



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, November 1, 2022  
Council Chambers

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The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, Mayor Lois Richardson, Council Member Evan Sweet, Council Member Annie Somerville, and Council Member Brian Jones-Chance

**ABSENT:** None

### I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

### II ROLL CALL

### III INVOCATION

### IV PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- a) I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### V AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Pro-Tem moved, seconded by Mr. Jones Chance to approve the agenda. Change:

1. Mayor Richardson asked that Presentations be moved prior to Public Comment.

2. Mayor Richardson added Resolution No. 2022-255, a resolution In support of the Community Violence Intervention Team (CVIT).

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### VI CLOSED SESSIONS - 6:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM

- a) Closed Session connected with the negotiations of a collective bargaining agreement. - MCL 15.268 (c)
- b) Closed Session to consider a periodic personnel evaluation - MCL 15.268 (a)

**Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to adjourn to closed session at 6:03 pm**

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

**Council Member Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Wilcoxon to reconvene the meeting at 7:33 pm. On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting reconvened.**

**VII PRESENTATIONS - (MOVED)**

- a) Housing Bureau for Seniors - Property Tax Exemption - Yvonne Cudney
- b) Proclamation honoring Representative Ronnie Peterson - Mayor Richardson
- c) Proclamation in providing Lt. Governor Gilchrist honorary citizenship in Ypsilanti - Mayor Richardson
- d) Proclamation in honor of Native American Heritage Month - Mayor Richardson

**VIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

**Three members of the public spoke**

**IX CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Resolution No. 2022-246, approving the Consent Agenda.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2022-246**

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

- b) Resolution No. 2022-247, approving the minutes of the October 18, 2022 City Council Meeting.

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

**THAT the minutes of October 18, 2022 City Council Meeting be approved.**

- c) Resolution No. 2022-248, approving the Policies and Guidelines for the Arts Commission to use for public art in the City.

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

**WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Arts Commission was created through adoption of Ordinance 1342 on October 12, 2019; and**

**WHEREAS, under Section 79-3 c) of the Ypsilanti City Code, the Commission may promulgate guidelines to support art in the city and provide**

**procedures for soliciting and selecting public art and artistic events and for determining suitable locations for events to display art within the city; and**

**WHEREAS; during the September 8, 2022 Arts Commission voted to approve the attached Policies and Guidelines and are seeking the Council approval to be used by the Arts Commission to administer its use for public art in the city.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti, approve the attached Policies and Guidelines to be used by the Arts Commission.**

## **X RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

- a) Resolution No. 2022-249, approving a contract negotiated with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).

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

**WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement with the city and International Association of Fire Fighter (IAFF) expired on June 30, 2022; and**

**WHEREAS, the city and IAFF have been engaged in contract negotiations and reached an agreement on a new collective bargaining agreement for the term commencing on July 1, 2022, and terminating on June 30, 2027, with a three-year wage opener.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that the city council does hereby approve the new collective bargaining agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and IAFF for the term commencing on July 1, 2022, and terminating on June 30, 2027, as presented and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the city after approval by the City Attorney as to form.**

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution no. 2022-249**

<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, Evan Sweet, and Brian Jones-Chance
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Annie Somerville

- b) Resolution No. 2022-250, complying with PA 152 and adopting the Opt Out Option for the medical benefit plan coverage year.

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

**Whereas, the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti deems it necessary to comply with the State of Michigan 2011 Public Act 152, as amended; and**

**Whereas, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act as follows:**

- 1. Hard Cap Option, limits employer's total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels**

2. **80%/20% Option, limits employer's share of total health care costs to not more than 80%, requires annual majority vote**
3. **Opt Out Option, the City may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote; and**

**Whereas, the City Council has decided to adopt the Opt Out Option as its choice of compliance under the Act;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Council of the City of Ypsilanti elects to comply with 2011 Public Act 152, by approving and adopting the Opt Out Option for the medical benefit plan coverage year 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023.**

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2022-250**

<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, Evan Sweet, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance

- c) Resolution No. 2022-251, approving a one-year contract to offer Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Blue Care Network benefit plans to eligible participating employees and retirees and EHIM to administer the self-funded WRAP and prescription portions.

