



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Zoom Meeting

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The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 6:00 PM, in the Zoom Meeting, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Council Member Jennifer Symanns (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti) 6:44 PM., Council Member Steven Wilcoxon (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Lois Richardson (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Anthony Morgan (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Annie Somerville (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), and Mr. Brian Jones-Chance (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti)

**ABSENT:** None

### I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

### II ROLL CALL

Council Member Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Morgan to excuse Council Member Symmans (6:44 PM). On a voice vote the motion carried.

### III AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mr. Jones-Chance to amend the agenda by removing Resolution No. 2021-090 from the Consent. On a voice vote the motion carried.

Council Member Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Morgan to approve the agenda as amended. On a voice vote the motion carried.

### IV PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

### V PRESENTATIONS

a) Proclamation in honor of Michigan Ladder - Mayor Richardson.

- b) EMU Public and Nonprofit Budgeting Class presentation of the City of Ypsilanti's Financial Health. - Kylar Chandler, Fay Alshimmary, & Karalyn Anderton
- c) City of Ypsilanti five year financial projection - John Kaczor, Principal at Municipal Analytics.
- d) Management Proposed Budget for Amended Budget FY 20-21 & FY 21-22 - City Manager Frances McMullan & Finance Director/Treasurer Rheagan Basabica

**VI ORDINANCES FIRST READING**

- a) Ordinance 1375, An Ordinance entitled, "2021-2022 Tax Levy Ordinance"
  - 1. Resolution No. 2021-084, determination
  - 2. Public Hearing **1**
  - 3. Resolution No. 2021-085, closing the public hearing

**Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-084**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That the proposed ordinance entitled "2021-2022 Tax Levy Ordinance", be approved on First Reading.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Anthony Morgan
<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Anthony Morgan, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville

**Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2021-085**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That the public hearing on the proposed ordinance entitled "2021-2022 Tax Levy Ordinance", be officially closed.**

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

- b) Ordinance 1376, An Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and major Organizational Unit for FY 2020-2021 & FY 2021-2022"
  - 1. Resolution No. 2021-086, determination
  - 2. Public Hearing
  - 3. Resolution No. 2021-087, close the public hearing

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-086

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**  
**That an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, be approved on First Reading.**

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-087

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**The Public Hearing for An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, be officially closed.**

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

## VII CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2021-088, approving the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-087 (As Amended)

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That the following items be approved:**

- 1. Resolution No. 2021-089, approving the minutes of April 20, 2021.**
- 2. ~~Resolution No. 2021-090, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.~~**

**Moved to section VIII**

- 3. Resolution No. 2021-091, accepting the City Clerk evaluation.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance

**AYES:** Nicole Brown, Brian Jones-Chance, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- b) Resolution No. 2021-089, approving the minutes of April 20, 2021.

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**THAT the minutes of April 20, 2021 be approved.**

- c) ~~Resolution No. 2021-090, approving appointments to boards and commissions.~~  
(moved and heard during Section VIII)
- d) Resolution No. 2021-091, accepting the evaluation of the City Clerk.

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, the City Clerk reports directly to the City Council and is supervised by the governing body; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council has evaluated City Clerk Andrew Hellenga for his performance over the evaluation period; and**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Ypsilanti City Council hereby accepts the report on Mr. Hellenga by the Evaluation Committee.**

**VIII RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

- a) Resolution No. 2021-090, approving appointments to boards and commissions.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-090

**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:**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>BOARD</u></b>	<b><u>EXPIRATION</u></b>
<b><u>Michael Simmons</u></b>	<b><u>Planning</u></b>	<b><u>5/1/2024</u></b>
<b><u>Reappointment</u></b>		
<b><u>128 Bell St.</u></b>		
<b><u>Ypsilanti, MI 48197</u></b>		
<b><u>Jessica Donnelly</u></b>	<b><u>Planning</u></b>	<b><u>5/1/2024</u></b>
<b><u>Reappointment</u></b>		
<b><u>757 Mildred</u></b>		
<b><u>Ypsilanti, MI 48197</u></b>		



**WHEREAS, approval of a letter of intent is needed to move forward to acquire financing for the project; and**

**WHEREAS, a negotiated contract would be brought to City Council for approval prior to implementation of the project.**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council direct the City Manager to draft and provide a letter of intent to Strategic Alliance CDC to begin accessing funding for project implementation.**

