



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - ONE SOUTH HURON STREET
TUESDAY, June 27, 2017
5:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting called was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Bashert	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Edmonds	Present
Council Member Richardson	Absent		

III. INVOCATION –

Mayor Edmonds asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

"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. INTRODUCTIONS –

None

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL-

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Council Member Bashert to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved as submitted.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Les Heddle, Heritage Festival Chair, stated tonight's agenda includes a resolution to reduce street closure fees to FY2016-2017 levels, which he encouraged Council to approve. The Heritage Festival would be particular impacted because the street is closed for three days amounting to \$3,000. He added this year's festival will be as large as it has been in a decade and there is not away to increase the size without a street closure. Also, golf carts are going to be used to transport individual with accessibility issues and would not be able to use the tridge. In order for the purpose of the golf carts to be achieved there is a need for road closures. He said this can be solved in two ways; either by getting a fee rollback specific to the Heritage Festival or a general, or the City sponsoring the event. This would solve the issues the Heritage Festival but he still objects to the fee being so large for other events.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS –

None

IX. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

None

X. CONSENT AGENDA –

None

XI. MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, DISCUSSIONS -

1. Resolution No. 2017-159, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT, the following individuals be appointed to the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions as indicated below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Evan Dority 908 Pleasant Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (Reappointment)	Board of Ethics	5/1/2022

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt
SECONDED BY: Council Member Bashert

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2017-159 was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Council Member Richardson	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Bashert	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Richardson, Brown) VOTE: Carried

2. Resolution No. 2017 – 160, amending the FY 2017-18 Fee Schedule by reducing street closure fees to FY2016-17 levels.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the FY 17-18 fee schedule be amended by reducing street closure fees to FY 2016-17 levels and collect such fees effective immediately.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Bashert
SECONDED BY: Council Member Murdock

Council Member Murdock stated this amendment to the fee schedule would adjust fees to the FY2016-17 levels. During the last meeting he stated the recently approved fees would be prohibitive for some events.

Mayor Edmonds stated she thinks the Heritage Festival often has a different set of fees, or would the new fees apply to the festival. Economic Development Director Beth Ernat responded she is uncertain at this time how the fees would be applied to the Heritage Festival. She added this would be a question for the Special Events Coordinator.

Council Member Robb stated the reason for the Fee Schedule is to collect funds to cover costs of providing a service. He said leaving the current fee at \$160 does not cover cost, and asked if \$1,000 is prohibitive what amount is reasonable. During the last meeting staff told Council it would produce the reasoning behind raising the fee to \$1,000, was that completed. Ms. Ernat responded since the fee was approved she did not complete that analysis. Mr. Robb responded it would be useful to understand what would be a reasonable fee.

Council Member Robb stated if the Special Events Policy exempts Washington Street it should also exempt the 0 block of W. Cross and E. Cross. Ms. Ernat responded the biggest issue for Cross is the business community does not support the closure. She explained when a street is closed it requires an hour long consultation with the Police Department, then the closure is sent to the DDA and Community Development to notify every business with frontage on that street and allowing for a five day comment period. All comments staff receives from businesses is to not close the street and then the street is still closed. The notifications required costs postage and staff time to receive the same answer every time there is a request. She stated staff receives no objections to the closing of Washington, plus parking and deliveries are both done at the rear of the building and would not be effected. Her largest issue is sending notices to businesses to get input then closing the street, essentially stating the City does not care about their objections.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the \$1,000 would only be applied to Cross, Huron, and Michigan Avenue. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Robb stated he would like to amend the Special Events Fees for parking to \$2,500 a spot. Mayor Edmonds asked the City Attorney if it is appropriate amendment. City Attorney John Barr responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Robb moved to add increasing the Payment in Lieu of Parking to \$2,500 a spot.

Council Member Murdock asked what the current fee is. Ms. Ernat responded \$600. Mr. Murdock asked when it would go into effect. Council Member Robb responded July 1st. Ms. Ernat stated if Council wishes to make this amendment she suggested an annual payment, of \$50 to \$100 per space. The fees should then be used to create additional parking.

