



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

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

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Brown	Present	Council Member Symanns	Present
Council Member Morgan	Present	Council Member Wilcoxon	Present
Council Member Murdock	Absent	Mayor Bashert	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	(7:04) Present		

Council Member Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Morgan to excuse the absence of Council Member Murdock.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the absence was excused.

III. INVOCATION –

Mayor Bashert 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. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Morgan to approve the agenda.

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

VI. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Bashert introduced the following individuals; City Clerk Frances McMullan, City Attorney John Barr, City Manager Darwin McClary, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, and Police Advisory Commission Sue Melke.

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

~~Regional Waste Authority Articles of Incorporation.~~ **(Removed)**

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Kelly Gray, 528 Greenlawn, stated she received a parking ticket with a fine of \$62.58, which she was told needs to be paid in order to appeal the ticket. She added the Residential Parking Signs posted are very small and difficult to read. She does not believe she is responsible for the ticket.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

— Asked if a person must pay the citation in order to appeal a ticket.

City Clerk Frances McMullan replied that is not the city's procedure. Ms. Gray stated that is what she was told by the court. Mayor Bashert stated the complaint is not relevant to the city procedure. Ms. McMullan responded in the affirmative, and explained the city sends all appeals to the court. She asked if the appeal was for the decision made by the court. Ms. Gray responded in the affirmative. Ms. Bashert informed Ms. Gray the court is outside the purview of the city. City Manager McClary asked if Ms. Gray had spoken with the Chief Judge at the District Court. Ms. Gray responded her understanding is that is what she would need to pay to do. Mr. McClary replied the Chief Judge can address the administrative concerns.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked what court heard her case. Ms. Gray responded the court on Michigan Ave. Ms. Richardson stated when she had a ticket she appealed it and was not required to pay at the time. Ms. Gray replied she would like to appeal the determination of the court.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA –

Resolution No. 2019-001

1. Resolution No. 2019-002, approving minutes of December 4 and December 11, 2018.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of December 4th and December 11th, 2018 be approved.

2. Resolution No. 2019-003, approving budget amendment for Peninsular Dam Removal Project.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti budget for FY 2017/2018 included the Penn Dam removal feasibility study revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the project was not completed and expensed as of June 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the project needs to be reprogrammed in FY 2018/2019; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approves the budget amendments worksheet for FY 2018-2019 as attached.

3. Resolution No. 2019-004, approving Ordinance No. 1329, "Private Frontage Design for Single-Story Commercial and Large Single-Story Commercial Building Types" to create an additional commercial frontage designation for Large Single Story Commercial and Single Story Commercial building types in the form-based districts, called Thoroughfare Commercial, numbered 122-485. ***(Second Reading)***

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in protecting the walkability and health of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in promoting and supporting local businesses and their growth; and

WHEREAS, Planning Commission has found that the strict requirements of §122-484 to be not well-suited to certain locations; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has recommended the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance change that would provide flexibility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the ordinance entitled Private Frontage Design for Single Story Commercial and Large Single-Story Commercial building types on Second and Final Reading.

4. Resolution No. 2019-005, approving appointment 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>EXPIRATION</u>
Jennifer Eastridge 1144 Roosevelt Ypsilanti, MI 48197	YDDA	7/1/2022

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

SECONDED BY: Council Member Brown

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the Consent Agenda was approved, Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson dissented.

XII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2019-006, approving contract with Michigan Office Supply (MOS) for managed print services.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the attached contract documents for managed print services is hereby approved, and that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the same on behalf of the City of Ypsilanti, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Morgan

SECONDED BY: Council Member Symanns

City Planner Bonnie Wessler provided an explanation to why this has been submitted for approval.

Mayor Bashert asked if the plan is to migrate to new printers as the current ones end their lifespan. Ms. Wessler replied some will be replaced immediately and some at the end of their lifespan.

Council Member Morgan asked if there is a way to reduce the paper used by the city. Ms. Wessler replied many boards and commission have switched to electronic packets. Staff typically only prints when it is necessary, some city owned printers do not have the option to print double side and others are not energy efficient. This change would save money in the long run. Mr. Morgan asked if the city uses black and white printers or color. Ms. Wessler responded the city uses both, and the cost is different for color and black and white prints. Mr. McClary replied staff changed procedures to have to manually change the device in order to print color.

