

COUNCIL INFORMATION LETTER

September 2022

APRIL 25, 2022

City of Ypsilanti
Frances McMullan, City Manager



City Manager's Office

It's hard to believe that it's already October. The days are getting shorter and colder, and we know the Autumn season is here. Bonnie Wessler is now the Director of the Department of Public Services. She officially accepted the role on September 19th, and I'm confident she will fill this role with the same skills she has contributed to our community.



- Labor Negotiations with IAFF and TPOAM were successful and have been concluded. We will begin negotiations with POAM soon.
- The Chief of Police, Tony DeGiusti's last day was September 30th. Lt. Brent Yuchasz will serve as interim.
- A search for chief of police has not begun, a national search with the assistance of the Michigan Municipal League will be conducted.
- Training for Ypsilanti Police department has been postponed due to sudden illness of the selected presenter.
- We are still exploring retention and recruitment strategies for city employees, specifically Police and Fire Department.
- We are continually researching wage structures and comparing them to surrounding municipalities. Wages remain a crucial issue in retention.
- On September 9th, we had another meeting with our insurance provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield, looking at rates for the renewal process.
- On September 29th, we met with the DDA and Depot Town businesses to discuss the Frog Island parking.

City Clerk

1. Elections
 - a. November General Election
 - i. Staff has currently recruited 122 Election Inspectors with hopes to reach 136 prior to the deadline for inspector approval. This would allow for 12 at each precinct and 16 for the Absentee Voter County Board.
 - ii. The Ballot Box for the EMU campus has been delivered and will be installed in early October.
 - iii. Testing of Election Equipment will occur on September 26th with the Public Accuracy test being preformed at 10 am on that day.
 - iv. The last day to register to vote except for in-person registration in order to qualify for the November General Election is October 24th.
 - v. All MOVE ballots have been sent to overseas civilians and military members that have requested one prior to the deadline.
 - vi. Absentee Ballots will be mailed not later than September 29th.
2. Administrative Hearings Bureau
 - a. Staff is continuing to process liens for properties with unpaid fines.
3. Boards and Commissions – Vacancies (as of September 23, 2022).

Board	Membership Type	Last Name

Art Commission	Commissioner	Vacant
Art Commission	Commissioner	Vacant
Art Commission	Commissioner	Vacant
Art Commission	Youth Member	Vacant
Art Commission	Youth Member	Vacant
Dangerous Bldgs	Dangerous Buildings Officer	Vacant
Ethics	Board Member	Vacant
Historic District	Commissioner	Vacant
Historic District	Commissioner	Vacant
Human Relations	Youth Member	Vacant
Human Relations	Youth Member	Vacant
Police Advisory	Commissioner	Vacant
Police Advisory	Commissioner	Vacant
Police Advisory	Commissioner	Vacant
Police Advisory	Youth Member	Vacant Youth
Police Advisory	Youth Member	Vacant Youth
Parks & Recreation	Commissioner	Vacant
Parks & Recreation	Commissioner	Vacant
Parks & Recreation	Commissioner	Vacant
Parks & Recreation	Youth Member	Vacant
Sustainability	Youth Member (1 year)	Vacant
Sustainability	Youth Member (1 year)	Vacant
Zoning Board of Appeals	Commissioner	Vacant
Art Commission	Youth Member	Vacant

Finance Department

Accounting and Finance

- Received our 2022 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from GFOA.
- Attended the MGFOA Fall Conference at Grand Rapids and was nominated to serve on the Board for FY 22-23 and FY 23-24.
- Conducted interviews for the Finance Generalist II Position.
- Attended meetings with KnowBe4 regarding implementation of cyber security trainings for employees.

- Attended IAFF and TPOAM contract negotiations.

Treasury

- Conducted interviews for the Finance Generalist II Position.
- Attended the MAPERS (Michigan Association of Public Employees Retirement System) at Mackinac Island.
- Tax Collection as of 9/14/2022.

Tax Year	Tax Levy	Tax Collection as of 9/14	Percentage
2022	\$ 9,819,396	\$ 9,002,862	91.68%
2021	\$9,152,903	\$ 8,521,962	93.10%

- After 9/14, the city will charge 3% penalty and .5% interest for every month starting Oct 1st.

Human Resources

- Filled Finance Generalist II and DPS Director positions via internal promotions.
- Conducting interview processes for City Planner and Freighthouse Event Coordinator positions.
- Currently recruiting for Clerk-Finance Generalist, Public Services Laborer, Police Officer, Fire Fighter/EMT positions, Equipment Operator positions and newly created Economic Development and Equity Coordinator position.

