



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT at roll call were Mayor Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon, Council Member McLean, Council Member Fellows, Council Member Simmons, Council Member King and Council Member Tooson. ABSENT: None.

III. A MOMENT TO CENTER AND FOCUS

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve the AGENDA. Council Member King seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon requested that Resolutions 2026-022 and 2026-036 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Tooson requested that Resolutions 2026-040, 2026-041, and 2026-043 be moved to the Consent Agenda, however Council Member Simmons objected to 2026-040 and Council Member Fellows objected to 2026-043, so only 2026-041 was added to the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve the AGENDA as amended. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT - 60 MINUTES TOTAL (3 MINUTES/EACH SPEAKER)

13 Members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclaiming the month of February as Black History Month.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Resolution No. 2026-031 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-031 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

B. Resolution No. 2026-032 Approving the minutes of the regular meeting of February 3, 2026.

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-031.

C. Resolution No. 2026-034 Reappointing John Ichesco to the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, with a term ending February 1, 2029.

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-031.

D. Resolution No. 2026-035 Approving John Gilbreath as an Administrative Hearings Bureau Officer for the City of Ypsilanti as appointed by the City Manager.

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-031.

- E. Resolution No. 2026-037 Authorizing the Chief of Police to sign all necessary documents needed to execute a vehicle purchase in the amount of \$44,990 from LaFontaine CDJR-Lansing.**

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-031.

- F. Resolution No. 2026-041 Approving the proposal submitted by Smith's Waterproofing in the amount of \$54,788 for Police Station Basement Repairs.**

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-031.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. TABLED Resolution No. 2026-022 Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Yodit Mesfin Johnson to facilitate the second Water Street RFQ Committee meeting with Council, for a sum not to exceed \$1,500.**

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve TABLED Resolution No. 2026-022. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon offered, supported by Council Member McLean, to amend the resolution by changing the scope of work from meeting with a Council Member and Staff, to meeting with the Mayor and staff. Upon further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Amend TABLED Resolution No. 2026-022 by changing the first bullet point in Section 3A of the scope of work to meeting with no more than three Council Members, including the Mayor. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve TABLED Resolution No. 2026-022 Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Yodit Mesfin Johnson to facilitate the second Water Street RFQ Committee meeting with Council, for a sum not to exceed \$1,500, as amended. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

- B. Resolution No. 2026-036 Approving Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association (MI-MABAS) Agreement.**

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-036 Approving the Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association (MI-MABAS) Agreement. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

- C. Resolution No. 2026-038 Establishing a city policy that prohibits the use of City resources, funds, or personnel to assist in civil immigration enforcement, or on entering into any agreement under 8 U.S.C. Section 1357(g).**

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-038. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Council Member Simmons offered, supported by Council Member King, to amend Resolution No. 2026-038 by striking the 13th "Whereas" clause. Upon further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn.

Council Member Simmons moved to Amend Resolution No. 2026-038 by adding "law enforcement officers" or "civil immigration enforcement agents" wherever one or the other is present in the resolution, except in the third to last "Resolved" clause. Council Member Fellows seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Amber Fellows

No: 1 Patrick McLean

Absent: (0)

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-038 Establishing a city policy that prohibits the use of City resources, funds, or personnel to assist in civil immigration enforcement, or on entering into any agreement under 8 U.S.C. Section 1357(g), as amended. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

D. Resolution No. 2026-039 Opposing the ballot initiatives circulated by Americans for Citizen Voting and the Committee to Protect Voters' Rights and urging voters to carefully consider the impacts of these ballot initiatives before they sign.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen left the Council Chambers at 8:33p.m. and returned to Chambers at 8:35p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-039. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows offered a friendly amendment to add the following classifications: transgender voters. Wilcoxen and McLean accepted the friendly amendment.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-039 Opposing the ballot initiatives circulated by Americans for Citizen Voting and the Committee to Protect Voters' Rights and urging voters to carefully consider the impacts of these ballot initiatives before they sign, as amended. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

E. Resolution No. 2026-040 Approving the proposal submitted by Davey Resource Group in the amount of \$36,735 for a Tree Inventory and Management Plan.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-040 Approving the proposal submitted by Davey Resource Group in the amount of \$36,735 for a Tree Inventory and Management Plan. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

F. Resolution No. 2026-042 awarding a contract to Schepke Consulting, LLC for the Parks Structural Stairway Repairs Project in the amount of \$180,000; also that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this contract, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and any change orders may be approved by the City Manager to facilitate completion of this work.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-042 awarding a contract to Schepke Consulting, LLC for the Parks Structural Stairway Repairs Project in the amount of \$180,000; also that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this contract, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and any change orders may be approved by the City Manager to facilitate completion of this work. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

G. Resolution No. 2026-043 Approving the Change Order Request for the Storm Infrastructure Rehab project from Pipeline Management Company in the amount of \$25,288.00.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-043 Approving the Change Order Request for the Storm Infrastructure Rehab project from Pipeline Management Company in the amount of \$25,288.00. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

H. Resolution No. 2026-044 Approving the quotes from Detection Systems and Engineering for Facility Security Upgrades in the total amount of \$68,579.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-044. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows moved, supported by Council Member King, to amend Resolution No. 2026-044 by removing the Freighthouse from this list and by only purchasing a closed loo on premise system. Upon further

discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Amend Resolution No. 2026-044 to only move forward with the update to the Police camera system. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 Amber Fellows

Absent: (0)

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-044 Approving the quote from Detection Systems and Engineering for Facility Security Upgrades at the Police Station in the amount of \$27023, as amended.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 1 Amber Fellows

Absent: (0)

Mayor Brown recessed the meeting at 9:41p.m. and reconvened at 9:48p.m.

