



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
&  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025  
7:30 P.M.**

City Clerk Stuart welcomed everyone to the public hearing regularly scheduled October 21, 2025, City Council meeting then introduced Council Member Casey R. Ambrose, Council Member Mindy Fernandes, 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, Finance Director Pesta, 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. Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2026**

- **Request for Approval of the Recommendation of the CDBG Funds for Program Year 2026**

City Clerk Stuart introduced staff's recommendations for the Community Development Block Grant program year 2026 funding. She discussed Public Services to HAVEN and Hospitality House.

Council Member Ambrose asked for descriptions to be read into the record.

Public Services in the amount of \$3,500 to HAVEN for funding to allow assistance for battered abused spouses and children. This funding will assist those needing emergency provisions such as food, rent/mortgage payments, medical expenses, and transportation. Also, Public Services in the amount of \$3,500 to Hospitality House to allow for assistance to low income, disadvantaged

residents needing emergency provisions such as food, payment of utility bills, rent/mortgage payments, medical expenses, and transportation.

*Open Public Hearing 7:36 p.m.*

No public comment.

*Close Public Hearing 7:37 p.m.*

**CM 10-01-25 MOTION TO APPROVE CDBG RECOMMENDATION FOR  
PROGRAM YEAR 2026 TO PUBLIC SERVICES \$3,500 TO  
HAVEN AND \$3,500 TO HOSPITALITY HOUSE**

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Fernandes: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve CDBG recommendation for program year 2026 to Public Services \$3,500 to HAVEN and \$3,500 to Hospitality House.

Roll Call Vote

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

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Cevora, 1145 N. Eddie – thanked council for their time and explained he is from the Penny Lake subdivision at the intersection of S. Eddie and N. Eddie Streets. Mr. Cevora explained there is a desperate need for streetlights in this area, particularly the street curve. Mr. Cevora explained he has spoken with a representative from DTE Energy and claimed they were very helpful telling him this area needs two streetlights. Mr. Cevora said it is a heavy intersection, he spoke with a lot of people from this subdivision, and they want what other people have for lighting. Mr. Cevora said these streetlights are an investment for the city and its residents. Mr. Cevora said neighbors are getting restless, it is getting darker quicker. Halloween is ten days away. Mr. Cevora explained the lack of lighting in this area is a very serious problem.

City Manager Whitt explained this lighting topic was going to be brought up under City Manager's report and he asked DPW Superintendent Ladd to provide an update.

DPW Superintendent Ladd addressed the Mayor and City Council, stating that he had inspected North Eddie earlier in the day. Mr. Ladd measured the utility poles located just south of the existing light that is currently out and confirmed that both of those poles are within the public right-of-way. Therefore, it would be appropriate to install a light on one of those Edison poles. Mr. Ladd said that the pole with the burned-out light is *not* located within the right-of-way, and for that reason, it would not be advisable to reinstall a light there. The recommended location for

a new light is the pole immediately south of the existing light on the west side of the road, which should provide sufficient illumination. However, the option remains to install two lights if the Council so chooses. Mr. Ladd further explained that the curve in the roadway presents a challenge, as there is no pole directly at the curb within the right-of-way.

City Manager Whitt said council will need to provide a directive and vote for additional lighting.

**CM 10-02-25 MOTION TO APPROVE INSTALLATION OF TWO STREET LIGHTS ON N. EDDIE AND S. EDDIE STREETS**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve installation of two streetlights on N. Eddie and S. Eddie Streets.

**Discussion**

DPW Superintendent Ladd said he will coordinate representative from DTE Energy for installation.

Council agreed safety is a top priority.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

An unnamed individual spoke without providing her name or address, stating that by law it was not required in order to speak. City Clerk Stuart reviewed prior public meetings to identify this individual, Ms. Tracy Millman, 741 Woods Ct. Ms. Millman proceeded with a lengthy diatribe regarding the development at Maple and Decker Roads, during which she made accusations and threats, including false claims of illegal activity by the city and its elected officials. Ms. Millman was uncooperative with the City's public meeting rules and regulations for audience participation and was subsequently escorted out by the Sergeant-at-Arms for unruly and threatening behavior.