Planning & Development

Planning

- City Planner interviews are scheduled for six candidates.
- September ZBA Meeting granted variance to 319 N Huron St for appeal of administrative decision about abandoned auto repair use
- ZBA Meeting scheduled for October 3rd to consider variance request at 220 S Huron
- Planning Commission and City Council will hold a joint meeting in October to discuss Marijuana Moratorium. No cases in September.

HDC

- No meetings held in September

Community Development

- Warming Center planning and coordination with Shelter Association of Washtenaw County for 2022-2023 season.
- Freighthouse Event Coordinator interviews scheduled.
- The Ypsilanti Freighthouse hosted a successful and well attended Bicentennial Homecoming fundraiser event in September.
- Spin is set to deploy once a \$5,000 bond is paid. We expect to see this new franchise permit operator in full force beginning in October.

- Ann Arbor Community Foundation grant submitted on behalf of Parkridge Community Center for coding and STEM education program centered around video games for high school aged students.
- October is a big month for community events including Ypsi Glow, All Hallows, DIYPSI, Holy Bones Festival, and the Rocky Horror Motion Picture Show movie at Frog Island Park.

DDA

- \$50,000 allocated for new solar grant rebates in Downtown.
- Two new trash cans approved for the 500 block of West Cross.
- \$500 YDL Halloween Candy giveaway sponsorship approved.
- New dog waste stations for Downtown approved for \$1,500.
- DDA Equity Needs Assessment with Thrive and Shine approved for \$12,000.
- 2022 Holiday Storefront Competition approved for \$3,000.

Economic Development

- Staff continues to coordinate 945 Clark Rd and 220 N Park predevelopment.
- Meeting with MEDC, EGLE, SPARK, and Washtenaw County to discuss incentives at 2 W Michigan and 300 W Michigan proposed developments.

Department of Public Services

- Continuing a peaceful transition of power in the Department of Public Services.
- Received bids for the forest street bridge rehabilitation; bids were 20%+ high. MDOT will be moving forward with this award.
- Received bids for the 2022 Metro Ramp program and the 2022 CDBG Projects (ramps & accessibility). Metro Ramps were awarded at the 9/13 Council and we anticipate CDBG work to be on the 10/18 Council agenda.
- Worked with SEMCOG to submit the signals portion of the Huron River Drive project as part of a regional application to the new Safe Streets and Routes for All (SS4A) federal grant program
- Continued coordination with MDOT and YCUA on 2022-23 infrastructure improvements (cityofypsilanti.com/RoadRenovation) – thank you for your patience with this work! Work will begin on North Huron as early as the week of 10/3.
- Working to ready DPS for the winter season.
- Resolved an SSO event.
- Met with WCC and partners regarding partnering on training opportunities
- Began working on improvements to the DPS building, including furniture replacement and electrical repairs.
- Began working with City Hall stakeholders on security updates to the building in light of recent incidents.
- Currently have four Equipment Operator vacancies, and two employees on restricted duties.

Police Department

Personnel:

Probationary Officer Renaud has been certified for solo patrol and has been assigned to a shift.

Activity:

Statistics for the current period reflected by the past three months with seven (7) days remaining in September.

	July	August	September
Arrests	47	31	13
Tickets	41	66	38
Calls for Service	1230	1206	913
Reports	230	210	160

9/10 – Lieutenant Yuchasz attended the Heritage Park Association Meeting

9/17- Chief DeGiusti participated in the Walking While Black Love is the Answer Day

9/22 – Lt Yuchasz attended the YPAC meeting.

Fire Department



September 30th, 2022

City of Ypsilanti Fire Department

Activity Report:

Training Update:

	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022
Fire and EMS Calls	258	258	233
Inspections	11	7	11
Non-emergency requests	2	4	4

The following trainings/classes occurred during the month of September:

- Driver's training
- EMU campus
- E-3 pump operations
- Forcible Entry
- Hose line deployment
- Technical Rescue training
- Hazmat
- Fast Board victim removal

Apparatus/Building Update:

- Annual hose testing completed.
- AC unit replaced. The new unit will be more efficient and will provide better air quality, work is still ongoing, and some updates are still needed.
- Air ducts and return air systems cleaned.
- Bay 3 repairs completed.
- Updating Exit signs and fire suppression systems throughout the station.
- T-1 OOS 09/19/22
- T-1 In Service 09/22/22

Personnel:

- Reviewing applications to fill 2 vacant positions. Rehired FF Cameron Lieffers on 09/12/2022, 2 positions to fill.

Notes:

- Station and apparatus deconned weekly.

Overall Department Status Update:

- Chief Hobbs and FM pope attended the Fall Mi. Fire Inspectors Conference.
- Actively working on approved Fire Station Capital Improvements.