



DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Beth Bashert, Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, Council Member Nicole Brown, Council Member Anthony Morgan, and Council Member Annie Somerville

ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson (telephonic)

I CALL TO ORDER

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

II ROLL CALL

III INVOCATION

IV 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.

V AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Wilcoxon moved to take agenda approvals off the consent agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended.

VI INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Bashert introduced the following people: City Manager Frances McMullan, Deputy City Clerk Sarah Stachnik, Community Development Manager Christopher Jacobs, Assistant City Attorney Karl Barr, City Clerk Andrew Hellenga, Finance Director Rheagan Basabica, VTC Insurance Group Benefits Director Michelle Bosler, Interim Human Resources Director Kim Jones.

VII PRESENTATIONS

A. 2020 Healthcare Presentation - Michele Bolser, Director, VTC Insurance Group Benefits Department

Interim Human Resources Director Kim Jones introduced Finance Director Rheagan Basabica and Michele Bosler. Mr. Basabica provided a brief overview of healthcare options and provided a recommendation. Ms. Bosler provided an overview of healthcare benefits offered in the third option. Council Member Wilcoxen asked about the resolutions that are prior to public comment. Mayor Bashert opened comments about healthcare.

1. Reza Rajabi, 110 N Summit, stated that his time was wasted by the healthcare presentation.

Mayor Bashert closed public comment.

Council Member Wilcoxen asked about the college tuition credits. Ms. Bosler stated that Guardian partnered with Sage Tuition Scholars to provide credit for a discounted cost. City Manager McMullan thanked staff for working to find the best option. Ms. Bashert thanked staff for finding a friendly health care option. Ms. Bashert added that she appreciates Mr. Rajabi's frustration, but it is important to have these discussions publicly.

- B. Resolution No. 2019-244, approving 2020 Healthcare Cost Contributions in accordance with PA 152 of 2011.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2019-244.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson congratulated staff for their work.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- C. Resolution No. 2019-245, approving a one-year contract from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, to offer Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network benefit plans to all eligible participating employees and retirees

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-245.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
SECONDER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

VIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Reza Rajabi, 110 N Summit, stated that Council has not been on his side. He added that his Certificate of Occupancy was revoked by the City yesterday. He expressed his dismay for the fees.
2. Amber Fellows, Ward 3, spoke in favor of the changes to the board and commission appointment process. She supported the board and commission orientation packet and the Police Advisory and Human Relations Commission resolutions.

3. Pamela Escalante Gonzales, 108 Washtenaw, was excited to be nominated to the Human Relations Commission.
4. Liano Sharon, 2022 Washtenaw, spoke in favor of the HRC resolution. He stated that the Police Advisory Commission should have power.
5. Charles Camren, 973 Monroe, 973 Monroe, stated that he is interested in opening a social consumption establishment under the social equity program. He added that revenue from the business would be used to benefit the community.

IX PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Approving an application for a Class C, SDM and Sunday sales liquor license for NPBC Ypsilanti, LLC.
 1. Resolution No. 2019-246, determination
 2. Open Public Hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2019-247, close public hearing

Mayor Bashert opened the public hearing.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 247.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
AYES:	Nicole Brown, Annie Somerville, Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, and Anthony Morgan
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 246.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked if this is a new license or a vacated license. Community Development Manager Jacobs stated that the redevelopment liquor license is an economic development tool offered by the State. Clerk Hellenga added that regular liquor licenses are attached to the person, redevelopment licenses are attached to the building. Council Member Morgan asked if any of the stakeholders are from Ypsilanti. Mr. Jacobs replied that none are residents. Mr. Morgan asked how many liquor licenses exist in the two-block radius. Mr. Jacobs replied that there are half a dozen to a dozen establishments. Mr. Morgan asked if these licenses were offered to the other businesses. Mr. Jacobs responded that the redevelopment liquor license is available for both small and large projects. Mayor Bashert asked for a timeline of the project. Mr. Jacobs stated that there are still hoping to open by the end of the year. Mr. Morgan asked if the building fulfills the ordinance requirements. Mr. Jacobs responded in the affirmative. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the whole first floor would be the facility that holds the license. Mr. Jacobs responded that the license cannot be split for multiple establishments.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

X CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2019-248, approving the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-248 as amended.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- B. Resolution No. 2019-249, approving the minutes of October 15, 2019.
- C. ~~Resolution No. 2019-250, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.~~
(Moved from Consent Agenda)
- D. Resolution No. 2019-251, approving Ordinance No. 1348 – an Ordinance to amend Chapter 102 Traffic and Vehicles, Article III, Division 4 of the City Code. **(Second Reading)**
- E. Resolution No. 2019-252, authorizing the levy of special assessments on the December 2019 tax roll.
- F. Resolution No. 2019-253, approving a fireworks display permit to Strictly FX.

XI RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Resolution No. 2019-254, approving Ordinance 1349, entitled "an ordinance to amend Chapter 99". **(Second Reading)**

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-254.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
SECONDER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- B. Resolution No. 2019-255, approving a project agreement with the Department of Natural Resources for Renovation of the Rutherford Poolhouse

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-255.

Community Development Manager Jacobs provided a brief explanation about the resolution.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- C. Resolution No. 2019-256, approving the construction contract with Phoenix Contractors, Inc. for the renovation of the Rutherford Poolhouse.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2019-256 as amended.

Community Development Manager Jacobs provided an update about the project. Mayor Bashert requested that the contract be amended to reflect the city's non-discrimination ordinance. Council Member Wilcoxon asked about the separate roof bid. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is likely that the roof portion will have to go out for bid again.