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

**Whereas, the Council of the City of Ypsilanti deems it to be in the best interest of the City to continue to keep health care costs in line with our budget; and**

**Whereas, the current Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network Plans will continue to keep health care costs in line with our budget while still offering additional benefits to the active employees and retirees that are eligible to participate.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Council of the City of Ypsilanti approve a one-year contract from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, to offer the following Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network benefit plans to all eligible participating employees and retirees: Community Blue PPO, Simply Blue PPO 3000, BCN HMO H.S.A., and Medicare Advantage.**

**FURTHER THAT, the Council of the City of Ypsilanti approves a one-year contract with EHIM to administer the self-funded WRAP and prescription portions of the BCBS Community Blue PPO program, and coordinate all benefits and costs with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2022-251**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon

<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Evan Sweet, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
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- d) Resolution No. 2022-252, approving the naming of the development at 220 N Park Dorsey Estates and roads included in the development after Mattie Dorsey.

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

**Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti recognizes the work of Mattie Dorsey and her accomplishment as the first African American woman elected to City Council; and**

**WHEREAS, the City recognizes that housing insecurity and affordability remain incredible challenges and that the Community Benefits Agreement with Renovare Homes is a historic milestone in addressing these problems; and**

**WHEREAS, The Community Benefits Agreement Committee and City Council public hearings received sufficient public comment in support of the decision to satisfy condition #8 in the Community Benefits Agreement with Renovare Homes;**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approve naming the newly created streets at Dorsey Estates in honor of Mattie Dorsey and those shall be known as "Dorsey Lane" and "Dorsey Avenue".**

**Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, and Brian Jones-Chance to approve Resolution No. 2022-253**

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

- e) Resolution No. 2022-253, calling upon corporations that express Self-Professed Values and engage in political advocacy in Michigan to take concrete steps to align their advocacy with those Self-Professed Values. (added)

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

**WHEREAS, in 1995, the Ypsilanti City Council established the Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission, now known as the HRC to protect the human and civil rights of the people of Ypsilanti;**

**WHEREAS, the mission of the HRC is tied to Ypsilanti's Non-Discrimination Ordinance which states that no individual be denied equal protection of the laws; nor shall any individual be denied the enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights;**

**WHEREAS, in April of 2021, the Ypsilanti City Council passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a recognized and commemorated annual holiday in part to continue celebrating the end of institutional slavery in America but also**

**highlight the centuries long and incomplete struggle to redeem the American creed of equality for all; and**

**WHEREAS, the resolution further acknowledged the central and shameful role of slavery and government-structured racism in our history, and the moral imperative that we do all we can, resolved and united, to counter slavery's enduring legacy of race-based discrimination and institutional racism;**

**WHEREAS, the voter suppression bills, passed by the Michigan state legislature in 2021 and subsequently vetoed by Governor Whitmer, have now evolved into a signature drive called Secure MI Vote that could soon empower the legislature to pass the same measures without the ability of the Governor to veto;**

**WHEREAS, the so-called Secure MI Vote initiative, submitted more than 500,000 signatures on Friday, July 29, 2022 to empower the state legislature to pass voter suppression over the Governor's veto;**

**WHEREAS, the City Council shares Governor Whitmer's concern that the effect of these initiatives and bills, if implemented, would be to improperly depress the vote in various communities, i.e., communities of color, in particular Black voters, older voters, college students, and working class people;**

**WHEREAS, many Michigan-based corporations have made strong public statements in support of Black Lives Matter, signed the Declaration of War on Racism, and signed a joint statement opposing voter suppression bills previously vetoed by the Governor (collectively, "Self-Professed Values");**

**WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that companies, including entities that are recipients of contracts with the City of Ypsilanti, make campaign contributions for their own business reasons, and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council believes that campaign contributions effected by corporations who have articulated Self-Professed Values to elected officials and candidates who support the voter suppression bills of 2021 and the so-called Secure MI Vote are actions that are inconsistent with those corporations' Self-Professed Values;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ypsilanti calls upon corporations that express Self-Professed Values and engage in political advocacy in Michigan to take concrete steps to align their advocacy with those Self-Professed Values, specifically, by means that include communication to lawmakers and candidates that emphasizes the importance of such person's support for the Self-Professed Values, and that corporations that express Self-Professed Values maintain or withhold support on the basis of such person's furtherance of same; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Administrator is directed to consider and report to City Council on the feasibility of including in the City's procurement policies an evaluation of whether a potential vendor's political activities are in furtherance of, or in opposition to, such vendor's Self-Professed Values.**

**Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2022-253**

<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, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Evan Sweet, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance

- f) Resolution No. 2022-255, supporting the recommendations of the Community Violence Intervention Team (CVIT). (added)

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

**WHEREAS, in response to a series of tragic gun violence in the summer of 2021 that resulted in the deaths of young men in the Ypsilanti area, Mayor Richardson brought together a diverse group of stakeholders with a focus addressing community violence and saving the lives of our young people; and**