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

c) Resolution No. 2021-093, adopting the Master Plan.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-093

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti adopted the Shape Ypsilanti Master Plan in 2013 which establishes guiding values and policy recommendations for the City;**

**WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Planning Commission has the responsibility of developing a Master Plan and any updates;**

**WHEREAS, the Planning Commission determined in 2018 that a Master Plan update was necessary;**

**WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission drafted a Sustainability Plan in which the Planning Commission subsequently determined to incorporate into the Master Plan update as a full chapter;**

**WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti City Council distributed the drafted Master Plan update for public comment in accordance to PA 33 of 2008 (Michigan Planning Enabling Act);**

**WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti City Council resolved to be the final adopting authority of the Master Plan update in accordance to PA 33 of 2008;**

**WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Planning Commission recommended City Council adopt the drafted Master Plan update;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ypsilanti City Council adopt the drafted Master Plan update.**

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

- d) ~~Resolution No. 2021-094, declaring gun violence a matter of public health.~~  
**(removed until the May 18th Agenda)**
- e) Resolution No. 2021-095, urging the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 842 to greatly increase economic opportunity in the United States.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-095

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, economic inequality has skyrocketed as a result of legislative inaction to pass pro-worker labor laws and properly administer the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which has been systematically attacked and dismantled for several decades to make it more difficult for workers to form unions; and**

**WHEREAS, the H.R. 842, commonly referred to as the PRO Act, is the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the Great Depression, as it stands to give workers a free and fair choice on whether to form a union, ensure workers can reach a first contract quickly after a union is recognized, end employers' practice of punishing striking workers by hiring permanent replacements, and hold bad corporations accountable with real penalties for illegally retaliating against workers who organize; and**

**WHEREAS, the PRO Act will help make America's economy work for working people, and help raise stagnant wages that have only increased a mere 9% from 1973 to 2013, while productivity has increased 74% over that same time period; and**

**WHEREAS, through the expansion of collective bargaining under the PRO Act, there will be increases in pay and protections for women, people of color, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community in areas where our non-discrimination laws continue to fall short and lack adequate protections; and**

**WHEREAS, America's economic recovery as we emerge from the greatest public health crisis in over a century must involve strong unions by making the PRO Act the law of the land, increasing worker power and rebuilding our economy fairly for all of us; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this body affirms its support for workers and their right to organize and, in expressing those values urges Congress to pass H.R. 842 to greatly increase economic opportunity in America and empower workers through the promotion and expansion of collective bargaining; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti directs the City Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to Michigan’s U.S. Senators, Michigan’s U.S. House of Representatives, Washtenaw County’s State Legislative delegation, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, and the Urban Core Mayors of the Michigan Municipal League.**

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

- f) Resolution No. 2021-096, authorizing the submission of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Application and make available a local match through financial commitment and donation for Frog Island.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-096

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, the City strongly supports safe and equitable recreation access for all of its residents and visitors; and**

**WHEREAS, the adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan recognizes the need for improved accessibility in our parks, particularly Frog Island Park; and**

**WHEREAS, Frog Island presents a nexus between the Border to Border Trail, part of the Iron Belle Trail, and the Huron River Water Trail; and**

**WHEREAS, the parking and stormwater drainage facilities serving Frog Island need to be upgraded to meet current accessibility standards and protect the water quality of the Huron River; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is hereby making a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$44,400 matching funds in cash; and,**

**WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded the applicant commits its local match and donated amounts from the following sources:**

- **Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, \$100,000**
- **Huron River Watershed Council \$4,800 cash and \$4,800 in-kind**



- Washtenaw County Water Resources, \$2,000 in-kind  
Total \$104,800 cash and \$6,800 in-kind

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes submission of a Michigan Department of Natural Resource Trust Fund Application for \$300,000, and further resolves to make available a local match through financial commitment and donation(s) of \$156,000 (34%) of a total \$456,000 project cost, during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.**

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

- g) Resolution No. 2021-097, supporting the National John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day and commit to the continued support of Voting Rights for all people. (added)

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-097

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, access to the ballot box is a right of all qualified electors, and**

**WHEREAS, prior to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, African Americans in the South faced tremendous obstacles to voting; including poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic restrictions denying them the right to vote; and**

