



MINUTES

WORK SESSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Council Chambers

The WORK SESSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, Mayor Beth Bashert, Council Member Anthony Morgan, and Council Member Annie Somerville

ABSENT: Council Member Nicole Brown

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

II INVOCATION

Mayor Bashert asked all to stand for a moment of silence

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

- a) Mayor Bashert requested a motion to approve the agenda

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Bob Krzewinski, 706 Dwight, Non-Motorized Committee, asked the commission to keep in mind the non-motorized population, especially the disabled, during the roads discussion.

VI REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

None

VII WORK SESSION

- a) Road infrastructure and funding

Mr. Early, OHM, provided a report regarding road basics and funding.

Mayor Bashert commented that roads have been underfunded for 3 decades. Mr. Early stated that the city received \$400,000 from WATS, but it is not ideal. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson appreciated the work done by OHM and DPS. Ms. Bashert asked if the current funding model keeps the city in a perpetual state of maintenance. Mr. Early responded in the affirmative. Council Member Morgan asked the difference between local and major roads. Mr. Early replied that they are not interchangeable, but depends on traffic and truck volume. Ms. Bashert asked if additional funding from the state would affect the local level. Mr. Early responded that it would; however, the majority would go to MDOT. Ms. Richardson added that the state financial system is messed up and there needs to be a change. Mr. Early stated that it is helpful to have projects ready on the shelf if funding becomes available. Mr. Morgan asked how far in advance a project can be on the shelf and how many are allowed. Mr. Early responded that theoretically, you can have as many as you wanted. In the past, the City has had projects designed and ready to go. FHWA funds go through MDOT which has a 6-7 month bid process.

City Planner Wessler provided a report about long-range road planning. Ms. Wessler asked Council if they want to include traffic calming measures in future projects. Ms. Bashert asked if the additional burden would fall on the City. Ms. Wessler replied in the affirmative. Council generally agreed that they are in favor of pedestrian-friendly projects. Mr. Wilcoxen asked if some roads are required to have a bike lane when they are repaved. Ms. Wessler responded that some curb cuts get repaired during repaving, but there is no requirement for a bike lane. Ms. Bashert asked what snow removal equipment would be necessary for the crosswalk to crosswalk speed bumps. Ms. Wessler stated that cross-department planning would happen during the CIP discussion. Ms. Richardson stated that she has heard a lot of complaints that bump outs are dangerous. Mr. Morgan asked if there are measurable ways to determine the effectiveness of the traffic calming measures. Ms. Wessler stated that they generally look at national standards because there are not enough resources to always do local studies and it takes a few years to see the results. Ms. Richardson stated that enforcement also helps with speeding. Ms. Bashert added that for the past few years the police has not had the capacity to go to court when a speeding ticket is challenged which limits its ability to effectively enforce speed limits.

Ms. Richardson asked if the Cross Street bridge has to be completely replaced. Mr. Early responded in the affirmative. Ms. Somerville asked if there was any short term option for the sidewalk on the Cross Street bridge. Ms. Wessler that patching may be an option. Mr. Early added that some options for repairing roads are not suitable for sidewalks.

Mr. Wilcoxen asked if barriers for bikes lane are possible on Huron, Hamilton, and Washtenaw. Ms. Wessler responded that the number of driveways makes this challenging, but they are exploring options. Ms. Bashert asked when improvements will occur on Michigan Ave and W Cross. Ms. Wessler replied

that they will happen in 2022. Ms. Bashert added that the state of the roads gives her pause because the roads are going to look pretty rough and anything they can do about it would be good. Ms. Richardson asked if the intersection near Hamilton and Harriet will be repaired. Mr. Early stated that the problem is that is an MDOT trunkline. Ms. Richardson stated that there needs to be a protest. Ms. Bashert asked staff to look at the possibility of buying asphalt with the Township. Mr. Early replied that it is possible for local road projects, but not MDOT projects.