Chris Tamer, resident of Walled Lake, asked what that threatening display was all about and if any of it was true.

City Manager Whitt said no.

Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Woods said he shared information yesterday because he was asked where people could obtain correct information. Mayor Pro Tem Woods explained on the city's website under the Finance and Budget tab, years 2012 to 2024 all the audit reports done by the third-party auditor available for review. Mayor Pro Tem Woods said a required third-party audit firm reviews all the city's documentation, checks, receipts, everything and matches it up to the

budget. Mayor Pro Tem Woods explained the 2025 audit is in progress right now. Mayor Pro Tem Woods said factual information is available on the city's website.

Resident Chris asked if there were wetlands at Maple and Decker Road.

City Manager Whitt said he will address this with permission from council. City Manager Whitt said the city has had pristine audits for the last several years, the 2025 audit will be provided at the next council meeting. City Manager Whitt said the city has obtained multi million dollars in grants. City Manager Whitt said if an audit is bad the state steps in and takes over. City Manager Whitt said the city has fixed the finances and just this evening there was a public hearing for a \$7,000 grant. City Manager Whitt said he is not here to school anyone. City Manager Whitt said he has worked with many councils over time, and this council is pristine. City Manager Whitt said the derogatory comments this evening were made by a person who has a personal agenda, someone who does not want anything built on that property. City Manager Whitt said audits are reviewed and referred to the Attorney General's Office if there is criminal activity. City Manager Whitt said the city follows the law, what was said by Ms. Millman, were disgruntled statements that were radically silly, there is not a thing said that made any sense. City Manager Whitt explained the city has obtained multimillion dollar grants and the idea that somehow the city is unable to qualify for a grant because the city audit is bad, is simply not true. City Manager Whitt said he will respond to accusations, they are an absolute lie that candidates can use to get themselves into office, it is wrong. City Manager Whitt said Ms. Millman's agenda is built on her own animosity towards the public and public officials, she is allowed to have her own opinion.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2025**

#### **CM 10-03-25 MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

Motion by Woods, seconded by Lublin, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve regular council meeting minutes of September 16, 2025.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

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

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

Council Member Fernandes said that the Parks and Recreation Commission met last week and discussed several exciting initiatives. She noted there are only two more Marketplace dates left

for the season. The annual concert series was reviewed, it was a great year, and there was discussion about potentially adding a new concert location next year in addition to Hiram Sims Park. The City's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on December 1, 2025, at the Casey J. Ambrose Public Safety Campus. The event will feature hot cocoa, music, and a very special guest. The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) is partnering with the city through its Inside Out Program. Commissioners recently met with a DIA representative and toured several locations. The plan is to install up to seven pieces of outdoor art, each featuring a QR code that will be linked to the locations of the other artworks. DPW Superintendent Ladd also walked the proposed sites, and coordination of installation is underway. The city is looking forward to the launch next spring. Finally, there was early discussion about a holiday light contest for next year, which would include prizes and community recognition.

Council Member Lublin said he'd like to add that the DIA Inside Out Program is a great asset to our community. While there may be some landscaping needs, we'll coordinate with our Department of Public Works, the overall cost to the city is very minimal. As the library liaison, he was pleased to report that the library board met on Friday, and things are going very well. With school back in session, circulation is continuing to rise, downloadable items were up over 25% from August to September, and both internet and wireless usage are up as well. We now have a program almost every day, and attendance is steadily increasing—so it's clear that people are using and valuing our library. We're excited to welcome our new Children's Librarian, Taylor Comeau, she comes to us from the Imlay City Library and will be relocating to our area. We're looking forward to the ideas and energy she'll bring to the team. This Thursday, from 3 to 6 p.m., we'll be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of our Friends of the Library group with cider, donuts, and cookies. This coincides with National Friends of the Library Week, making it a perfect time to recognize their contributions. Special thanks to Patty Holland Soma, whose leadership has been outstanding. There will be a book sale this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Books are \$5 a bag, or \$2.50 for Friends members. If you're a reader, it's a great opportunity to stock up and support the library. He said overall, the library is running smoothly and remains a vital and appreciated part of our community.