Mayor Edmonds asked if businesses do not have the space or resources to provide parking would they be responsible. Ms. Ernat stated this policy requires a business unable to provide the required parking additional spaces could be purchased. Ms. Edmonds state she sees this as a possible barrier to building owners develop unused space in building's upper floors. Ms. Ernat responded she sees it as an opportunity because this would only apply to new developments, and it should be recognized parking must be supplied if rental space is developed. Council Member Robb stated this policy would allow for additional parking to be installed, and it is more of a barrier to development to not have parking available.

Council Member Robb withdrew his amendment.

Council Member Robb moved, seconded by Council Member Bashert to change the Payment in Lieu of Parking Policy to \$150 annual fee per spot.

Council Member Murdock stated many places in the downtown do not have parking, and residents in the downtown have the ability to purchase permits. In Depot Town residents are not required to purchase permits, and asked why. Council Member Robb replied that is a policy decision. Mayor Edmonds responded Depot Town parking lots do not have meters with time limits to necessitate parking passes. Mr. Murdock asked if that creates a commercial advantage for Depot Town. Ms. Ernat stated she is seeking funding to complete a comprehensive parking study to address those concerns. Mr. Robb stated Council could make it illegal to park in downtown lots from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. and the same thing can be done in Depot Town; Frog Island Park and the Maple St. lots.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2017-159 was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Council Member Richardson	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Bashert	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Richardson, Brown) VOTE: Carried

Council Member Robb moved, seconded by Council Member Murdock to add a \$500 fine for violation of the Truck Route Ordinance.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2017-159 was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Council Member Richardson	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Bashert	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Richardson, Brown) VOTE: Carried

Council Member Robb stated Ms. Ernat brought up a fascinating point that allowing a street to be closed for \$160 could potentially lead to Cross St. being closed for an entire weekend. Mayor Edmonds stated Cross Street businesses have a reported substantial losses when the street is closed. Mr. Robb asked for clarification on the Mayor's stance on this topic. Ms. Edmonds responded she is simply concurring with Ms. Ernat regarding the issue of business outcry. She added it makes sense to increase the fee on certain streets with a mechanism in place to navigate around the fee for certain events.

Council Member Murdock stated Cross Street is a major street and if there is an increase would it effectively shut down cruise night. Mayor Edmonds responded there should be a mechanism for people to make case by case arguments for lower fees.

Council Member Bashert suggested a fee between \$160 and \$1,000, possibly \$350. That amount would cover more of City expense and sees certain events receiving less push back.

Council Member Bashert moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt to set street closure fees at \$350.

Council Member Robb asked if this will make the Ypsilanti Cruise Night pay \$350 a week are \$350 for the duration of the summer. Mayor Edmonds responded in general repeating events it is a onetime fee. Mr. Robb replied special exemptions were made for Growing Hope and the Cruise Nights, it is not a policy.

Ms. Ernat proposed a Memorandum of Understanding for reoccurring events and a fee would be set. Council Member Bashert proposed charging Heritage Festival \$160 for this year, and next year make that increase because it is not fair to increase it at this point. Mr. Robb replied he is not entirely sure he agrees with that, because it's an opportunity to sponsor an event.

Council Member Robb asked what would be classified as a reoccurring event, would it equate to \$350 a month or a summer. Ms. Ernat responded that is a policy decision for Council. Council Member Murdock stated when the Downtown Association of Ypsilanti wanted to hold a reoccurring event they were not able to get a special deal. Ms. Ernat replied reoccurring events would be brought to Council for approval. Council Member Bashert suggested a reoccurring event fee.

Council Member Vogt asked if additional language is needed to indicate closures are subject to Council approval. Council Member Robb responded no.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2017-159 was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Council Member Richardson	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Bashert	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Richardson, Brown) VOTE: Carried

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2017-159 was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Council Member Richardson	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Bashert	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Richardson, Brown) VOTE: Carried

- Resolution No. 2017-155, approving Ordinance No. 1289 an ordinance to amend budget appropriations to by Department and major organizational unit for Fiscal Years 2016-2017 & 2017-2018.

