



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Zoom Meeting

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 6:00 PM, in the Zoom Meeting, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: None

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

2 ROLL CALL

3 AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Symanns to approve the agenda as submitted. On a voice vote the motion carried.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

2 members from the public spoke.

5 PRESENTATIONS

- a) Mental health presentation - Washtenaw County Health and Human Services.
- b) Proclamation designated May as Mental Health Awareness Month. - Mayor Richardson

6 PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a) Fiscal Year 2021-2022 through Fiscal Year 2027-2028 Capital Improvements Plan.
 1. Resolution No. 2021-099, determination
 2. Public Hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2021-100, closing the public hearing

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-099

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Ypsilanti requires that Council adopt a Capital Improvements program on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Enabling Act requires that Council adopt a Capital Improvements program on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is pursuing renewal of its Redevelopment Ready Certification from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, which likewise requires that a Capital Improvements Plan be adopted; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council hereby adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2021/2022 through FY2027/2028.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Pete Murdock, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, and Anthony Morgan

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-100

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing for the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2021/2022 through FY2027/2028 by officially closed.

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

7 CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2021-101, approving the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2021-101

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

- 1. Resolution No. 2021-102, approving the minutes of May 4, 2021.**
- 2. Resolution No. 2021-103, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.**

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

- b) Resolution No. 2021-102, approving the minutes of May 4, 2021.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of May 4, 2021 be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2021-103, 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>Tom Roach (Reappointment)</u>	<u>ZBA</u>	<u>5/1/2024</u>
<u>912 Pearl</u>		
<u>Ypsilanti, MI 48197</u>		

<u>Jason Ringholz (Reappointment)</u>	<u>ZBA (Alternate)</u>	<u>5/1/2024</u>
<u>1219 Westmoorland</u>		
<u>Ypsilanti, MI 48197</u>		

8 RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2021-104, approving Ordinance 1375, An Ordinance entitled, "2021-2022 Tax Levy Ordinance" (**Second Reading**)

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-104

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the proposed ordinance entitled "2021-2022 Tax Levy Ordinance", be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

- b) Resolution No. 2021-105, approving Ordinance 1376, An Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for FY 2020-2021 & FY 2021-2022" (**Second Reading**)

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to amend the budget to include \$60,000 to hire a facilitator for public engagement and to preform title and survey work regarding the removal of Pen Dam.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon

SECONDER: Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES: Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville

Council Member Steven Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to amend budget to increase council budget by 5%.

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

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to increase increase council salary by 5%.

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

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve a salary increase for the City Manager and City Clerk.

RESULT: Withdrawn
MOVER: Council Member Brian Jones-Chance
SECONDER: Council Member Anthony Morgan

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to increase the pay rate by 2.5% for the City Manger and City Clerk.

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

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, to allocate \$75,000 out of the \$140,000 received from state revenue sharing for recreational marijuana to Washtenaw County Barrier Busters.

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

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to call the question.

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

Council Member Steven Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to amend the budget in the amount of \$2,500 for an employee compensation study.

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

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to allocate \$25,000 from the \$140,000 of state revenue sharing for recreational marijuana to Ypsilanti Community Schools with \$5,000 earmarked for the arts program and \$20,000 to the sports program.

Mr. Jones Chance moved a friendly amendment to increase the earmark for arts to \$5,000 and decrease the earmark for athletics to \$15,000.

The Friendly Amendment was accepted.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to amend budget to include fulltime records clerk at the Police Department.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to add 3 additional officers to YPD.

Council Member Symanns moved to amend the amendment to decrease to 1 officers

Withdrawn

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to call the question.

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

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-105 As Amended

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 Second and Final Reading.

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

- c) Resolution No. 2021-106, approving the Audit Engagement Letter and Contract with Rhemann LLC.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-106

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the certain engagement letter between the City of Ypsilanti and Rehmann LLC for the annual audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, be and the same hereby is approved. The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City of Ypsilanti.

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

- d) Resolution No. 2021-107, approving the Board and Commission Reappointment Application and Process.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-107

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, city board and commissions are an essential part of a municipalities legislative function; and

Whereas, a more robust reappointment process is needed in order to ensure city boards and commissions are functioning at an optimal level; and

Whereas, there is currently no process or tool to properly evaluate a board or commissioner up for reappointment; and

Whereas, an application for reappointment could provide Council the needed information to make an informed decision when reappointing members; and

WHEREAS, each board or commission except; the Board of Ethics, Economic Development Corporation, have been assigned a Council Liaison; and

Whereas, the Council Liaison would have firsthand knowledge regarding the effectiveness of those up for reappointment; and

WHEREAS, nominations for reappointment will now be placed under the “Board and Commission – Liaison Report” in order for that Council Liaison to provide their recommendation for approval.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the board and commission reappointment application.

