



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING VILLAGE COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

6:30 PM

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

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

1. Call to Order

The April 22, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Rutt.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT

President Teresa Rutt

President Pro Tem Stan Ford

Council member Carl Cyrowski

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

DPW Director Wes Sanchez

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lynsey Blough

3. Call to the Public

None.

4. Other Items

A. Review and Discuss Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget

Village Manager McClary outlined the funds to be reviewed, noting that if all are covered, an additional meeting won't be needed.

DPW Director Sanchez began with the Cemetery Trust Fund (151). Manager McClary explained that lot sales contribute to the perpetual care fund, which earns interest. Council member Dandalides raised concerns about a budget shortfall, prompting discussion on solutions. McClary paused the conversation, noting further details would be addressed under the Public Works Fund (225).

DPW Director Sanchez reviewed the Major Street Fund (202). Village Manager McClary explained that most Act 51 funds support major streets and noted ongoing planning for street projects, with preliminary funding identified. Council member Lamb inquired about fund transfers between major and local streets. DPW Director Sanchez reported no major changes in General Activities (Dept. 260) or Routine Maintenance (Dept. 463). President Rutt asked about street sweeping costs, and Council Member Lamb inquired about overtime and equipment rentals.

MOTION made by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Dandalides, to direct the Village Manager to establish an Equipment Fund and develop a reasonable reimbursement structure for Village charges, in order to build the fund in an orderly and methodical manner.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

Village Manager McClary cautioned that state law requires the use of M-DOT Schedule C rates for expenditures from the major and local street funds. DPW Director Sanchez reported minimal changes in Traffic Services (Dept. 474), except for an increase in Contractual Services due to planned road re-striping. Under Winter Maintenance (Dept. 478), Council member Lamb asked about the Capital Outlay.

Under the Local Street Fund (203), President Rutt inquired about pursuing winter maintenance revenue from private roads. Council member Lamb asked about special assessments, and Village Manager McClary stated that a separate fund would be created for them.

For General Activities (Dept. 260), DPW Director Sanchez reported a budget reduction to \$10,000, with \$5,000 allocated to the sidewalk ramp program.

In Routine Maintenance (Dept. 463), DPW Director Sanchez noted that crosswalk striping paint is costly due to its quick-drying, high-quality formula, which helps avoid prolonged road closures. Council member Moshier asked if the striper is Village-owned; DPW Director Sanchez confirmed that it is.

Council member Lamb asked for clarification on Traffic Services (Dept. 474). DPW Director Sanchez explained it includes street cleaning, road edge maintenance, and drain clearing.

There were no changes reported under Winter Maintenance (Dept. 478). Council member Lamb asked about the increase in Contractual Services and salt costs; DPW Director Sanchez explained the increase is due to the union contract, and salt falls under Supplies. Council

member Lamb also inquired about Construction (Dept. 875), and Village Manager McClary noted it pertains to the Park Avenue Retaining Wall Project.

Council member Dandalides questioned the need for Village-provided leaf pickup given that Priority Waste collects bagged yard waste, suggesting it may be an unnecessary cost. President Rutt agreed, while Pro Tem Ford noted that many residents value the service and raised the issue of balancing community benefit with expense. Additional discussion followed.

MOTION made by Council member Dandalides, Seconded by Council member Cyrowski, to schedule a public hearing during one of the June meetings to gather public input on whether to continue the Village's leaf pickup service.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

Pro Tem Ford urged Council and Administration to review the contract with Priority Waste regarding yard waste collection.

DPW Director Sanchez introduced the Department of Public Works Fund (225). A brief discussion followed regarding the services provided to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The Village Council also discussed cemetery-related matters, including fees. Village Manager McClary noted that these fee-related items will be revisited during the upcoming Fee Schedule update meeting.

There were no major changes noted in Public Works Fund (Dept. 441). Council Member Lamb inquired about the labor costs associated with park maintenance for bookkeeping purposes. Village Manager McClary suggested that the most effective way to track park-related expenses would be to reallocate them from the Department of Public Works to the Parks and Recreation Department within the General Fund.