Council Member Robb moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt to remove Resolution No. 2017-155 off the table.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Resolution No. 2017-155 was removed from the table.

**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 Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018", be approved on Second and Final Reading.**

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb
SECONDED BY: Council Member Vogt

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Council Member Bashert to incorporated everything in pages one through nine for FY 2016-2017 and FY 2017-18 Budgets as amendments with the following changes; add

membership dues for the Police Accreditation in the amount of \$7,000 and \$20,000 for the Penn Dam study.

Council Member Vogt asked if the motion included adding a Police Officer. Council Member Murdock responded no, for Police only the body camera program and the police accreditation would be added. Council Member Robb asked if it includes the parking ticket revenue. Mr. Murdock responded it includes the data provided by the City Clerk. City Clerk Frances McMullan responded the projection was decreased by \$91,000 because staff felt it best to use 53% collection rate rather than 75%. Mr. Robb stated the City is getting prepared to release a Request for Legislation (RFL) to collected on past due tickets, which is why he felt 75% was reasonable. Mayor Edmonds stated it is better to estimate conservatively and adjust if the revenue produce higher returns. Mr. Robb stated the reason he had a 75% return is because people would need to pay their tickets before renewing their license every four years. Ms. McMullan stated Council Member Robb's data was used however, his returns were based off of a 75% return and staff felt it best to use actual. Mr. Robb stated if it is the goal of the City to collect only 53% it would not be necessary to release an RFP for a collections company. Council Member Bashert agreed with Council Member Robb because the City plans to hire a professional company which will increase revenue. Ms. Edmonds responded it will take time to get that company into place. Ms. McMullan responded it is the decision of Council what return rate it wishes to project.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there are other items Council would like to see in the budget, because Council Member Murdock's amendment will result in a \$10,000 surplus.

Council Member Vogt stated he understands Council Member Robb is intent of achieving 75% collection but it would not result in restoring any of the cuts because the possible return is unknown. Council Member Robb replied the problem is about accountability for staff. Ms. McMullan replied accountability for whom because it is up to the customer when they pay. Mr. Robb stated right now the City has a negligent system that does not collect properly if that is fixed it creates additional revenue. Ms. McMullan disagreed that the system is negligent and not accountable. She said the first step has increased revenue from tickets and staff is heading in the right direction. Ms. Edmonds agreed.

City Manager McClary stated he agrees keeping the numbers where they are, and if they appear to be more optimistic adjustments can be made. If revenue estimates are not conservative additional cuts might be required in midyear.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2017-159 was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	No
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Council Member Richardson	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Bashert	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 4 NO: 1 (Robb) ABSENT: 2 (Richardson, Brown) VOTE: Carried

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2017-159 as amended was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	No
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Council Member Richardson	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Bashert	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 4 NO: 1 (Robb) ABSENT: 2 (Richardson, Brown) VOTE: Carried

XII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

XIII. LIASON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
- C. Urban County
- D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority
- E. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance
- F. Police-Community Relations/Black Lives Matter Joint Task Force
- G. Friends of Rutherford Pool
- H. Housing Equity Leadership Team
- I. Economic Development Coordinating Committee

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Robb

- Asked that they City Manager and Clerk provide Council with their accomplishments by the end of July for evaluation.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

Nomination

Downtown Development Authority

Adam Gainsley
409 N Adams
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Reappointment)

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Provided an update on the hiring of a Human Resources Manager.
- Stated City administrative offices will be closed for the July 4th Holiday.
- Updates on the train station project.
- Cross Street two way configuration research update.
- And information regarding the Towne Center.

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS –

- Stated she performed her 75th wedding this morning.

XVIII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

XIX. ADJOURNMENT –

Resolution No. 2017-161, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or two (2) members of Council.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Bashert
SECONDED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.