**WHEREAS, this group of community members with lived experience, representatives from community organizations, and county, township, and city officials evolved into a collaborative known as the Community Violence Intervention team; and,**

**WHEREAS, violence is a public health issue with three leading causes of death for people ages 15-24 being unintentional injury, homicide, and suicide, and that most of these violent deaths are directly associated with firearms; and,**

**WHEREAS, exposure to firearm violence doubles the probability of a young person committing violence within two years, and a majority of gun violence in our community is retaliatory in nature; and,**

**WHEREAS, the Community Violence Intervention Team developed a plan to address intentional violent trauma and developed 14 recommendations for local governments, community organizations, and community members to adopt and work towards, including:**

- 1. Setting a clear goal of saving lives by stopping violence**
- 2. Identifying key people and place driving violence**
- 3. Creating a plan for engaging key people and places**
- 4. Engaging key people with empathy and accountability**
- 5. Addressing key locations by place-based investment and policing**
- 6. Placing responsibility for violence reductions efforts at the top of organizations**
- 7. Emphasizing healing with trauma informed approaches**
- 8. Investing in anti-violence workforce development**
- 9. Setting aside funding for new stakeholders and strategies**
- 10. Creating the Washtenaw County Violence Commission**
- 11. Building a Community Center in Eastern Washtenaw County**
- 12. Building a Community Mural & Safe Grieving Community Space**
- 13. Establish grief and loss community response protocol for violent deaths**
- 14. Establish a communication alert system inclusive of all working to cure violence**

**WHEREAS, this list of recommendations t collaboratively can be achieved if we work together as a community.**

**WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has invested \$30million into communities to combat the increases in violent crime and Federal Government has directed millions of dollars into funding community violence intervention and community violence intervention programs have been shown to reduce violence in some areas by as much as 60%,**

**NOW, THEREFORE, City Council of the City of Ypsilanti accepts this list of recommendations from the Community Violence Intervention Team, adopts the goal of saving lives by stopping violence as a top priority and supports the work of mediating conflicts, intervening before violence occurs, and connecting people to needed resources and instructs the City Manager to explore how our police department and other departments can enact this list of recommendations and work to make a meaningful impact to saving lives by stopping violence.**

**~~AND FURTHER, Council appropriates the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used by the City Manager to further these goals in collaboration with the County of Washtenaw.~~**

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to amend Resolution No. 2022-255 by striking the last paragraph of the Resolution.**

<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, Evan Sweet, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2022-255 as amended**

<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, Evan Sweet, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance

## **XI BOARD AND COMMISSION - NOMINATIONS**

### **a) Planning Commission - (Expiration 5/1/2025)**

Shawn White - New Member  
118 Bell St  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## **XII BOARD AND COMMISSION - COMMUNICATIONS**

## **XIII BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS**

1. Police Advisory Commission. - Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated the commission was provided an update on the Police Chief Hiring Process and approved a list of characteristics they would like to see included in the job posting.
2. Human Relations Commission. - None



3. Arts Commission.- None
4. Parks and Recreation Commission.- None
5. Sustainability Commission.- None
6. Historic District Commission.- None
7. Planning Commission.- None
8. Zoning Board of Appeals- None

#### **XIV LIAISON REPORTS**

1. SEMCOG Update - None
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study- None
3. Urban County- None
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - DDA Director Jacobs stated the DDA would be holding a movie in the park event.
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - None
6. Bicentennial Committee - Council Member Somerville stated the committee is adjusting plans for the New year's Event.

#### **XV COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

a) **Jones-Chance**

1. None

b) **Wilcoxon**

1. Stated there is a gas station that is in violation of a consent decree which is both frustrating to staff and residents and look forward to a resolution of this issue.

c) **Sommerville**

1. Stated that the city can do more to assist individuals to aging citizens and I hope that the city will match what is done in neighboring jurisdictions.

d) **Brown**

1. Thanked Mayor Richardson for her many years of service.

e) **Symanns**

1. Thanked Mayor Richardson for her years of service to the city.

f) **Sweet**

1. Wished the Clerk Department luck for the upcoming election.

#### **XVI COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

1. Thanked everyone for their well wishes and encouraged Council to use the Michigan Municipal League as Council Members, the organization is a wealth of information.
2. She stated while she will not be on Council she will still very much be a part of this community.

#### **XVII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

#### **XVIII COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority 2023 Budget

- b) Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority 2022 Summary of Activities

**XIX PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

One person spoke

**XX REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR**

**XXI ADJOURNMENT**

- a) Resolution No. 2022-254, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:51 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.