



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, January 11, 2022
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Lois Richardson, Council Member Anthony Morgan, Council Member Annie Somerville, and Mr. Brian Jones-Chance, Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown

ABSENT Council Member Jennifer Symanns (Attending Remotely), Council Member Steve Wilcoxon (Attending Remotely)

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

II ROLL CALL

Council Member Morgan moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown to excuse the absences of Council Members Symanns and Wilcoxon.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the absences were excused.

III AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as amended.

Amendments:

1. Add a resolution to temporarily suspend advisory boards and commissions.
2. Remove sections 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 from the agenda.
3. Add a resolution regarding shifting all Council meetings to the Freighthouse during this COVID surge.

IV RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2022-001A, approving Council Policy on the wearing of masks during public meetings.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2022-001A

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

Whereas, Amendments to the Michigan Open Meetings Act require City Council to return to in-person meetings starting January 1, 2022;

Whereas, Community transmission of COVID-19 remains high in Washtenaw County; and especially the 48197 and 48198 zip code areas;

Whereas, Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) state that even fully vaccinated people can further reduce their risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and transmitting it to others by wearing a mask indoors in public in areas of substantial or high community transmission;

RESOLVED, That, in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, protect the health of meeting attendees, minimize the possibility of disrupting the meeting, and thereby promote public participation by creating a safer meeting environment, City Council hereby establishes the regulation that all in-person attendees at City Council meetings are required to wear a mask;

RESOLVED, That the type of mask required and how it must be worn shall be consistent with the order by the CDC titled Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs, with an effective date of February 1, 2021, as from time to time amended, along with all supplemental guidance issued by the CDC;

RESOLVED, That, to ensure full participation of the public in City Council meetings, the City Clerk is directed to provide free masks for attendees at City Council meetings, to establish a mechanism for the public to comment remotely without entering City Hall, and to establish an area within City Hall where unmasked persons can watch City Council meetings live and provide comment; and

RESOLVED, that this regulation shall be adopted and published as a temporary Council Rule until rescinded or modified by City Council.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

3 members from the public spoke

VI PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a) Approval of the 2020 City of Ypsilanti Redistricting Plan.
 1. Resolution No. 2021-001 Determination
 2. Public Hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2021-002

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2022-002

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing for the 2020 Proposed redistricting plan be officially closed.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2022-001

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti City Council has the authority to determine Ward boundaries following each decennial U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti City Council has reviewed 2020 U.S. Census data describing the current population of the City of Ypsilanti and its Wards as last established by Ypsilanti City Council in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Census 2020 data shows that the populations of Wards 1, 2, and 3 are no longer within the standard of 95% to 105% of the optimal ward population in accordance MCL 4.261 (1) (d) and populations will need to be shifted from Ward 2 to Ward 3, in accordance with Section 117.27a of the Michigan Home Rule City Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan for Ward boundaries would alleviate, as much as possible, any disruption to voters; and

WHEREAS, City Council has received and considered the recommendation of the City of Ypsilanti Election Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed plan for redistricting be approved and the City Clerk's office be directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Washtenaw County and State of Michigan Bureau of Elections.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

VII ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- a) Ordinance No. 1384, An ordinance to amend Section 14-5 of the Ypsilanti City Code be amended to allow the keeping of ducks and drakes in the City of Ypsilanti
1. Resolution No. 2021-003 Determination
 2. Public Hearing **1 member from the public spoke**
 3. Resolution No. 2021-004

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2022-004

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI

That the public hearing for "An ordinance to allow Ducks and Drakes in the City" to amend Section 14-5 of the Ypsilanti City code to allow ducks and drakes in the City be officially closed.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to remove Section 1 C - 5 from Ordinance 1384

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
NAYS:	Anthony Morgan
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2022-003 as amended

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that an Ordinance entitled

"An ordinance to allow Ducks and Drakes in the City" to amend Section 14-5 of the Ypsilanti City code to allow ducks and drakes in the City be approved on first reading.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
NAYS:	Anthony Morgan
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

VIII CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2022-005, approving the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2022-005

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

1. **Resolution No. 2022-006, approving the minutes of December 21, 2021.**
2. **Resolution No. 2022-007, approving appointments to boards and commissions.**

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

- b) Resolution No. 2022-006, approving the minutes of December 21, 2021.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of December 21, 2021 be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2022-007, approving appointments to boards and commissions.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT, the following residents be appointed to the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions as indicated below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>
<u>Justin Harper</u>	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	<u>7/1/2025</u>
<u>1730 Washtenaw</u>		
<u>Ypsilanti, MI 48197</u>		
<u>New Member</u>		

IX RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2022-008, approving the amended Articles of Incorporation for the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2022-008

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti approved the attached amendment to the Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority, and authorize

the Mayor and City Clerk to sign on behalf of the City, subject to the City Attorney.