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

- e) Resolution No. 2021-108, creating the Pen Dam Public Engagement Committee and Hiring Woods and Watts to Moderate the Process.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2021-108

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS Peninsular Dam’s physical condition has deteriorated since the city of Ypsilanti assumed ownership, posing a threat to life downstream in the case of a breach,

WHEREAS City Council voted on May 7, 2019 to move forward with necessary steps for the removal of Pen Dam, committing \$500,000 for the project, to be coupled with and used to attract outside grants,

WHEREAS the Huron River Watershed Council has secured funding (\$330,000) from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Habitat Grant Program for the initial phase of assessment of sediment volume and condition, as well as engineering assessment for the two bridges that span the impoundment,

WHEREAS the DNR grant included a Public Engagement Plan which includes a series of Focus Group Engagement and Action Oriented Workshops and Townhall meeting, with a report of the findings,

WHEREAS, a working group consisting of Council Members Wilcoxon, Somerville, Symanns, Sustainability Commissioner Gibbon formulated an initial list of members, as outlined in the memo, to be expanded with input from the consultants and approval by council. Committee members were then contacted and confirmed their willingness to participate; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Committee is to provide oversight for the Public Engagement Plan and consultants, Woods&Watts, engaged by the City staff to execute the plan,

WHEREAS; The Pen Dam Public Engagement Committee will meet 12 times over the next year with the goal of each meeting lasting no longer than two hours. This term to be reviewed in October 2021 and extended by decision of council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF YPSILANTI THAT, the Ypsilanti city council approve the membership provided in the attached memo and direct the City Manager to hire a Woods&Watts to moderate the process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Ypsilanti City Council direct the City Manager to determine location of the meetings and establish the meeting schedule. Also, to direct the City Clerk to notice the meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

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

f) **Discussion Regarding the Downtown and Depot Town street closures. (added)**

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to allow live music events from now until labor day between 5 PM and 10 PM on Fridays and Saturdays only.

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

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to direct city staff to provide notice to residents of Depot Town and Downtown the process for filing a noise complaint.

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

g) **Discussion Regarding Summer Events - (added)**

Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Anthony Morgan to extend the meeting until 10:45 PM. On a voice vote the motion carried.

9 BOARD AND COMMISSION - NOMINATIONS

- a) **Downtown Development Authority - (added)**
New Appointment - (Exp. 7/1/2023)
Bryan Foley
425 Ainsworth Circle
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
- b) **Historic District Commission - (added)**
New Application - (Exp. 12/31/2024)
Stefan Szumko
232 N River St, Apt. 1
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

10 BOARD AND COMMISSION - REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. **Next meeting 5/27**
2. Human Relations Commission. **Working on goals**
3. Arts Commission. **Meeting this week**
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. **Pen Dam, Pen Park Presentation**
5. Sustainability Commission. **Presentation start a program for gardens. How front yard gardens would conform**
6. Historic District Commission. **None**
7. Planning Commission. **None**
8. Zoning Board of Appeals **None**

Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Steve Wilcoxon to extend the meeting until 10:59 PM. On a voice vote the motion carried.

11 LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update **None**
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **None**
3. Urban County **None**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **Meeting Thursday. Pop up vaccination**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool **Moving ahead w/ plans to open**

12 COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Brian Jones-Chance

- **Violence working group hosted a meeting. Looking to hold another on the 29th.**
- **Thanked for helping with the overturned port "a" john**

Wilcoxon

- **Thanked Christopher Jacobs for nice work on Pen Dam**

Morgan

- Stated he is on the water advisory board and discussed the lead-copper rule being on target to reach the 5% threshold.
- Received a call from Saline Schools about the YCS baseball team and its lack of players and equipment. He explained the moral is low on the team.

Symanns

- Asked for additional information regarding the incident in the College Heights Neighborhood.

Brown

- Thanked Bryan Foley and Brad Holman for assisting with the overturned port 'a' john at Parkridge Park

Somerville

- Stated Mark Higbee, a professor at EMU, will be holding a history event at Highland Cemetery about Black soldiers and the creation of Memorial day.

Steve Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Annie Somerville to extend the meeting until 11:15 PM. On a voice vote the motion carried.

13 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Attended YES Art Dept. Reception about the banners
- June 26 Rotary Club will have a shredding event
- Executive Board of MI Black Caucus- regarding wealth building. She would like council to have a session with staff.
- Food distribution from the Power of Life Foundation from Alabama.
- Thanked DPS for clean -up at Parkridge Park.

14 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Thanked Council for approval of the budget
- Stated she and staff will be meeting with the potential developer for Water Street.

15 COMMUNICATIONS

16 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 PM.

- a) Resolution No. 2021-109, adjourning the City Council Meeting.
- 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.