member Casey R. Ambrose, Council Member Mindy Fernandes, Council Member Tamra Loch, Council Member Bennett Lublin, Council Member John Owsinek, Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Woods, and Mayor Ackley.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Ackley.

PLEDGE TO FLAG & INVOCATION

Invocation by Mayor Pro Tem Woods.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ackley, Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Council Member Ambrose, Council Member Fernandes, Council Member Loch, Council Member Lublin, and Council Member Owsinek

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Whitt, Assistant to the City Manager Jaquays, Finance Director Pesta, HR Director Sears, Public Safety Deputy Director Shakinas, Deputy Police Chief Kolke, Fire Chief Gonzalez, DPW Superintendent Ladd, and City Clerk Stuart

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES

None

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Budget Appropriations

Open Public Hearing 7:32 p.m.

Finance Director Pesta explained the presented budget was derived from the three City Manager's Budget Work sessions. Finance Director Pesta explained this is just the public hearing and the budget adoption would be in June. Finance Director Pesta explained the budget for this year includes \$13.1 million in revenue and \$12.1 million in expenditures. This means the city is expecting to bring in \$1 million dollars or more than the city plans to spend, which is a positive sign. Finance Director Pesta explained the General Fund appropriations are set at \$7 million

dollars, helping to support the city's essential services. Finance Director Pesta asked if there were any questions.

No public comment.

Close Public Hearing 7:36 p.m.

PRESENTATION

1. Boss Engineering – Civil Engineering and Landscape Design for Downtown Sidewalk Improvement

Mr. Bradd Maki and Mr. Patrick Cleary from Boss Engineering presented a proposal for the Phase 1 downtown rehabilitation. Mr. Maki explained the city received a Letter of Finding from the Federal Government that the city is in violation of ADA accessibility. Mr. Maki explained this moved the discussion of downtown improvements to the forefront. Mr. Maki said the city requested a survey and proposal to address concerns within complaint. Mr. Maki explained what they are presenting this evening is a preliminary plan to address pedestrian safety, parking accessibility, and making the area more inviting and welcoming.

Mr. Patrick Cleary, a landscape architect with Boss Engineering presented City Council with a presentation of potential options for rehabilitation downtown. Mr. Cleary said Phase 1 contains E. Walled Lake Drive from Pontiac Trail to Liberty, basically from the Green House to the Walled Lake Tavern on both sides of E. Walled Lake Drive. Mr. Cleary explained there are new regulations within the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) that are in addition to the Americans with Disabilities Act that will be mandatory. Mr. Cleary discussed option details. Option 1 provides accessibility parking in the center of E. Walled Lake Drive between Pontiac Trail and Liberty whereas Option 2 provides accessibility parking to the north end at E. Walled Lake Drive at Liberty. The presentation further provided ideas for streetscape designs with benches, planters, trash receptacles, light pole bases, brick pavers, pavement designs, crosswalks, and street lighting providing more color and textures to the new downtown.

Council Member Fernandes asked how many accessible parking spaces are required.

Mr. Cleary explained at least one per block and it will have to be a van accessible space.

Further discussions were held on design, road layout, bike paths, bike parking, and cost.

Council Member Owsinek asked when the city must have action plan provided in response to the Letter of Finding.

City Manager Whitt explained the purpose of tonight's presentation is to get started; cost is irrelevant right now; we do not know the vote of City Council for the design. City Manager Whitt said City Council comments and thoughts are what will drive the design. City Manager Whitt explained the focus is on Phase 1, each council member should come up with questions,

provide to staff and staff will provide to engineers. City Manager Whitt said the ADA concerns will be addressed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Randy Thomas, Insite Commercial is the realtor working with the property for sale at 615 N. Pontiac Trail owned by the Walled Lake Consolidated School District (WLCSD). Mr. Thomas provided City Council with a brief update on what is occurring with the property. Mr. Thomas explained there was a small section of land that did contain materials that had to be remediated and there is a restrictive covenant that is in existence and recorded, no basements can be dug. Mr. Thomas said the call for offers occurred May 9, sixty-four parties initially, then six groups spent time doing some homework, three presented viable offers to WLCSD and they are being reviewed. Mr. Thomas said the offers are coming in with proposals for high density multiple family uses with a vision to incorporate retail to create a mixed use. Mr. Thomas said the good thing is that the city is open to Planned Unit Development (PUD) or Commercial Planned Unit Development (CPD). Mr. Thomas said June 19th is the second school board meeting, at that point they could move forward to getting the property under contract. Mr. Thomas explained after that they would like to begin working with the city on a conceptual plan, have the conceptual plan vetted out prior to coming before the Planning Commission and City Council. Mr. Thomas said he represents the WLCSD and he will be the point person for communication between the schools and developers. He asked if City Council had any questions.

Council Member Fernandes said she has had several opportunities to speak with Mr. Thomas, he is always forthcoming, he has always answered any questions she has had. She appreciates his time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Council Meeting of April 15, 2025

CM 05-01-25 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2025

Motion by Woods, seconded by Fernandes, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve regular council meeting minutes of April 15, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Ambrose, Fernandes, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

COUNCIL REPORT

Council Member Owsinek said there was not a Planning Commission meeting this month, nothing to report.