Council Member Brown asked the status of moving toward paperless Council packets and other technologies to save on printing. Mr. McClary stated City Clerk McMullan is working with iCompass to migrate to paperless packets. He stated the tentative date to go live with the system is January 22nd, however, he is not certain if that is still the case.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the Clerk's Department is working toward purchasing tablets for Council. Mr. McClary replied he and the City Clerk will be working together to purchase those devices. Ms. McMullan stated she would review the final templates on Thursday, January 10th. Council and staff would then be receiving training to use the software.

Mayor Bashert asked if the contract is for five years. Ms. Wessler responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Wilcoxen asked if the savings would be roughly a \$2,000 a year. Ms. Wessler responded in the affirmative. Mr. Wilcoxen asked if it would cover all consumables. Ms. Wessler responded the only consumable this contract contains is the toner, paper costs will still be a part of the normal budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked the total cost of the contract is. MOS Representative Shane Collins responded the contract is for \$1,045.83 per month.

Council Member Morgan stated when the older machines are phased out will they be able to be sold. Mr. Collins responded typically once a machine gets to that point there is little resale value.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2019-006 was as follows:

Council Member Brown	Yes	Council Member Symanns	Yes
Council Member Morgan	Yes	Mayor Bashert	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Absent	Council Member Wilcoxen	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Murdock) VOTE: Carried

2. Resolution No. 2019-007, approving Ordinance No. 1331, an ordinance to permit accessory structures in the form-based districts (CN, CN-Mid, CN-SF, etc) to be a maximum of 25' in height or to match the height of the primary structure, whichever is lesser. ***(Second Reading)***

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in protecting the historic fabric of the community and in providing housing opportunities for its residents; and

WHEREAS, two-story outbuildings were common historically prior to the dominance of the automobile; and

WHEREAS, two-story outbuildings are well-situated to accommodate accessory dwelling units; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has recommended the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance change;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the ordinance entitled Accessory Building Height Increase in the Form-Based Districts on Second and Final Reading.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Symanns
SECONDED BY: Council Member Wilcoxon

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked how this would relate to the ordinance that was approved on the Consent agenda. Ms. Wessler responded they are not the same.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2019-007 was as follows:

Council Member Brown	Yes	Council Member Symanns	Yes
Council Member Morgan	Yes	Mayor Bashert	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Absent	Council Member Wilcoxon	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Murdock) VOTE: Carried

XIII. LIAISON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update - None
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
- C. Urban County - None
- D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - None
- E. Ypsilanti Youth Safety Collaboration – Council Member Morgan stated he is completed some background work with local organizations. His current focus is to find solutions to meet some of the needs in this community for young people that do not have places to go, which has caused tension. January 10th at 11:00 am AAATA will hold a meeting regarding how people have been disturbed on its bus system. He has been working to recruit mentors to work on his committee.

Council Member Brown asked where the meeting is. Council Member Morgan replied the meeting is Thursday, January 10th at the AAATA Headquarters on Industrial at 11:00 a.m. He said it is clear young people need certain guidance, and he wants to ensure young people still feel valuable in this community. Mayor Bashert commended Council Member Morgan on his work with this committee.

- F. Friends of Rutherford Pool – Mayor Bashert stated Rutherford Pool received the DNR Grant to remodel the pool. There will be a meeting on January 15th at 8:30 am to discuss next steps.
- G. Housing Equity Leadership Team – None

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Brown

- Asked for an update regarding the staff levels in the city, and how recruitment is going for those available positions.

Mr. McClary responded the Human Resources Manager is working on temporary and permanent solutions for the Finance/Treasury Department. The city will need to rely on temporary staffing

on an interim basis. He mentioned staff has reached out to Amy Cell, a local recruiting firm, for the hiring of the Fire Chief and DPS Director Positions. Staff is pleased with the work performed by that company. Council Member Brown asked the status on the other open positions, and when these positions should be filled. Mr. McClary responded he hopes to have all the vacant department head positions filled by February. He will need to do some research prior to providing fill dates. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she has been a Council Member for eighteen years and never has she seen staff turnover, especially department heads, like this. She asked what is driving these resignations, there must have been a shift to cause such an upheaval.