Council Member Ambrose said earlier this month he had the pleasure of attending the Lakes Area Youth Assistance Taste of the Lakes event. This organization plays an important role in our community, much like the Hospitality House, though their missions are a bit different. Lakes Area Youth Assistance focuses on prevention and support for youth, helping to keep kids out of trouble whether that's legal issues, family challenges, or other difficulties. Their work is incredibly valuable in fostering a safer, stronger community. The Taste of the Lakes event was a wonderful showcase, organized by a dedicated group of volunteers. It featured participation from a wide range of local restaurants, including many from right here in Walled Lake as well as from our neighboring communities. The event also brought together city officials from across the Lakes Area and school board members, who were there to connect with attendees and answer questions. I was proud to represent our city and wear a few different hats that day it was both fun and rewarding. He is truly looking forward to continuing to work toward a better Walled Lake every single day.

Council member Owsinek said there was not a planning commission this month, nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Woods said he and Councilwoman Fernandes did meet with DTE Energy earlier this year, we have started seeing more action happening. There are light poles getting swapped out on the north end over on S. Commerce and Pontiac Trail. One of the things on our list that I happily saw on the way here this evening were two lights that are pretty much a 1950's - style have been removed from Pontiac Trail just south of Walled Lake Drive and new LEDs installed. We're seeing change, it doesn't happen overnight, but it's good to see DTE taking some action and helping us out.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Ackley said she was in attendance with Council Member Fernandes at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, and there is a lot going on. It's great to see the enthusiasm of the group, making Walled Lake great. She said the new LED lights look very nice. She said everyone can come out and attend. If you have children, bring them, grandchildren, or if you just want to come out and enjoy seeing all the kids have fun. They really do enjoy themselves at this event.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **1. Consent Agenda of Written Departmental / Divisional Statistical Reports**

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

#### **CM 10-04-25 APPROVAL OF CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

#### **Roll Call Vote**

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

City Manager Whitt said he would like to take a moment to address the proposed resolution regarding the drain special assessment, which can be found on page 74 of the packet. City Manager Whitt said it is important to clarify what this resolution does and what it does not do. First and foremost, this resolution does not raise taxes. The City of Walled Lake does not collect,

retain, or benefit financially from this assessment. There is a lot of misinformation being circulated some of it online, some connected to local election rhetoric, and he felt it necessary to set the record straight. The origin of this process goes back to 1956, when the Michigan Drain Code was enacted. This legislation established the role of the Drain Commissioner, who is responsible for maintaining and improving stormwater drainage systems, ditches, drains, and so forth. Over time, this role evolved; in 1976, the state authorized counties to rename this position to Water Resources Commissioner (WRC). Today, it is the Oakland County Water Resources Commission (WRC) that oversees these drain projects. They determine the scope, cost, and assessments. They, not the city, decide who pays, what, and where the funds go. By law, we as a city are required to place these assessments on our tax rolls, but we do not retain any of the money. Again, this is not a tax increase, and the city does not retain any portion of the funds. Unfortunately, some individuals have made incorrect and misleading claims about this resolution. While everyone is entitled to ask questions and engage in the public process, accuracy matters, especially when allegations of financial mismanagement are made. I want to be clear: our city has received clean, timely audits every year for the past 15 years. Prior to that, the city was at risk of state oversight due to financial mismanagement and untimely audits. We have worked hard to turn that around, securing millions of dollars in grants and restoring fiscal responsibility. Claims that funds have been misappropriated or mismanaged are not supported by any audit or regulatory findings. If someone believes a crime has been committed, they are encouraged to file a report with the appropriate authorities, the county, the state attorney general, or even federal agencies. We welcome transparency and accountability. But let me reiterate: this resolution is a legal formality required by state law. It does not impact the city budget, and it does not increase local taxes. He appreciates the council's continued support for this and encouraged a yes vote on the resolution. He asked Finance Director Pesta to confirm this is not a tax increase.

Finance Pesta said that is correct, the city is a collecting agency for the Oakland County Water Resources Commission as well as the schools.