Council Member Fernandes said the Parks and Recreation Commission met this week, the Walled Lake Market Place is open and running smoothly. Council Member Fernandes congratulated Ms. Jaquays on her recent achievement of becoming a certified Parks and Recreation Professional and a Michigan Municipal Certified Treasurer. Council Member Fernandes said June 11th is the Walled Lake Market Place summer kick off there will be several informational booths and food trucks. Council Member Fernandes said of the mainstay Market Place vendors recently passed away, Mr. Jim Lambertson and she provided condolences to his family. Council Member Fernandes said the annual Walled Lake Memorial Day Parade is Monday May 26th and explained the parade begins at 850 Ladd Road and ends at City Hall with a ceremony to follow. Council Member Fernandes explained the commission is working on recognizing the historic nature of the City of Walled Lake. Council Member Fernandes said this is a very exciting time with Parks and Recreation.

Council Member Lublin said the Library Board presented their budget at the third City Manager Budget Work Session, all went well.

Council Member Ambrose said he attended last week's DDA meeting, Boss Engineering provided a presentation there as well. Council Member Ambrose said he wanted to give the Parks and Recreation Commission a shout out, and thanked Council Member/Commissioner Fernandes and members, this is the time they get to shine.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Ackley said she hopes to see everyone at the annual Memorial Day Parade.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Consent Agenda of Written Departmental / Divisional Statistical Reports

- a. Police**
- b. Fire**
- c. Finance**
 - Warrant**
- d. Code Enforcement**

CM 05-02-25 APPROVAL OF CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Loch, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve City Manager's Consent Agenda items.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Fernandes, Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Proposed Resolution 2025-10 Delinquent Water, Sewer, and Refuse Receivables placed on Summer 2025 Tax Roll**

CM 05-03-25 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-10 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF 2024 DELINQUENT WATER, SEWER, AND REFUSE RECEIVABLES TO THE 2025 JULY CITY OF WALLED LAKE TAX ROLL

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Woods, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve resolution 2025-10 a resolution of the City of Walled Lake authorizing the transfer of 2024 delinquent water, sewer, and refuse receivables to the 2025 July City of Walled Lake tax roll.

Discussion

Council Member Ambrose asked if these were repeat offenders.

Finance Director said yes. Finance Director Pesta explained there was a slight change to the figure in the resolution and amended the number to \$132,081.07 to roll to tax due to a change received today from Oakland County.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (7) Loch, Lublin, Owsinek, Woods, Ambrose, Fernandes, Ackley
Nays (0)
Absent (0)
Abstain (0)

2. Proposed Resolution 2025-11 Fire Chief Employment Agreement

City Manager Whitt said there were negotiations with Fire Chief Gonzalez however there are outstanding questions with MERS pension stipulations.

**CM 05-04-25 MOTION TO TABLE RESOLUTION 2025-11 APPROVING AN
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH JASON R. GONZALEZ
AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE
AGREEMENT**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Ambrose, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To table resolution 2025-11 approving an employment agreement with Jason R. Gonzalez and authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement.

City Manager Whitt said the Mayor will be sponsoring a Flag Setting Day the weekend before Memorial Day, the Mayor has ordered the flags to be set by city staff at the Walled Lake Cemetery for this Friday and Saturday. City Manager Whitt said the flag setting will be done in house this year.

Council Member Fernandes asked if volunteers may report to assist.

City Manager Whitt said yes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Fernandes said on the June 11th Walled Lake Market Place day, they are going to be celebrating the birth and achievements of Doctor Sarah Getrude Banks. She was born on June 11, 1839 in Walled Lake, she was one of the first female doctors to graduate from University of Michigan Medical school.

Council Member Lublin explained she was also the personal doctor of Henry and Clara Ford, and her home was part of the underground railroad. Council Member Lublin said he enjoys this time of year with the parade and then not even a month later the Summer Festival.

Council Member Ambrose said the Memorial Day parade is a great kick off for the city. Council Member Ambrose gave a shout out to the Police Department and the great utilization of the Flock Safety Cameras as they continue to be a benefit to the city and neighboring communities. Council Member Ambrose explained Code Enforcement is a tough topic in the month of May,

they are effectively communicating areas of concern that must get done, maintaining your property is crucial. Council Member Ambrose said the Walled Lake Market place is a signature event. He has patrons that utilize the linear trail in the city behind his family business Casey's of Walled Lake to visit the market and then come to his establishment for lunch. Council Member Ambrose said the city continues to do a fantastic job.

Mayor Pro Tem Woods said he has comments from neighbors in Glenwood Hills and along Bolton and Leon. Mayor Pro Tem Woods said he was told by the residents they are happy with city services. The response times from the Fire Department, the response time by the Police Department, the care of our city parks, the administration, and the front office staff. They are very happy. Mayor Pro Tem Woods said there is an outstanding property with very nice landscaping at the corner of Walled Lake Drive and Ladd Road and encouraged council to view it. Mayor Pro Tem Woods said in part of the discussion he has had with other neighbors, there are folks transitioning into retirement and they were wondering what to do in the area. Mayor Pro Tem Woods suggested to them Friend of the Library or the historical group. Mayor Pro Tem Woods said DPW did a great job with the placement of flags throughout the city, it looks great.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

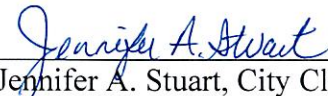
Mayor Ackley asked Deputy Director Shakinis how many neighboring communities utilize the Flock Safety Cameras.

Deputy Director Shakinis explained most of them except for Commerce Township.

ADJOURNMENT

CM 05-05-25 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Owsinek: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 P.M.


Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk

*Approved w/ corrections
6/17/25*


Linda S. Ackley, Mayor