No major changes were reported for Phase II Stormwater (Dept. 443). However, \$5,000 will be allocated for stormwater maintenance.

Under the Water and Sewer Fund (592), DPW Director Sanchez reviewed the Revenue Department. Village Manager McClary explained the contents of General Activities (Dept. 260) and Sewer Activities (Dept. 548).

Council member Comparoni Jr. exited the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Further discussion took place between Council member Lamb and DPW Director Sanchez.

Council member Comparoni Jr. returned at 8:09 PM.

For Water Activities (Dept. 556), Village Manager McClary reiterated that the Village purchases water from Orion Township, which sources it from the Great Lakes Water Authority. He emphasized that this partnership is the most cost-effective option for the Village. DPW Director

Sanchez then proceeded with Depreciation (Dept. 560) with Council member Lamb clarifying on reserve monies for future maintenance and rehabilitation system.

Police Chief Amundson gave a brief overview of the Police Fund (207), highlighting enhanced police services for the DDA, the addition of a fifth full-time officer, and improvements to code enforcement. He also mentioned the potential sale of firearms from the evidence vault, which could generate approximately \$45,000 under Gain/Loss on Sale of Assets. Council member Lamb inquired about the Transfer from the General Fund, prompting further discussion on the ad valorem funding method and the importance of establishing a baseline.

MOTION by Council member Lamb, Seconded by Council member Dandalides, to explore the option of transitioning from a police millage to a police special assessment, with a request for a multi-year budget projection to assess the potential impact on other taxing authorities.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

Police Chief Amundson discussed the Contract OT Reimbursement line item, prompting Council member Cyrowski to express concerns about charging organizations for special event coverage. President Rutt requested a cost breakdown per event be emailed to Council. Chief Amundson also reviewed budget adjustments and noted he is pursuing grant funding for his capital improvement plans, which he will present to Council upon confirmation.

Council member Dandalides commended the Chief's planning and insights. Council member Lamb inquired about compensation for reserve officers, receiving support from Council members Dandalides and Comparoni Jr. Council member Lamb also asked how code enforcement should be categorized within the budget.

Police Chief Amundson reviewed the Parking Meter/System Fund (231) and explained the proposed changes. Village Manager McClary added insight on the feasibility of implementing parking meters in the downtown area. President Rutt expressed her objection to any form of paid parking in the Village , while Council member Dandalides stated it is worth investigating further to gather more data.

Village Manager McClary explained that the Sewer Debt Service Fund (390) only accounts for the payments and expenses associated with the pump station. Further discussion took place.

MOTION by Council member Dandalides, Seconded by Council member Cyrowski, to direct the Village Manager to provide a cross-reference list of the 2025-2026 FY budge line items that support the 2025-2026 FY CIP initiatives (CIP dated 2/10/2025) on or before the final budget submission to the Council. The cross-reference list includes both Village and DDA budget line items and CIP initiatives.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

MOTION by Council member Dandalides, Seconded by Council member Lamb, to direct the Village Manager to investigate moving funds from the general fund balance to the Capital Improvement Infrastructure line and come back to Village Council with a reasonable recommendation on amount and timing and that recommendation to the Village Council be made on or before the final budget submission.

VOTING YEA: Dandalides, Lamb

VOTING NAY: Rutt, Ford, Cyrowski, Moshier, Comparoni Jr

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Failed

Village Manager McClary recommended keeping funds in their respective fund balances to maintain flexibility for unexpected emergencies or unanticipated needs. He also provided an example to help the Village Council better understand the importance of this approach.

5. Call to the Public

None.

6. Adjournment

MOTION made by Council member Cyrowski, Seconded by President Rutt, to adjourn the April 22, 2025, Village Council Special Meeting.

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

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

The April 22, 2025 Village Council Special Meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Teresa Rutt
President

Lynsey Blough
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Sonja Stout
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented on April 28, 2025