



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Monday, November 10, 2025

6:30 PM

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

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

### 1. Call to Order

The November 10, 2025 Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:32 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 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

Police Chief Mark Amundson

DPW Director Wes Sanchez

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lynsey Blough

DDA Executive Director Matthew Gibb

Village Engineer Carol Thurber

### 4. Presentations

#### A. Village of Lake Orion Stormwater Management Program – Carol Thurber, NFE

Village Engineer Thurber presented the Stormwater Management Plan, required under the Village's MPDES permit. The plan outlines the Village's stormwater monitoring, education, and maintenance practices, with the full document available on the Village website.

Council Member Papacek asked about the importance of stormwater management. Village Engineer Thurber said the program prevents pollutants from entering local waterways and confirmed the Village remains in full compliance with testing. Council Member Lamb inquired about E. coli and other contaminants, and Village Engineer Thurber reported no exceedance. Pro Tem Ford raised concerns about the MDOT drainage basin near Paint Creek, which Village Engineer Thurber said is MDOT's responsibility. Council Member Dandalides asked about funding and possible tax overlap with the Township. Village Manager McClary explained the Village funds its own program through local revenues. Village Engineer Thurber added that the Village partners with the Clinton River Watershed Council for education and outreach.

Rosemary Ford expressed concern about the long-standing drainage issue at the MDOT basin near Meeks Park and suggested a resident letter campaign urging state action. Peter King proposed dredging and reopening the marina for paddleboat use, adding amenities at Green's Park, and improving storm drain maintenance. He also shared a creative safety concept called "Balance the Bubble or Be in Trouble."

## **5. Call to the Public**

Ingrid Kliffel, the new Manager of the Paint Creek Trail, introduced herself to Council and offered to maintain open communication regarding trail-related matters. She thanked Village staff for their assistance and provided brochures about the Paint Creek Trailways program.

Brenda Beyer raised concerns about delayed sidewalk repairs and uneven prioritization between residential and Village areas. She also questioned late water bill mailings, unclear late fee allocations, and rising water rates.

Donald Kindred stated that his prior disorderly conduct charge was dismissed and expressed ongoing frustration with the Lake Orion Police Department. He requested that a removed meeting room camera be reinstalled, citing transparency concerns. He also reported being "swatted" twice recently and criticized what he viewed as harassment and violations of his freedom of speech.

Matt Craig reported a year-long issue with a neighbor building a retaining wall on his property without a permit. Despite multiple contacts with zoning staff and the police confirming the violation, he has received little response from Village officials. He requested guidance on how to resolve the matter.

## **6. Approval of Agenda**

Council Member Lamb and President Rutt emphasized that previously noticed public meetings should not be rehashed for absent residents. Meetings are recorded, and residents can request audio or attend in person. Council Member Dandalides acknowledged the concern but noted he had hoped to explore a possible solution.

**MOTION** made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni Jr, to approve the agenda for the November 10, 2025, Village Council Regular Meeting with the following change:

- Addition of Updates on Council Items from the Village Manager

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

## **7. Consent Agenda**

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

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to approve the November 10, 2025, Village Council Regular Meeting Consent Agenda with the following changes:

- Removal of Item J (*Receive and File of Cityhood Study Committee Final Report*)
- Removal of Item K (*Receive and File of Steeple Committee Final Report*)
- Removal of Item L (*O.C.C.C Appointment - Joseph Belanger as the Village Representative to a Two-Year Term to Expire June 30, 2027*)

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

### **A. Approval of Village Council Special Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to approve the October 27, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting Minutes, as presented.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

### **B. Approval of Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to approve the October 27, 2025, Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

### **C. Receive and File of Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to receive and file the September 23, 2025, Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

**D. Receive and File of Board of Zoning Appeals Regular Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to receive and file the Board of Zoning Appeals Regular Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2025, as presented.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

**E. Receive and File Investment of Report for September 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to receive and file the Investment Report for September 2025.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

**F. Receive and File of Financial Statements for October 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to receive and file the Financial Statements for October 2025.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

**G. Receive and File of Invoice Distribution Report for November 12, 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to receive and file the bills in the amount of \$ 166,110.02 of which \$ 16,480.64 are DDA bills for a net total of \$ 149,629.38 and to receive and file the DDA bills.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

**H. Receive and File of Police Activity Report for October 2025**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to receive and file the October 2025 Police Department Activity Report.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

**I. Approval of Special Event – Polar Express**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-041 approving the “Polar Express” Special Event Permit and the License Agreement between the Village of Lake Orion and the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority, represented by Emily Dziegielewski, for the event to be held on December 13, 2025, and to authorize the Village Council President and Village Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the Village.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