City Manager Whitt clarified again that the City of Walled Lake does not retain any of the funds related to the drain special assessment. These funds are collected solely on behalf of the Oakland County Water Resources Commission (WRC), as required by state law. He emphasized that anyone with experience in this area or who has reviewed the Drain Code, which spans 131 pages, would understand the city's limited administrative role in this process. Unfortunately, false information has been circulated online and is being picked up by some political candidates and their supporters. While it's easy to make claims on the internet, it's important that facts guide public dialogue. City Manager Whitt addressed another inaccurate claim being spread online: that the City Administration and Council condemned the Walled Lake School building and had it demolished. This is completely false. The City has no authority over school property, which is under the jurisdiction of the state and the local school board. In fact, the City attempted to preserve the school building, going so far as to file a legal challenge to prevent its demolition. Unfortunately, the court ruled in favor of the school board, affirming that they had the legal right to proceed. The decision was not within the City's power to overturn. City Manager Whitt reiterated that this misinformation is being intentionally spread for political purposes, and while everyone is entitled to their opinion, it's crucial to distinguish between opinion and fact. He

concluded by stressing the need for respectful, informed public discourse based on verified information, rather than personal attacks or internet rumors.

Council Member Fernandes asked that the question asked of wetlands be addressed.

City Manager Whitt explained there is nothing that prohibits what is occurring on the site. City Manager Whitt reminded council, Ms. Millman is the same individual who at a prior meeting misstated items. City Manager Whitt said yes, there are some wetlands, but the development is away from this area. The whole site was wetlands at one time or another. There's nothing there that prohibits the development that's going on. City Manager Whitt explained that the city consultants, Oakland County Water Resources Commission, and EGLE, have reviewed and approved the plans. City Manager Whitt said Ms. Millman is making up information because she's got an agenda and her agenda is political, her political agenda. City Manager Whitt said the city has a duty to do what we did; the planning commission did what they needed to do. Staff did what they needed to do. This development is putting people to work and they're going to put jobs in the city. City Manager Whitt said he does not see the downside of this. City Manager Whitt said there is a tremendous buffer in the area away from the development. City Manager Whitt said Ms. Millman did not want any use of the property at all, that is not the way it works, anywhere. City Manager Whitt said no elected official can stop those things and the ones that have tried, the citizens of the community had to pay multi-millions of dollars in lawsuit fees and fines. City Manager Whitt explained the most recent one he can recall was upstate, \$40 million to \$50 million dollar lawsuit, where elected officials would not let development occur, the citizens are going to pay for it. City Manager Whitt said there are more cases, the City of Novi, a \$38 million dollar lawsuit because somebody like Ms. Millman stopped it. City Manager Whitt said the city did it right, we required the best development options for the residents and city, the large buffer was a must, the planning commission, staff, and consultants, did a good job.

Council Member Fernandes said she drove past the site, the footprint is visible, there is a large buffer.

Council Member Lublin explained the Greenway drain that does go through the south area on the site, but the development will not affect it. Council Member Lublin explained the Greenway drain was never part of this person's diatribe in priority, the Greenway drain came up because this person is trying to make you believe her political purposes. He explained that the Oakland County Water Resources Commission is the entity who is the recipient of the drain special assessment funds, not the city. Council Member Lublin explained this person is pretending to read an audit, it is obvious she certainly cannot read an audit.

**CORRESPONDENCE**    *None*

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**    *None*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**    *None*

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Proposed Resolution 2025-26 Budget Amendment FY26 E. Walled Lake Drive

**CM 10-05-25 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-26 A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE MAJOR ROAD FUND BALANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 TO ACCOMMODATE E. WALLED LAKE DRIVE STORM SEWER, ROAD, AND SIDEWALK REPAIR FUNDING REQUIREMENTS TO CURRENT FISCAL YEAR**

Motion by Woods, seconded by Owsinek, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve resolution 2025-26 resolution amending and appropriating funds from the Major Road Fund Balance for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to accommodate E. Walled Lake Drive storm sewer, road, and sidewalk repair funding requirements to current fiscal year.