Ms. Symanns asked about the time frame for the Congress repaving. Mr. Early replied that they got the bids in on Friday and will be in front of Council on Tuesday. Construction should be underway by August and the completion date is the end of September.

b) Discussion regarding processes, procedures, and direction of medical/recreational Marijuana

Ms. Wessler provided a report about medical marijuana. Mayor Bashert asked if we allow recreations will it allow all business types, including transportation and testing. Ms. Wessler responded that at this point it is unclear. Ms. Richardson stated that she is opposed to expanding until the state finalized the procedure. Ms. Sommerville stated that she believes the state will all be bundled together. The process will be simplified. Ms. Symanns stated that she is inclined to wait and see what the state does. Ms. Wessler noted that the state has until November to decide or local can decide how to regulate. Ms. Symanns asked if there is a possibility of storage with transportation. Ms. Bashert added that there is tracking "from seed to sale." Every stage needs a license. Mr. Morgan stated that there is a lot of money involved and there is more potential risk in this business. He would prefer to wait until the state makes a determination. Mr. Wilcoxon stated that he thinks testing is a service that should be encouraged. Mayor Bashert agreed that the decision about transportation and testing might be premature, but noted that both types of business could lead to jobs in the city.

Ms. Richardson asked if council voted to opt-in to recreational. Ms. Bashert responded that they have not yet voted. Mr. Barr asked council how they felt about opting out versus opting in to recreational. Ms. Richardson stated that she is in favor of opting out of recreational. Ms. Somerville stated that there was overwhelming voter approval for recreational and is very much against opting out. Mr. Wilcoxon stated that he is also opposed to opting out. Ms. Richardson asked how many jobs were created by the medical marijuana industry. Ms. Bashert stated that we have recreational marijuana and the question is now whether they want to be involved in regulating it or not.

Ms. Wessler provided a brief presentation about the City's permit transfer policy. Mr. Wilcoxon asked what businesses have to do to comply with a permit transfer. Mr. Barr responded that the state does the vetting for the new owner. Ms. Richardson asked about liquor licenses. Mr. Barr responded that liquor licenses are transferable. If the state says the marijuana licenses are

transferable, that it would be reasonable to make the city permits transferable. Mr. Morgan asked if the City could face liability if they do not agree to accept a decision made by the state. Mr. Barr responded that it is possible, and that staff wants to make the transfer policy a rational and reasonable process for the city. Ms. Richardson suggested that council has a presentation from MML about marijuana. According to the presentation, there are some negative happenings in Colorado that are important to consider. Ms. Bashert said she is in favor of transferring permits. Ms. Symanns added that she is in favor of regulating medical and recreational marijuana in the same manner. Mr. Wilcoxon stated that there is a distinction between voters voting to legalize marijuana versus wanting recreational businesses in the city; further outreach would be useful to understand what voters want. Mr. Morgan stated that the economic benefit of marijuana business to the city is unclear, and is not in favor of opting in to recreational. Ms. Richardson does not want to see the city become the marijuana center for southeast Michigan.

Ms. Bashert asked staff to bring recreational forward in the future, but they need more information and are not prepared to make a determination. It would be useful to schedule a future working session. Ms. Somerville that there is an opportunity for equity in recreational marijuana, and there will be space for people to be involved in the business that has not been included in the past. Mr. Wilcoxon asked what the timeline is to decide whether to opt in or out. Ms. Wessler replied that if a city does not opt out by November, they effectively opt-in.

Ms. Bashert asked staff to bring forward language about transfers, arrange presentations about transportation and testing and separating processing and growing, and to keep council informed about the progress of the state.

VIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Adam Tasselmeyer, 124 W Michigan, stated that the affect his business has had on the city has been positive. He hopes that council understands the will of the voters. For the next year, recreational will only be sold from places that already have their medical license.
2. Craig Arnoff, Arnoff Law, stated that the rules for recreational will be out by the end of the month. The real difference between recreational and medical is who is allowed in the store. There is now a state project that manages the process. He added that the City's old ordinance encouraged businesses to wait in line for a permit. The city should be mindful of those businesses.
3. Scott Roberts, Green Vitality, 50 Ecorse Rd, wanted to address the transfer issue stating that many businesses were unfairly denied state license. He asked that these businesses be considered for transfer.
4. Allison Ireton, 836 Railroad, wanted to address the lottery system. Recreational does not allow a lottery if there is a cap, it must be merit-based. There is more education available and there are ways to respect the queue.
5. Cary Burton, 102 Spring, stated that as a business it is just a choice where you get your product liquor store or dispensary. The plants are the same, it just depends if they are sold for recreational or medical purposes. The city has to reserve the right to regulate the services.

IX REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

X ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Symanns to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:25.