



**MEETING OF THE WESTLAND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**City of Westland**  
**Minutes**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**  
**Thursday August 27, 2020**

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Members Present: Cabildo, Freese, Murray, Scott, Thrower, Wild  
Members Excused: Kelly, Rea, Saab

Also Present: Aubrey Berman, Economic Development Director  
Christine Ross, Economic Development Intern  
John Jackson, McKenna  
James Goudbout, Westland City Council

Cabildo called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

A motion was made by Thrower and supported by Freese to approve minutes from the regular meeting on August 6, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Thrower and supported by Murray to approve the payments of the vouchers in the amount of \$26,316.12.

Bryan L. Amann \$2500.00  
Costar Realty Information \$454.95  
First National Bank \$454.86  
Highland Landscape and Snow Removal \$648.00  
Highland Landscape and Snow Removal \$2428.00  
Highland Landscape and Snow Removal \$325.00  
Highland Landscape and Snow Removal \$650.00  
Highland Landscape and Snow Removal \$865.00  
Lowe's \$53.04  
Trugreen \$330.00  
WH Canon Company \$3891.43  
WH Canon Company \$3891.43  
Hennessey Engineers \$2400.00  
Hennessey Engineers \$800.00  
Gooseworks \$450  
Gooseworks \$450  
Westland Chamber of Commerce \$5000.00  
SME Soil and Materials \$724.41

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Thrower and supported by Freese for the approval of ACH electronic transfers for water bills in the amount of \$14,441.48

Cabildo inquired what the payment was for.

Berman explained the automatic transfers were closed out at the end of last season and stopped. This transfer is to settle up what is owed for sprinklers paid for by the DDA for the season.

Motion carried unanimously.

John Jackson gave a presentation regarding the Reimagine Ford Road plan.

Cabildo asked where the DDA is supposed to start with regards to plan implementation.

Jackson explained the plan is a long-term plan in which there will be incremental changes. The City has already made public improvement investments such as Wayfinding Signage and Central City Parkway. The City will need to continue to hold individuals interested in making private investments to high standards that are in line with the DDA's vision for the Ford Road Corridor.

Thrower asked how the retail feasibility studies determine what is supportable during their analysis.

Jackson explained that analysis is based on desposable income within the primary trade area and stressed the need for current users to evolve and respond to consumer preferences. Need to provide a unique experience.

A motion was made by Scott and supported by Cabildo for the approval of the Reimagine Ford Road Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Director Comments:** Berman informed the board that the next meeting in September will be held in person and will serve as one of two informational meetings, as required by the Michigan Department of Treasury. Accommodations will be made for attendees who wish to remain virtual.

Berman informed the board that there is a new medical center being constructed at 2118 N. Wayne Rd. which will revitalize a former retail plaza.

Berman informed the board that Bob Gibbs has offered two free updates to the residential and retail market analysis studies in light of COVID-19 and will be conducting the first update in early fall.

**Citizen Comments:**

Godbout indicated he is excited about the plan and is looking forward to seeing action on the Reimagine Ford Road Plan moving forward.

**Board Members Comments:** none

A motion was made by Thrower and supported by Murray to adjourn at 8:53 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.