



# MINUTES

## VIRTUAL COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, April 7, 2020  
Council Chambers

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The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 7:00 PM with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Mayor Beth Bashert, Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, Council Member Nicole Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, Council Member Anthony Morgan, and Council Member Annie Somerville

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

### III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Somerville, moved to add comment from the City Manager and Mayor.

The agenda was approved as amended.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

### V. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2020-072, approving the Consent Agenda.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

1. Resolution No. 2020-073, approving the minutes of March 3 and March 17, 2020.
2. Resolution No. 2020-074, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.
3. Resolution No. 2020-066, approving Ordinance 1356 - An ordinance to amend Article III Discrimination of Chapter 58 Human Relations, being Section 58-61. **(Second Reading). (Postponed March 17th)**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2020-073.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Nicole Brown
<b>AYES:</b>	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon

- b) Resolution No. 2020-073, approving the minutes of March 3 and March 17, 2020.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of March 3 and March 17, 2020 be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2020-074, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>
Patton Doyle New Member 16 1/2 N. Washington Ypsilanti, MI 48197	DDA	7/1/2022

- d) Resolution No. 2020-066, approving Ordinance 1356 - An ordinance to amend Article III Discrimination of Chapter 58 Human Relations, being Section 58-61. **(Second Reading). (Postponed March 17th)**

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

An ordinance to amend Article III Discrimination of Chapter 58 Human Relations, being Section 58 – 61 Intent, to add felony conviction to the anti-discrimination ordinance as a city protected class be adopted on Second and Final Reading.

## VI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2020-064, authorizing the City Manager to adjust the Capital Budget for Parking Equipment. **(Postponed March 17th)**

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, City Council adopted the Ypsilanti Central Business District Parking Study and Strategy; and

WHEREAS, said document identifies a number of opportunities for improvement of Central Business District parking; and

WHEREAS, additional information has become available regarding the cost of many of the desired improvements including signage and meters;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti City Council authorizes the City Manager to adjust the Capital budget for parking equipment, account 414-7-9370-987-63, to \$160,000 for FY19/20.

**Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, to approve Resolution No. 2020-064.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson
<b>AYES:</b>	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- b) Resolution No. 2020-065, approving an agreement with Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority for the reimbursement of water main costs. **(Postponed March 17th)**

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, Urban funding has been programmed in the Washtenaw County Transportation Improvement Program for the road reconstruction of W. Cross Street between Courtland and Wallace; and,

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has signed a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the City to administer this project; and,

Whereas, the Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority (YCUA) has requested that improvements to their water system be included in the project; and,

Whereas, an agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and YCUA is necessary to outline the responsibilities of both parties with regards to cost reimbursement and quality control.

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City of Ypsilanti City Council approves the agreement with YCUA for the reimbursement of water main costs; and

THAT the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign this contract, subject to approval by the City Attorney.

**Council Member Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2020-065.**

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to table Resolution No. 2020-065.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>AYES:</b>	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- c) Resolution No. 2020-075, authorizing The Director of Public Services and OHM to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program for rehabilitation of the Forest Ave bridge.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the bridge on Forest Avenue over the Huron River in the City of Ypsilanti has deteriorated over time and rehabilitation work is necessary to extend the life of the bridge; and,

Whereas, OHM, consulting engineers for the City of Ypsilanti, completed the inspection of the bridges in the City and prepared inspection reports and other information on the above-mentioned bridges; and,

Whereas, based on the findings and recommendations of OHM, the Director of Public Services recommends that the City Council authorize the Director of Public Services and OHM to make application to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program for bridge rehabilitation; and,

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has available 5% portion of the project financing available;

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti authorizes the Director of Public Services and OHM to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program seeking financial assistance to perform rehabilitation work on the Forest Avenue bridge.

**Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2020-075.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Beth Bashert, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- d) Resolution No. 2020-076, authorizing the Director of Public Services and OHM to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program seeking financial assistance for preventative maintenance work on the LeForge Street and Factory Street bridges.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the bridges on Factory Street and LeForge Street over the Huron River in the City of Ypsilanti needs preventative maintenance repairs to extend the life of the bridge; and,

Whereas, OHM, consulting engineers for the City of Ypsilanti, completed the inspection of the bridges in the City and prepared inspection reports and other information on the above-mentioned bridges; and,

Whereas, based on the findings and recommendations of OHM, the Director of Public Services recommends that the City Council authorize the Director of Public Services and OHM to make application to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program for bridge preventative maintenance; and,

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has available 5% portion of the project financing available;

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti authorizes the Director of Public Services and OHM to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program with the application seeking financial assistance to perform preventative maintenance work on the LeForge Street and Factory Street bridges.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, to approve Resolution No. 2020-076.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson
<b>AYES:</b>	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- e) Resolution No. 2020-077, approving the ballot language for a Charter Amendment extending nomination power to the Mayor and Two Council Members for the Board of Ethics.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