#### Roll Call Vote

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

### 2. Proposed Resolution 2025-27 Policy to Address Request for Tax Exemptions on Real/Personal Property

**CM 10-06-25 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-27 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATION FORM IN COMPLIANCE WITH MCL211.10(G)(1)(H)(VI)**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Lublin, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve resolution 2025-27 a resolution of the City Council to adopt a Real Property Tax Exemption application form in compliance with MCL211.10(G)(1)(H)(VI).

#### Roll Call Vote

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

### 3. Proposed Resolution 2025-28 Drain Special Assessment placed on the Winter 2025 Tax Roll

**CM 10-07-25 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-28 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREENAWAY DRAIN, LEON DRAIN, AND TAYLOR-LADD DRAIN TO BE PLACED ON THE 2025 DECEMBER CITY OF WALLED LAKE TAX ROLL**

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Ambrose, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve resolution 2025-28 a resolution approving the 2025 special assessments for repair and maintenance of the Greenaway Drain, Leon Drain, and Taylor-Ladd Drain to be placed on the 2025 December City of Walled Lake Tax Roll.

Discussion

City Manager Whitt explained as a council, you are required to collect the money and pass through to Oakland County Water Resources Commission Drain Commissioner. They decide what the assessment amount is. They even tax the city. They tax municipalities. They have tremendous authority to do what they do. It is not a tax that the city collects for the city. It's not a tax that the city can stop or reduce or vote against.

Roll Call Vote

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

**4. Proposed Resolution 2025-29 Defer Special Meeting Requirements for Swearing into Office**

**CM 10-08-25 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-29 A RESOLUTION RESCHEDULING THE SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TO SWEAR INTO OFFICE THE CANDIDATES WHO ARE ELECTED BY VOTERS FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 TO THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

Motion by Ambrose, seconded by Woods, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve resolution 2025-29 a resolution rescheduling the special organizational council meeting to swear into office the candidates who are elected by voters following the November 4, 2025 general election of Monday, November 10, 2025 to the regular council meeting of Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

## Roll Call Vote

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

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Owsinek encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming *Trunk or Treat* event this Sunday, noting that last Saturday's event had an excellent turnout despite being cut short by the rain. He said children enjoyed themselves and there were many creative costumes on display.

Council Member Fernandes said she wanted to say thank you to the city's Code Enforcement Officer Paul Barch for the informative conversation about what's going on in the city on his end, the city process of condemnation and how the city handles those. Council Member Fernandes said this Saturday is National Drug Take Back Day, where any drugs that you may have in your home, can be brought to the police department for disposal. Those drugs are now out of our community and not going to fall into the hands of people who are going to do bad things with them. She highly encouraged participation in this event. She asked Police Chief Shakinas how much has been collected so far.

Police Chief Shakinas said well over 100 pounds.

Council Member Lublin reflected on the city's progress over the past 15 years under the current city manager, noting that the city was once close to being placed under state emergency management due to financial instability prior to his arrival. The city has since achieved significant fiscal improvement, currently carrying no debt and maintaining a "save before we spend" policy. Council Member Lublin commended all departments for their performance, investing in top-of-the-line equipment, well-maintained parks, and strong police and fire departments. The fire department currently holds a Class 3 rating, contributing to improved insurance ratings and faster response times averaging under four minutes. He said staffing levels have shifted from 44 full-time employees to approximately 21–22, with greater reliance on part-time positions to enhance efficiency and control costs. The city continues to complete major infrastructure projects without borrowing, including recent work on Maple Road, Decker Road, Pontiac Trail, Ladd Road, and a major downtown rehabilitation project costing over \$1 million to include improvements to sidewalk and lighting upgrades. He expressed pride in the city's financial discipline and ongoing community improvements. Council Member Lublin reminded everyone of the upcoming election, November 4<sup>th</sup>, incumbents Mindy Fernandes, John Owsinek, Mayor Linda Ackley and himself are running for reelection and encouraged a supportive vote to continue the progress.