**WHEREAS, African Americans faced harassment, intimidation, economic reprisals, and physical violence when trying to register to vote; and**

**WHEREAS, on Mach 7, 1965, John Lewis, along with Hosea Williams led a march from Slema to Montgomery, Alabama to bring attention to this injustice. While crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge the voting-rights activists were attacked by state troopers and John Lewis was severely beaten; and**

**WHEREAS, the attack received national attention, and persuaded President Johnson and Congress to initiate meaningful and effective national voting rights legislation; and**

**WHEREAS, in 2013 the Supreme Court decision of Shelby County v Holder eliminated a critical part of the act, stating it no longer related to current conditions in areas where discrimination was once rampant.**

**John Lewis responded that the Supreme Courts decision has stuck a dagger into the heart of the Voting Rights Act, and**

**WHEREAS, H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, later renamed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2020, passed the House of Representatives on December 6, 2019, by a decisive margin, however, never passed the Senate, and**

**WHEREAS, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day raises awareness to ensure voting rights are to be protected from the action of those who seek to uphold voter suppression, and**

**WHEREAS, the strength, the sacrifice, and the shedding of blood to implement the 1965 Voting Rights Act should not further erode or be decimated, and**

**WHEREAS, people are standing together across American on May 8, 2021 to fight for democracy and push back against deceptive practices which seek to suppress our vote, and push back against practices that specifically target African Americans and people of color.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti supports the National John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day and commit to the continued support of Voting Rights for all people.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti direct the City Clerk to forward this resolution to the City's representatives in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate, imploring them to pass both H.R. 1, For the People Act and H.R. 4 the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.**

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

- h) Discussion regarding the Capital Improvements Plan for FY 2021-2022.

## **IX BOARD AND COMMISSINOS - NOMINATIONS**

- a) **Zoning Board of Appeals - (added)**  
Tom Roach - Reappointment Exp. 5/1/2024  
912 Pearl  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Jason Ringholz - Reappointment (Alternate) Exp. 5/1/2024  
1219 Westmoorland  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## X BOARD AND COMMISSIONS - LIAISON REPORTS

### Mr. Jones-Chance

- The Planning Commission supported approving the capital improvement plan.

### Council Member Morgan

- YPAC voted to support hiring a social worker for the Police Department. It was a 6-Yes to 1- No vote.
  - Waiting for funding details and the job description
  - Requesting to be involved with the development of the social worker
- Passed a resolution to have a link for YPAC on the City's website home page
- Next meeting is May 27th, 2021

### Council Member Wilcoxen

- Sustainability Meeting will be next week
- The Parks Commission
  - Council Member Wilcoxen spoke with the Commission about having a vision for Pen Park once the dam is removed. Renovate the power house
  - Next meeting Council Member Wilcoxen will present in terms of the expected increase of land for the Park

## XI LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update **None**
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **No meeting**
3. Urban County **Meeting tomorrow**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **None**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool **Request to have permit fee waived**

## XII COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

### Council Member Morgan

- Will meet with Mr. Jones-Chance and Mayor Pro-Tem next Saturday for a violence working group.

### Council Member Wilcoxen

- Spoke to Brian Foley about the homicide at the gas station and the limitations, in terms of Council setting policies, to deal with gun violence and police departments.
- Asked for the development of a police for board and commission reappointments.

**Mr. Jones-Chance**

- **The affordable housing group continues to meet to develop strategies.**
- **There will be a Town Hall Saturday at 1 PM for residents to talk about the recent gun violence.**

**XIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

**XIV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

- **Sent a public notice to Council regarding the Waste Water Utilities Project on W. Cross street between N Huron and Summit Street. This will take place between the Memorial and Labor Day Holidays.**
- **The Police Chief, City Manager, City Attorney, Community Economic Development Manager, City Clerk, and Director of Economic Development met to discuss legal strategies that will assist with addressing the increase in violence and gun violence in the City. An update will be provided to Council.**
- **Thanked the Mayor and Council for their support during the budget process.**

**XV COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) Second Reading of the Budget - May 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

**XVI ADJOURNMENT**

- a) Resolution No. 2021-098, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

**Mr. Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Wilcoxon to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 9:45 PM. On a voice vote the motion carried.**

- 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.