Council Member Symanns moved to amend the contract to include the full non-discrimination clause language.

Council Member Morgan asked that the non-discrimination language be included in all future contracts.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- D. Resolution No. 2019-257, approving the Sub-recipient agreement with Washtenaw County for the demolition of 448 S. Huron

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2019-257.

Community Development Manager Jacobs provided a brief history of the property. Council Member Wilcoxon asked about the above ground versus below ground oil tank. Mr. Jacobs stated that some specific language is required for CDBG funding that may not match the existing conditions. Mr. Wilcoxon asked if the City is planning to build affordable housing on the property. Mr. Jacobs stated that the intent is to sell the property. Mr. Wilcoxon asked if the property is zoned to allow multi-family housing. Mr. Jacobs responded in the affirmative. Mr. Wilcoxon expressed his support for the removal of the property. Mayor Bashert stated that she was excited about this project.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
SECONDER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
AYES:	Anthony Morgan, Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- E. Resolution No. 2019-258, approving the Boards and Commission Orientation Booklet

Mayor Bashert commended Clerk Hellenga for his work with the packet. Council Member Symanns thanked Mr. Hellenga for the creation of the packet. Mr. Morgan added that he is grateful for the orientation packet. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson congratulated Mr. Hellenga for a job well done. Ms. Bashert added that Parliamentary Procedure training will further strengthen the boards and commissions.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-258.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- F. Resolution No. 2019-250, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.
(Moved from Consent Agenda)

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-250.

Council Member Wilcoxen stated that due to recent discussions, it is important to move this from the consent agenda. Mr. Wilcoxen added that it was interesting that such a new resident was nominated when a long time resident was not reappointed. Mr. Morgan asked if there is a residency requirement. Mayor Bashert stated that she verified that the applicant had lived in the city for a year as required. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson added that it is important for members of the Human Relations Commission to have lived in the City for over a year. Council Member Symanns added that she is excited for a new voice on the commission.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, and Annie Somerville
NAYS:	Anthony Morgan
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

XII BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- A. Request from the Police Advisory Commission to amend Ordinance 1295.

Mayor Bashert stated that if Council decided to move forward with this, it would have to be looked over by the City Attorney. Council Member Symanns stated that she was a part of the Human Relations Commission when the Police Advisory Commission ordinance was drafted. Mr. Morgan stated that there is a difference between advisory and oversight. Ms. Symanns added that it was developed as an advisory body to avoid an adversarial relationship and to work cooperatively. Council Member Brown added that there are also legal issues with creating an oversight body. Clerk Hellenga stated that this ordinance just gives greater detail to the incident review process. He added that it is based off the Ann Arbor ordinance which is permitted by the state. Mr. Wilcoxen stated that the public was disappointed by the powers of the commission when it was established and is in favor of this amendment. City Manager McMullan added that the composition of the commission was also a consideration when it was developed.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to forward the Ordinance to the City Attorney for review.

RESULT:	DEFEATED.
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MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
NAYS:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, and Nicole Brown
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson

- B.** Recommendation of the Human Relations Commission for diversity in Board and Commission Appointments.

Council Member Symanns stated that the recommendation feels redundant because it is already a practice. Council Member Wilcoxon added that he understands why it was brought forward, but there is not guidance about how to move forward. Council Member Somerville suggested creating a report of demographic information gathered through a voluntary survey of commissioners. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that board and commission membership should be representative of the city. Council Member Morgan stated that it is important for boards and commissions to reflect the full diversity of the city.

XIII LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - Economic Development meeting at Pittsfield Township on December 10th 9-10:30 a.m.
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - none
3. Urban County - none
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - budgeting process is ongoing. Movie night was very successful
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - preparing for construction, roof may have to be rebid, looking for board members
6. Housing Equity Leadership Team - none

XIV COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Wilcoxon

1. Will contact DPS about issue behind the proposed new location of Sticky Ypsi.

Morgan

1. LARA meeting update about the social equity part of adult-use marijuana

Symanns

1. Thanked DPS Director Akers for addressing residents' speeding concerns.
2. Inconsistent yard waste pickup on Louise St
3. Congratulated Council Member Somerville, Chris Jacobs, and Elize Jakobsen for the movie night.

Brown

1. Will be catching up on email.

Somerville

1. Met with property owners on N Huron and will contact City Manager about some concerns.
2. Attended IHA ribbon cutting at urgent care facility at EMU.
3. Working on social equity part of the ordinance. Met with people interested in applying.

4. Asked if N Huron area could be restripped and address other speeding and turning concerns.

XV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Asked about timeline for staff reviews of City Manager and City Clerk.
2. Jane Schmiedeke is stepping down from the Historic District Commission after 40 years.
3. Arts Commission Town Hall on November 13 at the Senior Center
4. Will be gone for the November 19th meeting.
5. Swoops Pantry fundraiser at Sweetwater was a great event. Will be coordinating a city-wide fundraiser in January.

XVI COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

1. December Council Meetings will be goal setting sessions. January 14th is a third date, if necessary.

XVII COMMUNICATIONS

Nominations

Board of Review

- A.** Andy Fanta **(Exp.12/31/21) Re-appointment**
1221 Westmoorland
Ypsilanti MI, 48197
- B.** Craig Hupy **(Exp.12/31/21) Re-appointment**
1124 N Congress
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

XVIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

XIX REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XX ADJOURNMENT

- A.** Resolution No. 2019-259, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

- 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.