I. Discussion to decide on a nomination process for the members of the Citizens Committee for Water Street Redevelopment Area.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until 11p.m. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

Council Member King moved, supported by Council Member Simmons, to extend the meeting until 11:30p.m. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

J. Resolution No. 2026-045 Appointing Residents to the Citizens Committe for Water Street Redevelopment Area.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-045 Appointing Lenore (Ariel) Ojibway-Gifford, Edward Koryzno, Chuck Bultman, Juanita House, Allison Krueger, DeRon Weatherspoon, Dallas Ford, and Diana Gonzalez to the Ad Hoc Citizens Committee for Water Street Redevelopment Area. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

K. TABLED Discussion to determine topics for a presentation from the Ypsilanti Police Chief.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved, supported by Council Member Tooson, to extend the meeting until 11:45p.m. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

L. Discussion for Stabilization of the Pen Dam Powerhouse

IX. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson reported that the next meeting is Thursday, February 26th at 7p.m.

B. Human Relations Commission

Council Member King reported that the next meeting is this Thursday, February 19th. at 6p.m. and discussed questions from the HRC to Council.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

Council Member McLean reported that the next meeting is March 16th.

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons mentioned the Communication from the Sustainability Commission.

E. Historic District Commission

Council Member McLean reported that 5 projects were discussed at the February 10th meeting: 315 Washtenaw, 324 Oak, 119 North Huron, 14 Oak, and 10 North Washington.

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem reported they will meetin tomorrow.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

No report.

X. LIAISON REPORTS

Council Member King moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meting until 11:50p.m.

A. SEMCOG Update

No report.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Council Member Simmons reported the next meeting is tomorrow morning.

C. Urban County

No report.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Brown reported the next meeting is Thursday.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported that they met and are looking at how to improve on what was happening last year. They're looking to avoid last year's problematic opening; costs and funding for the free swim lessons; and addressing some issues surrounding National Night Out.

XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member King -

- Looking forward to the conversation regarding bathrooms.
- Asking about the shoes on the wires near First and Harriet again.
- Happy Black History Month!
- Doing a mic night at Park Ridge on March the 12th from 6 to 7.30, an opportunity for residents to come and tell me what they want to see.

Council Member Tooson -

- February 28th at South Point Scholars, Black History in Motion, as well as CLR, My Brother's Washtenaw, My Brother's Keepers Breakfast, and the Brotherhood Circle, from 10 a.m. to 3.

Council Member King moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until 11:50p.m. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

Council Member Simmons -

- Reverend Jesse Jackson, Rest in power.
- Thanks to Chief Hobbs for the SOP regarding the use of the fire department equipment.
- Bringing forward resident concern about speeding on North Prospect and asking for a police presence and more ticketing.
- This raises other questions around if there's different kinds of enforcement, for example, local progress's toolkit around no-secret police.

Council Member Fellows -

- Acknowledge that today is a big day - Happy Lunar New Year, Ramadan Mubarak, Fat Tuesday, and Solar Eclipse Day in Antarctica.
- Mention that the Tenants' Rights Committee needs to be scheduled to meet, as does the Short-Term Rental Committee, and also for the shelter initiative.
- Getting more complaints from tenants fearing risk of housing insecurity due to Beale tentatively looking to purchase buildings, and getting demands to take action.
- Getting more complaints from residents about property taxes for new homeowners that are paying a disproportionate share of taxes, & urged to look at Tax reform strategies
- We need to take action on the police siege incident.

Council Member McLean -

- Residents/Business owners interested in locking in cruise night for multiple years.
- We will be starting the fifth year of the war in Ukraine & should note the sacrifices of a people who are fighting on the front lines for democracy and liberal values, that in my mind, is a fight for all of us.

Council Member King moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until 11:55p.m. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen - no report.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Brown noted that Council evaluations for City Manager and Clerk were due today, so please get them in by next Tuesday. The Mayor will compile them and have them back before our next meeting.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Andrew Hellenga: Next Friday, the 27th, the Senior Center Grand Opening begins at 11, and it goes until 2 p.m.
- Last night at the Parks and Arts meeting, they discussed a special events policy.
- LEAP MOU should be moving forward soon.
- Will have a conversation at a future meeting for available CDBG funds that could be used, potentially, for the bathrooms, Parkridge Roof, and Park Prospect Pathway.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission Resolution asking Ypsilanti City Council to explore the environmental health of the Water Street property.**
- B. The Human Relations Commission submitted the following question to City Council: Is there support for housing stability components and are there more resources?**

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED (3 MINUTES/EACH SPEAKER)

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. 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.**