**J. Receive and File of Cityhood Study Committee Final Report**

*Removed for further discussion.*

**K. Receive and File of Steeple Committee Final Report**

*Removed for further discussion.*

**L. O.C.C.C.C. Appointment - Joseph Belanger as the Village Representative to a Two-Year Term to Expire June 30, 2027**

*Removed for further discussion.*

**M. Budget Amendment for Appropriation of Funds for Purchase of Pavement Crack Sealing Equipment**

**MOTION** made by President Rutt, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to approve the Budget Amendment BA-2025-225-441-01 for the appropriation of \$17,275 from the Public Works Fund Balance for the purchase of pavement crack sealing equipment and authorize the Department of Public Works to proceed with procurement.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

## **8. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

### **J. Receive and File of Cityhood Study Committee Final Report**

Council Member Lamb reported that the Cityhood Committee, which last met on October 20, 2025, concluded that there are insufficient economic or social benefits to pursue cityhood. The committee's duties are now complete.

**MOTION** made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni Jr., to receive and file the memorandum.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

### **K. Receive and File of Steeple Committee Final Report**

Council Member Lamb reported that the Steeple Committee successfully oversaw the removal of the steeple, roof restoration, and storage of the original steeple for possible future use. The project was completed on time and on budget, and the dangerous gazebo was removed at no cost. Thanks were given to contractor John Healy of Durable Construction, Inc and the DPW team. Citizens noted remaining concerns about the aging roof, lack of ventilation, and potentially inadequate insulation, which staff will address as part of normal maintenance. The committee has completed its work.

**MOTION** made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by President Rutt, to receive and file the committee report.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

Council Member Lamb asked when the next phase of ceiling repairs, including substructure and insulation issues, would begin. Village Manager McClary responded that work is planned for the winter months and is considered routine maintenance, not a CIP project. Brenda Beyer questioned prior costs and Village Manager McClary noted \$50,000 spent on steeple removal/roof repairs, with additional maintenance expected, stressing the building's historic nature requires careful, costly repairs.

### **L. O.C.C.C.C. Appointment - Joseph Belanger as the Village Representative to a Two-Year Term to Expire June 30, 2027**

Council Member Lamb asked to confirm with Council Member Moshier that the Cable Commission includes two council members and one citizen member. He suggested inviting citizen member Mr. Belanger to a future meeting to introduce himself.

**MOTION** made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by President Rutt, to reappoint Joseph Belanger as a Village Resident Representative to the Orion Community Cable Communications Commission (OCCCC) for a 2-year term to expire on June 30, 2027.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

## 9. Public Hearings

None.

## 10. Business From Closed Session

## 11. Other Items

### A. Grant Writing Opportunities

The Council discussed how to more actively pursue grant funding for Village projects. Village Manager McClary reviewed current practices, noting that most grant applications have been done in-house or with consultants at minimal cost, resulting in over \$2 million in funding in the past three years. He recommended continuing to rely on consultants for grant writing rather than hiring new staff, to maintain flexibility and control over limited resources.

Council Member Dandalides proposed redirecting a recently approved part-time Administrative Assistant to focus on grant writing within the existing \$30,000 budget, but the motion received no support. Council Member Lamb suggested a non-financial approach, formally having existing staff dedicate small, scheduled amounts of time each month to identify grant opportunities, and using consultants for application preparation as needed. President Rutt supported this approach, noting that it aligns with prior Council intent without disrupting current staffing plans.

Village Manager McClary emphasized that staff already proactively pursue grants and that additional responsibilities require resource allocation. He also confirmed that the Township cannot provide consistent grant-writing support.

Brenda Beyer clarified the history of the Village's four-day workweek and the need for additional staffing to return to five-day operations.

**MOTION** moved by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by President Rutt, to direct Administration to develop a plan for utilizing existing staff to prioritize research and identification of grant opportunities, while continuing to rely on consultants for preparation of grant applications as needed, and to report back to the Council with recommendations.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

## **B. Updates on Council Items from the Village Manager**

Council Member Dandalides requested updates on three items: the Lions Club Jubilee event, the Village Sign Ordinance and Village property inventory.

Village Manager McClary responded that the Lions Club application had been reviewed, the Fire Department rejected it, and it is expected to return to the Council Agenda on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The property inventory report is in the final stages and is expected for the first December meeting. The report will provide a comprehensive overview of Village-owned properties, including location, existing improvements, and potential conformity with ordinances, but not recommendations. Those would come later in a potential Phase IV. Council Member Lamb emphasized he wants details on property location, use, and conformity included to ensure nothing is missing.

