



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, November 15, 2022  
Council Chambers

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The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, Council Member Desirae Simmons, Council Member Roland Tooson, Council Member Michelle King, and Council Member Annie Somerville

**ABSENT:** None

### I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

### II ROLL CALL

### III 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.

### IV AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Symanns moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Somerville. The motion carried on a voice vote.

### V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Four members of the public made comments.

### VI CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2022-266, approving the consent agenda.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Desirea Simmons, RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That the following items be approved:**

- 1. Resolution No. 2022-267, approving the minutes of the November 1, 2022 City Council Meeting.**
- 2. Resolution No. 2022-268, approving special assessments for the 2022 Winter Tax Bill.**

**3. Resolution No. 2022-269, approving a delegate and alternate for the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA).**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Desirae Simmons
<b>AYES:</b>	Desirae Simmons, Annie Somerville, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King

- b) Resolution No. 2022-267, approving the minutes of the November 1, 2022 City Council Meeting.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Desirea Simmons, RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**THAT the minutes of November 1, 2022 City Council Meeting be approved.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Desirae Simmons
<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, Michelle King, and Annie Somerville

- c) Resolution No. 2022-268, approving special assessments for the 2022 Winter Tax Bill.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Desirea Simmons, RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That, the City Treasurer be authorized to levy and assess on the December 2022 tax roll the attached listing of unpaid bills totaling \$66,053.37.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Desirae Simmons
<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, Michelle King, and Annie Somerville

- d) Resolution No. 2022-269, approving a delegate and alternate for the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA).

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Desirae Simmons, WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is a member of the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council has the authority to appoint a delegate as detailed in the WRRMA Articles of Incorporation; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the citizens of the community will be served well by the appointments of DPS Director Bonnie Wessler to the role of WRRMA Delegate and General Foreman Gary Burchwell to the role of WRRMA Alternate.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE ITRESOLVED that DPS Director Bonnie Wessler is hereby appointed as WRRMA Delegate, and General Foreman Gary Burchwell is hereby appointed as WRRMA Alternate; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointees shall serve in the role during the next fiscal year or until his/her successor is appointed by this Council.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Desirae Simmons
<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, Michelle King, and Annie Somerville

## **VII RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

a Resolution No. 2022-270, approving the sidewalk café permits for 2023.  
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**Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti seeks to implement policies that protect the public health and provide for economic prosperity despite the challenging climate for business due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and**

**WHEREAS, outdoor dining is recognized as a valuable economic development opportunity that consumers have strongly preferred locally over the last several years; and**

**WHEREAS, the sidewalk café permits issued in 2022 and regulated by ordinance in the City of Ypsilanti will expire in November unless otherwise extended by resolution; and**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approves extending the 2022 sidewalk café permits to allow restaurants to continue outdoor dining options for patrons until May 2023 once the new application window for 2023 is set to begin.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Roland Tooson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>AYES:</b>	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, Michelle King, and Annie Somerville

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

1. **Police Advisory Commission** - Meeting was cancelled.
2. **Human Relations Commission** - None.
3. **Arts Commission** - None.
4. **Parks and Recreation Commission** - None.
5. **Sustainability Commission** - Commissioner Keith Michalowski resigned. A presentation was given by the Washtenaw County Conservation District.

6. **Historic District Commission** - None.
7. **Planning Commission** - None.
8. **Zoning Board of Appeals** - None.

## **IX LIAISON REPORTS**

1. **SEMCOG Update** - None.
2. **Washtenaw Area Transportation Study** - Next meeting is November 16, 2022.
3. **Urban County** - Update on projects for the Community Development Block Grant.
4. **Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority** - Making headway on strategic priorities.
5. **Friends of Rutherford Pool** - Small grant approval.
6. **Bicentennial Committee** - Update on working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Ypsi Real.

## **X COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

**a) Tooson**

None

**b) Symanns**

1. Welcomed the new members of City Council.

**c) Somerville**

1. Welcomed the new members of City Council.
2. Nominated Shawn White to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Nomination was seconded by Council Member Wilcoxen.
3. Nominated Brian Jones-Chance to the Planning Commission. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Symanns.

**d) Wilcoxen**

1. Provided an update regarding the Pen Dam removal. He stated that there are several grant opportunities available, and the Huron River Watershed Council has already received one grant. The proposed timeline for dewatering and deconstruction is sometime in 2024.

**e) Simmons**

1. Stated interest in learning more about the issue regarding solar paneling as brought up during audience participation.
2. Stated that with the change in the state legislature it is time to begin examining rent control preemption.

**f) King**

None

## **XI COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

1. Welcomed the new Council and stated excitement for the opportunities ahead.

## **XII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

1. Welcomed the new Council members.

2. Stated the Finance Director is working to prepare new data on funding available for the dam removal project.
3. Stated a person must manage the parking system as being proposed by the Downtown Development Authority for the Frog island lot.
4. Stated the Police Department is actively recruiting and two individuals are being sent to the academy, and an officer was recently hired.
5. Stated that Joyce Parker has been decided to facilitate the Police Chief search.

### **XIII COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) Fire and Police Pension Board Pension Grant Program

### **XIV PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

Four members of the public made comments.

### **XV REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR**

### **XVI ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

- a) Resolution No. 2022-271, adjourning the City Council Meeting.  
**Council member Symanns moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Somerville. The motion carried on a voice vote.**
- 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