WHEREAS, Section 21(1) of the Home Rule City Act (HRCA), MCL 117.21(1), authorizes a city council to adopt a resolution proposing to amend the city charter by a three-fifths vote of its members-elect, and the resolution proposing to amend the city charter must set forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment to be submitted to the city voters for approval at a regular or special election, and;

WHEREAS, The resolution must set forth the ballot language for the proposed charter amendment—with each proposal being limited to a single subject, and if the subject of a proposal includes more than one related proposition, each proposition shall be separately stated as a ballot proposal to afford an opportunity for a separate vote of the city voters for or against each proposition, and

WHEREAS, Section 21(2) of the HRCA, MCL 117.21(2), requires that the ballot language for the submission to the city voters of each proposed amendment shall be limited to 100 words, exclusive of caption, shall be a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the amendment, and shall not create prejudice for or against the proposed amendment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article IX, Section 9.01 (c) of the Ypsilanti City Charter shall be amended as follows:

The Board shall consist of five distinguished citizens nominated by the Mayor or two city Council Members and approved by the Council.

The current charter section(s) being altered by this amendment provides as follows:

9.01 (c). Board of Ethics.

The Board shall consist of five distinguished citizens nominated by the Mayor and approved by the Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ballot language for the proposed amendment shall be as follows:

Shall Article IX, Section 9.01 (c) of the Ypsilanti City Charter be amended to provide that nomination power to the Board of Ethics be expanded to the Mayor or two Council Members?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed amendment (MCL 117.22) and transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed ballot language for the proposed amendment (MCL 117.21).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Ypsilanti at the primary election to be held in the City on August 4, 2020, and the City Clerk is directed to give notice of the election and notice of registration in a manner prescribed by law and to do all things and to provide all supplies necessary to submit the Charter amendment to a vote of the electors as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed charter amendment shall be published in full, together with the existing charter provision amended as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed charter amendment must be posted, in full, in a conspicuous place in each polling location.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2020-077.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Nicole Brown
<b>AYES:</b>	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- f) Resolution No. 2020-078, approving the ballot language for a Charter Amendment extending nomination power to the Mayor and Two Council Members for Boards and Commissions.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

WHEREAS, Section 21(1) of the Home Rule City Act (HRCA), MCL 117.21(1), authorizes a city council to adopt a resolution proposing to amend the city charter by a three-fifths vote of its members-elect, and the resolution proposing to amend the city charter must set forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment to be submitted to the city voters for approval at a regular or special election, and;

WHEREAS, The resolution must set forth the ballot language for the proposed charter amendment—with each proposal being limited to a single subject, and if the subject of a proposal includes more than one related proposition, each proposition shall be separately stated as a ballot proposal to afford an opportunity for a separate vote of the city voters for or against each proposition, and

WHEREAS, Section 21(2) of the HRCA, MCL 117.21(2), requires that the ballot language for the submission to the city voters of each proposed amendment shall be limited to 100 words, exclusive of caption, shall be a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the amendment, and shall not create prejudice for or against the proposed amendment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article IX, Section 9.03 of the Ypsilanti City Charter shall be amended as follows:

All members of the City boards and commissions established under this Charter, by statute or otherwise, may be nominated for office by the Mayor, or by two Council Members, subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council.

The current charter section(s) being altered by this amendment provides as follows:

9.03. Boards

All members of the City boards and commissions established under this Charter, by statute or otherwise, shall be appointed by the mayor, shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ballot language for the proposed amendment shall be as follows:

Shall Article IX, Section 9.03 of the Ypsilanti City Charter be amended to provide that nomination power to all boards and commissions be expanded to the Mayor or two Council Members?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed amendment (MCL 117.22) and transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed ballot language for the proposed amendment (MCL 117.21).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Ypsilanti at the primary election to be held in the City on August 4, 2020, and the City Clerk is directed to give notice of the election and notice of registration in a manner prescribed by law and to do all things and to provide all supplies necessary to submit the Charter amendment to a vote of the electors as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed charter amendment shall be published in full, together with the existing charter provision amended as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed charter amendment must be posted, in full, in a conspicuous place in each polling location.

**Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2020-078.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Nicole Brown
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
<b>NAYS:</b>	Beth Bashert

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Bashert stated that there have been meetings to discuss Covid-19. Ms. Bashert is hosting nightly zoom meetings.

### **a) NOMINATION**

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Cathy Thorburn (Exp 7/1/2023) - Reappointment**

1212 Sherman

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER (ADDED)**

City Manager provided an update regarding the train platform. She stated that the grant was not awarded and relayed the feedback from the grant application.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2020-079, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.**

- 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.