Council Member Brown asked what the exit interview process is, and how the information is being utilized. Mr. McClary responded each particular situation is unique and does not think getting into specifics is appropriate in open session. Generally, two department heads retired after being with the city for thirty years. Other employees are leaving because of personal family issues, and another employee has accepted a job with another organization. Council Member Richardson state she is not interested in individual personal reasons, however, she wants to understand why there is such an upheaval. Mr. McClary stated there are a number of issues that have come together at the same time, and he will discuss that with Council.

Wilcoxon

- Asked how the financing would look in repairing the dam over ten years.

Mr. McClary responded the cost estimate for repair is just over \$800,000. It could be paid for by either drawing down city reserves, or the project could be bonded which would spread out the costs.

- He asked for an update regarding the funding for the train platform.

Richardson

- Stated typically when there is a holiday the trash pickup would be pushed back a day, however, during Christmas the trash was picked up on that Friday on Jefferson. If there is going to be a change people need to be notified to avoid any confusion.
- She asked the City Manager when OHM asked to begin the work on the Train study. She asked why there was a delay in bringing OHM on for the study.

Mr. McClary replied funding was not available until July 1st for that project. Council Member Richardson replied if Council did not allocated \$100,000 of the Mental Health Millage to the train Council would still be waiting on action. Mr. McClary replied Council would have had to appropriate funding for the study.

- She asked for an update the city's IT services, and mentioned the county no longer wants to provide that service to the city.

Mr. McClary responded he is still working with ABA Data for a migration plan.

- She asked for an update on live streaming of meetings.

Mr. McClary replied he is hoping for spring of this year, but there are many issues that need to be resolved.

- She asked if the tablets would be available for Council in the near future.

Mr. McClary responded the tablets are the easy part of the process. They only need to access the iCompass system.

- She asked if the dam budget includes the donation from the Friends group.

Mr. McClary responded in the affirmative.

Morgan

- Stated he has noticed there is very little social capital and transference of power to the young people in this community. There is no plan or goal to increase youth participation and he would like to change that. Regardless of what it is you rarely see a young person in the position of power.

Council Member Brown stated she has been coming to meetings since she was young. She also has had mentors in both high school and college. When she first came to Council it was her goal to start a youth council and have members on boards and commission. However, the formation of a youth council has never transpired because of city finances. The city does not need much money in order to engage the young people of this city. She urged Council to think about this and move in a new direction for youth engagement and empowerment. When she was seventeen Mayor Schreiber held a 2020 Taskforce and appointed her to it, even if it begins that way she is in favor. She committed to working with Council Member Morgan in this program. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson congratulated Council Member Morgan on this program, and it is something she supports. She would like to see young members of this community to move ahead. The youth are the future but they are also the now, and if not listened to now they will not be there in the future.

- He doesn't believe the lowest bid is also the best quality and the city might want to bite the bullet for things the city needs.

Symanns

- She suggested the city use an employment satisfaction survey, otherwise everything is pure speculation.
- She asked about the drop dead date of the Department of Environmental Quality for the dam.
- She asked for an itemized estimate for the repairs.
- She is interested in learning more about roads in the city.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the house on S. Grove needs to come down, it has been burned out for almost a year.

Council Member Brown asked if city email can be accessed from mobile devices. Mr. McClary responded it depends on the internet browser.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- The Board of Commissioners recently approved a resolution eliminating single use plastics in the purchasing program. She asked if there is interest among Council in passing a similar resolution.

Council Member Symanns stated she has interest in passing a resolution and it matches the values of this community. She explained U of M is moving toward zero waste policy.

Council Member Morgan asked if this would regulate what businesses can use in their operations. Mayor Bashert responded no.