Village Manager McClary clarified that Phase III would document properties and improvements, and any further action such as addressing unauthorized improvements or considering license agreements with neighbors would require Council direction. Council Member Lamb urged the report to be brought forward promptly to move toward decision-making without unnecessary delay.

## **12. Call to the Public**

Brenda Beyer expressed frustration over her rising water and sewer bills, questioned unexplained charges, criticized budget transparency, and urged action to make utility costs more manageable, suggesting monthly billing as a solution.

Jackie Doran expressed concern over her unexpectedly high \$700 water bill, noting she lives alone and is rarely home. She attributed the increase to sewer charges from lawn irrigation and asked for an update on the Village's discussion about allowing residents to install a second irrigation meter, which she understood was to be revisited at this meeting. She was told to follow up with Administration.

## **13. DDA Executive Director Comments**

DDA Executive Director Gibb provided an update on DDA activities and collaboration with the Village. He highlighted improved coordination with Village Administration, including DPW, Police, and Code Enforcement, and praised recent successes in Code Enforcement. The DDA is pursuing three specific grants for placemaking and bank stabilization projects and is exploring ways to maximize collaboration within the existing TIF plan using available technical assistance funds. He also updated Council on the Lumberyard site, including stormwater management, coordination with MDOT, and preservation of historic structures. He emphasized efficient use of resources, working collaboratively, and following proper communication channels, and noted upcoming community events such as "Sing and Stroll."

#### **14. Council Comments**

Council Member Lamb recognized the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps, sharing personal reflections about his late father's service and expressing pride in the Marine Corps' traditions. He then addressed water and sewer rates, explaining that increases are necessary to fund critical infrastructure repairs and bond obligations. He emphasized that while costs will continue to rise for all residents, the Council and staff are working to find ways to reduce the financial burden where possible.

Council Member Comparoni Jr. wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day and thanked the Village Manager for his strong leadership and effective work. He cautioned against micromanaging staff, noting that the department is doing well with the resources it has. He also raised concerns about water and sewer billing discrepancies, suggesting a study to verify accuracy and ensure no one is bypassing meters. He closed by thanking everyone for their hard work.

Pro Tem Ford thanked the public for their comments and acknowledged the shared frustrations over water and sewer issues. He expressed appreciation for the DDA Executive Director's project updates and the Administration's efforts, noting that staff are working hard and following Council's direction to address the community's concerns.

Council Member Dandalides apologized for his earlier wording, explaining his strong feelings about the Village's financial situation. He emphasized the need to both reduce costs and find new revenue sources without increasing taxes or utility rates. He stated he is confident that savings can be found in the budget and is committed to helping to pursue these goals.

Council Member Moshier thanked the public for attending and expressed appreciation for the Administration and Village Manager McClary, noting that staff handle many responsibilities behind the scenes. She said she was glad to see Mr. Belanger reappointed to the Cable Commission, praised his insight, and shared that she would be attending a professional convention in Washington, D.C. next week. She ended with a lighthearted "happy winter" remark.

Council Member Papacek expressed appreciation for the Village Administration, noting the positive relationship and their expertise. He also reminded everyone to recognize Veterans Day and to thank and reach out to veterans in appreciation of their service.

President Rutt thanked veterans for their service and acknowledged the sacrifices of military members. She also thanked the DDA Director for the updates and reminded residents that water bills are due Thursday. She noted that she, too, feels the financial strain of rising utility costs but emphasized that maintaining the water and sewer systems is necessary. She clarified that the \$3,000 sidewalk fund represents prepaid costs later reimbursed by residents, not new Village spending. Lastly, she acknowledged ongoing issues like the fence concern and expressed confidence that the Village Manager will follow up.

#### **15. Village Manager Comments**

Village Manager McClary explained that recent rate increases stem from nearly \$10 million in required water and sewer upgrades spread over only 1,500 customers. A draft ordinance for

Outdoor Irrigation Metering is under review and expected in December. He reported 48 applicants for the part-time Administrative Assistant position, with interviews underway and possible delay of five-day office hours to mid-December. Updates were also given on the Dam Inspection Action Plan, Legal Services Review, and upcoming dates.

**16. Closed Session Items**

**17. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by Council Member Comparoni Jr, Seconded by President Pro Tem Ford, to adjourn the November 10, 2025, Village Council Regular Meeting.

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

**VOTING NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

The November 10, 2025, Village Council Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

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Teresa Rutt  
President

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Lynsey Blough, CMC  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

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Sonja Stout  
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented on November 24, 2025