Council Member Ambrose said other than the mist of summer, this is the next best time to be in Walled Lake. From commercial buildings to residential homes, it's so rewarding to see our building owners, property owners, business owners, and residents taking such great care of their

properties. As we move into the holiday season, you can really feel the community spirit, people putting up decorations, adding festive touches, and showing pride in our city. I'm especially excited about Parks and Rec and their early discussions on hosting a Christmas Light Competition that will be coming next year, absolutely great. It's things like this that create good energy. Positive energy brings more positive energy, and you can see that all around town from residents maintaining their lawns to businesses decorating their storefronts. Even small touches, like putting out a pumpkin or two, make a difference and make the season feel special. He said it is another beautiful time to be in Walled Lake. He looks forward to seeing everyone this Sunday at Mayor Ackley's Trunk or Treat.

Mayor Pro Tem Woods said he agrees with everything that has been said so far and wanted to add a bit of detail. Our DPW Supervisor, Dan Ladd, was one of the first on scene at the recent water main break. As soon as the call went out, he was there right away. That really shows how quickly and efficiently our team responds. Of course, no one can fix a 42-inch water main break instantly, but when it happens, our people are on it without hesitation. To our Fire Chief — thank you to you and your staff for responding and providing support to the emergency situation in Grand Blanc. That mutual aid network we're part of is incredibly important. If you ever have a chance to look into how that system works from the dispatch card system and how agencies coordinate it is really impressive, and it plays a big role in our fast response times. Finally, he wanted to recognize our clerks. They do an outstanding job every year, and we get a lot of positive feedback about their professionalism and dedication. We truly appreciate all of you.

City Manager Whitt said thank you to all the council members for helping with the water distribution during the recent emergency. That was a big deal. The city was out of water, and so were many of our neighboring communities. Because of the quick decisions made by the Mayor and Council, we were able to get water to the Villas rapidly. Several of you spent your own time helping distribute that water. The lines were backed up, as many remember, and we even had to bring more in later. The only downside to the whole situation was the misinformation that started to circulate from people pretending to be involved and spreading incorrect details about the boil-water advisory or when it was lifted. That can get frustrating. The truth is, our information came directly from the people working on the pipes, and that's what we communicated. Others were putting out inaccurate updates, but fortunately, the issue was resolved quickly, so it didn't cause long-term confusion or shutdowns. This Council responded exceptionally well. I know a few backs and muscles were probably sore from lifting all those 30-pound cases of bottled water, but it was worth it. GLWA (Great Lakes Water Authority) was fantastic they came through right away. Between them, Public Works, and the Fire Department, we brought in everything we could get, we even cleared out Costco's supply at one point. In the end, we never ran out of water, thanks to everyone's teamwork. The repair work is still ongoing water pressure hasn't been fully restored everywhere yet. Novi took the hardest hit since the break occurred on their side but work on our end near 14 Mile and the lake continues. It looks like they may even have to redo parts of the road once all the underground repairs are complete. The people at the Villa were very pleased and happy about getting the water deliveries. Thank you to Council Member Fernandes for setting that up. Thank you, Mayor, for taking it and thank you all for handing it out.

Council Member Fernandes asked that an appreciation letter be sent to Kroger for increasing their water distributions to their local stores during this event.

Council Member Loch said she has nothing more to add to what her fellow council members have said, she thanked everyone for their hard work.

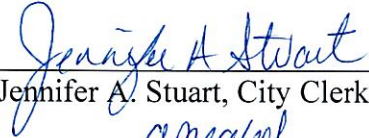
### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Ackley explained she echoes the sentiments of her fellow Council members. It was a difficult and challenging event, but the community truly came together to distribute water and support one another. She shared that she had the opportunity to meet with residents at the Villas, answer their questions, and offer reassurance throughout the situation. Mayor Ackley said it was an experience that showed the strength and cooperation of Walled Lake's residents and staff. She thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. She reminded everyone that the election will be held on November 4, and the next City Council meeting is scheduled for November 18.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **CM 10-09-25 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Owsinek, seconded by Woods: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 8:46 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer A. Stuart, City Clerk  
*approved*  
*11-18-25*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda S. Ackley, Mayor