- Encouraged Council to meet with the City Manager in order to become more aware of what occurs outside of a meeting agenda. She stressed the importance maintaining communication with the City Manager on the functions of Council.
- Following the joint work session with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and further conversation with staff there is enough information to develop a plan for the park system.
- Stated the funds received from the county through the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage was not intended for mental health issues. The mental health portion is managed by the county, and those funds are being used for that purpose. The money received by the city was a result of Ypsilanti maintaining its own police force.
- There have been ongoing conversation regarding city's dangerous buildings, and why it takes so long to have a building torn down. One issues is at the court level and another is staff shortages. The city needs to appoint another Dangerous Buildings Officer.

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- He will be attending the Michigan Municipal League Executives Winter Institute during the week of February 4th. As a result he will not be present for the February 5th Council meeting.
- Yard waste collection ended the week of December 17th and will commence the week of April 1st.
- Christmas tree collection began Monday of this week and will continue until the week of January 21st. In order to be picked up all decorations, tree bags, and tree stands must be removed.
- Per the request of Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson the City Staff Demographics report was distributed to Council.
- The lights at Riverside Park should be replaced this week.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked if an electrician was necessary to inform the city the bulbs needed to be replaced. Mr. McClary replied because the lights were out in an orderly series it was believed to be a circuit problem.

- Staff is following up on alley maintenance in the city, and he has requested a complete account of the alleys in the city.
- He noted the public information meetings regarding the potential train platform. The meeting is scheduled for January 15th at 7:00 p.m. located at the Senior Center, 1015 Congress.
- The Penn Dam public information meeting is scheduled for February 13th, with the location still to be determined.
- Goal Setting Work Sessions are scheduled for January 22nd and 29th.
- The Council/Staff Retreat is scheduled for January 23rd from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. located at the Senior Center.

- As Council is aware there has been confusion regarding the waitlist for 2018 Medical Marijuana Facilities Permits. Staff is working to resolve the issue.
- He informed Council the need for interim staffing in the Finance/Treasury Department.
- He appointed Lt. Ken Hobbs as Interim Fire Chief, and looks forward to working with him.

Council Member Morgan asked the end date of the appointment. Mr. McClary responded there is not a set end date. Interim Chief Hobbs will be at the position until a permanent Chief is in selected.

- He provided a staffing report regarding all the vacant positions.
- He sent a Doodle Poll to all of Council for coffee hours, and asked that they respond. It is important to have that time together outside of Council meeting.
- A City Manager Intern will begin tomorrow, January 9th.

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS –

Nomination - Added

Police Advisory Commission

Andy Fanta – Reappointment (Term Exp. 2/1/2022)
1221 Westmoorland Blvd
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

XIX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Lee Tooson, 107 Middle, stated the home on Prospect cannot be torn down until after the insurance investigation is completed. He believes all Council Members to be intelligent people, and not naive enough to believe that something is not occurring at City Hall. There is something causing employees to leave the city, some of whom he has known since 1986. They are dedicated employees to the City of Ypsilanti. The Finance Director had an opportunity to leave when she was discriminated against by a City Manager. She decided to stay and is now discouraged enough to leave. He believes the employees are leaving because of city administration. It is up to Council to fix the problems occurring in City Hall. The NAACP is holding a forum and asked Council, the City Manager, and the Police Chief to attend. He will let Council know the date of the forum. Every time the City Manager addresses a Council Member he addresses them as Council Member, Mayor Pro-Tem, or Mayor. When addressing the City Clerk he addressed her by her first name because he does not like her.
2. Sue Melke, 330 Chidester #409, stated she would like to know how much the city will save by adopting the contract with MOS. She asked Council to use the microphone if they do not project well in order for the public to hear. She suggested a system to know the order for when a Council Member wishes to speak. She asked for the sidewalks in the city to be better maintained, and stated there are many sidewalks that pose a safety hazard. She sees it as problematic that AAATA is holding a meeting about Ypsilanti in Ann Arbor. She does not understand why it is taking so long to have live streaming set up for meetings.
3. Gail Summerhill, PO Box, stated she went to court for a ticket, and for an hour the magistrate was hearing cases regarding parking tickets. The signage for parking need to be clearer.

XX. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

— She would appreciate Gray would make her pictures available to staff for review.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT –

Resolution No. 2019-008, 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 three (3) members of Council.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Brown

SECONDED BY: Council Member Symanns

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.