RESULT:	FAILED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
NAYS:	Nicole Brown and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

- b) Resolution No. 2022-009, approving the use of indoor pyrotechnics at the EMU Convocation Center.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2022-009

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, DeAnne Anderson of High Tech Special Effects, on behalf of the Skillet Winter Concert Tour 2022 has applied for a fireworks permit to allow indoor pyrotechnics at the Eastern Michigan Convocation Center; and

Whereas, High Tech Special Effects will operate the display and has obtained public liability insurance in the amount of \$4,000,000 and has added the City of Ypsilanti as an additional insured.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves indoor pyrotechnics to be displayed on January 30, 2022 at the EMU Convocation Center, subject to the inspection and approval of the Ypsilanti Fire Department

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

- c) Resolution No. 2022-010, approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Ann Arbor SPARK for the installation of fiber optic cable.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2022-010

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor SPARK, City of Ann Arbor, and City of Ypsilanti seek to establish new fiber optic cable connections utilizing a recently awarded EDA Grant; and

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor SPARK is the lead applicant who will administer the grant; and

WHEREAS, City of Ypsilanti will not incur any costs associated with construction of the Fiber and Conduit Network Backbone; and

WHEREAS, an integral part of this goal is the connection of the Ann Arbor downtown Tech Park with the City of Ypsilanti and the American Center for Mobility; and

WHEREAS, the installation of a robust conduit and fiber system linking Downtown Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti, running through Ypsilanti Township and Pittsfield Township will leverage existing infrastructure investments and make it easier for companies to innovate and grow; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the Memorandum of Understanding as provided.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

- d) **Resolution No. 2022-011, acknowledging the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.**
(added)

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2022-011

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., changed our Nation forever through his leadership, service, and clarity of vision; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King devoted his life to strengthening the content of the American character and called on our Nation to live up to its founding principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Through his determination, spirit, and resolve, Dr. King helped lift souls and lead one of the greatest movements for equality and freedom in history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti wishes to honor the lasting legacy of this great American, remember the ideals for which he fought, and recommit ourselves to ensuring that our country's promise extends to all Americans across the great land; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 1983, Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor Dr. King on the third Monday of January every year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as we observe Dr. King’s birthday, the City of Ypsilanti encourages all Americans to honor Dr. King by living out his teachings as we continue to work for the day when the dignity and humanity of every person is respected and to celebrate his memory by performing acts of kindness through service to others.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

- e) Discussion regarding holding a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. (15 minute)

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to hold a Martin Luther King Jr. Event as a City Event in Ypsilanti

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

- f) Resolution No. 2022-013, temporarily suspending all advisory boards and commissions until at least the first Council Meeting in March. (added)

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2022-013,

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti temporarily suspend all advisory boards and commissions until at least the first Council Meeting in March.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Steven Wilcoxon

- g) Resolution No. 2022-014, moving all Council Meeting to the Freighthouse until the first Council Meeting in March. (added)

The motion was withdrawn

X BOARD AND COMMISSION - NOMINATIONS

a) Tax Board of Review - Reappointment

Roberta Wojcik-Andrews
7 N. Normal St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

XI BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS - REMOVED

- ~~1. Police Advisory Commission.~~
- ~~2. Human Relations Commission.~~
- ~~3. Arts Commission.~~
- ~~4. Parks and Recreation Commission.~~
- ~~5. Sustainability Commission.~~
- ~~6. Historic District Commission.~~
- ~~7. Planning Commission.~~
- ~~8. Zoning Board of Appeals~~

XII LIAISON REPORTS - REMOVED

- ~~1. SEMCOG Update~~
- ~~2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study~~
- ~~3. Urban County~~
- ~~4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority~~
- ~~5. Friends of Rutherford Pool~~

XIII COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS - REMOVED

XIV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR - REMOVED

XV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER - REMOVED

XVI COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Rescheduling second Goal Setting Date

The council agreed to reschedule the second Goal Setting Date on the on January 25th.

XVII ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2022-012, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM.

- b) Please click [here](#) to access the City Council Contact Form. This form can be used to submit any comments/concerns you might have about this agenda.