



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Beth Bashert (10:22 p.m.), Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, Council Member Nicole Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, Council Member Anthony Morgan (10:00 p.m.), and Council Member Annie Somerville

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

The agenda was approved as submitted.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Bashert introduced the following individuals: Deputy Clerk Sarah Stachnik, Economic Development Director Joe Meyers, DPS Director Ron Akers, Parking Manager Bonnie Wessler, City Manager Frances McMullan, City Attorney John Barr, City Clerk Andrew Hellenga, Ann Arbor Sustainability and Innovations Manager Missy Stults

VII. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Carbon Neutrality Planning - Missy Stults, Sustainability and Innovations Manager, City of Ann Arbor

Missy Stults provided an brief introduction about efforts to create a carbon neutrality plan. Mayor Bashert and Council Member Wilcoxon spoke in favor of the partnership. Council Member Wilcoxon asked about the four major goals. Ms. Stults stated energy, mobility, resource use, and adaptation and resilience are the major categories.

- b) Resolution No. 2019-260, declaring a climate emergency and committing to take action as a result of that declaration.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked if they will be responsible to create this plan. City Manager McMullan stated that she will be relying on staff, the carbon neutrality commission, and the sustainability commission. Mayor Bashert stated public engagement is a large component. Council Member Symanns asked if there are the resources to have a presentation by March 2020. Mr. Wilcoxon stated that March 2020 is their goal and the partnership will bring a lot of resources to achieve this goal. Ms. Bashert stated that she is excited about being a partner. Council Member Symanns asked about the Earth Day presentation. Ms. Bashert stated that it will be the 50th anniversary and there will be statements of unity and cohesion around the climate. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the presentation will be regional or for Ann Arbor. Ms. Stults stated that staff has been directed to make a plan based on their budget and there will also be sustainability events throughout the region.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, to approve Resolution No. 2019-260.

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

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

11 people spoke.

IX. ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- a) *Ordinance No. 1351* - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 8, Adult Use - Recreational Marihuana to amend Section 8-4-1 Permit Requirements to limit Marihuana to 7 permits until January 1, 2021.
1. Resolution No. 2019-263, determination
 2. Open Public Hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2019-264, close public hearing

Council Member Somerville explained the proposed amendment.

Mayor Bashert opened the public hearing. Two people spoke.

Ms. Somerville stated that locations are based on zoning. Council Member Morgan stated that the language of the ordinance is insufficient to create equity. Council Member Brown asked for clarification that there will only be three new facilities. Council Member Wilcoxon stated that the goal is to separate the three facilities for social equity from current medical facilities. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that there is still a lack of direction from the state.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-264 closing the public hearing.

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

Mayor Beth Bashert moved, to call the question with the consent of Council.

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

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2019-263.

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

b) Ordinance No. 1352 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 8, Section 8-1 of the Ypsilanti City Code by prohibiting marihuana consumption facilities.

1. Resolution No. 2019-265, determination
2. Open Public Hearing
3. Resolution No. 2019-266, close public hearing

Mayor Bashert opened the public hearing. Five people spoke.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, to approve Resolution No. 2019-266 closing the public hearing.

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2019-265.

Council Member Somerville stated the reasons she supports consumption facilities. Council Member Morgan stated that he hopes the social equity program does what is intended. Council Member Wilcoxon stated that there are models for consumption sites.

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

- c) *Ordinance No. 1353- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 8, Adult Use - Recreational Marihuana of the Ypsilanti City Code by adding Section 8-1 (s) of the Ypsilanti City Code to define safety sensitive job and to limit the no-drug testing to marihuana in Section 8-5.4.*
1. Resolution No. 2019-267, determination
 2. Open Public Hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2019-268, close public hearing

City Attorney Barr explained the purpose of the amendment. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if there is currently random drug testing. City Manager McMullan stated that DPS does random testing.

Mayor Bashert opened the public hearing. One person spoke.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2019-268 closing the public hearing.

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

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-267.

Council Member Somerville spoke against drug testing. Council Member Morgan stated that there need to be standards and requirements for staff. Council Member Symanns spoke in favor of the amendment. Council Member Brown asked how many staff are considered safety-sensitive. Mayor Bashert stated that there are many people who would not be able to be employed by the city as consumers of medical marijuana.

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

X. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2019-269, approving the Consent Agenda.
- b) Resolution No. 2019-270, approving the minutes of November 5, 2019.
- c) Resolution No. 2019-271, approving appointments to boards and commissions.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-269.

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

XI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

a) Public Safety Discussion (15 Minutes)- Chief DeGiusti.

Mayor Bashert asked about the presence of the DDA Officer. Chief DeGiusti stated that he has been present and provided an update about the crime statistics occurring in the DDA. He added that they will provide a report of the officer's activities. Ms. Bashert asked for follow-up reports on violent crimes. Chief DeGiusti stated that it depends on the investigation. Mayor Bashert asked about the closed-door policy to the media. Chief DeGiusti stated that he often speaks to the media but focuses on the needs of the public before the media. Council Member Brown stated that she gets information from city staff. Council Member Somerville thanked Chief DeGiusti for his responses. Ms. Bashert expressed frustration with excuses about low staffing. Chief DeGiusti stated that they still have a significant shortage of officers according to several sources. Council Member Morgan thanked Chief DeGiusti for his work and asked how many DDA officers would be effective. Chief DeGiusti stated that a minimum of two officers would be necessary. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that she gets adequate responses from the Chief. Mayor Bashert thanked Chief DeGiusti for his work and asked him to consider the relationship to the media.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to add 5 minutes to the discussion time.

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

b) Resolution No. 2019-272, approving the Thanksgiving weekend parking holiday.

Parking Manager Bonnie Wessler explained the reason for this resolution. Anthony Morgan asked if there is a correlation between parking enforcement and shopping. Ms. Wessler stated that it is an effort to address the lack of consistency in signage for new visitors to the City.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-272.

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

c) Resolution No. 2019-273, approving the purchase of a dump truck with salter.

DPS Director Ron Akers explained the purpose of this resolution. Council Member Wilcoxon asked about the price differences between the two vehicles. Mr. Akers stated that there are minor differences in the car builds. Mr. Wilcoxon asked about alternative-fuel options. Mr. Akers stated that there is a need to have a broader conversation about greening the fleet. Mr. Morgan asked about the priorities of these two trucks. Mr. Akers stated that they are high priority. Mr. Akers added that there is a scheduled replacement period in the Capital Improvements Plan. Mayor Bashert asked for bids for alternative fuels in the future.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-273.

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

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to extend the meeting until 11 p.m.

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

- d) Resolution No. 2019-274, approving the purchase of a replacement of platform truck.

DPS Director Akers stated the purpose of the resolution.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2019-274.

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

- e) Resolution No. 2019-275, urging the governor to consent to initial refugee resettlement as per the terms of Executive Order 13888.

Mayor Bashert stated that it was sent by Jewish Family Services. Mr. Morgan asked if Ypsilanti has excepted refugees from around the world. Ms. Bashert responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-275.

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

- f) Resolution No. 2019-276, approving the 2020 City Council Meeting Schedule.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to amend the schedule to include January 14, May 5, May 12, November 9, November 10, and remove August 11.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-276 as amended.

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

- g)** Discussion regarding potential changes to meeting functionality - parliamentary procedures.

Council discussed changes brought up during parliamentary procedure. Mayor Bashert asked if Council is comfortable with the current system for reading resolutions. Council agreed to continue with the current practice. Mayor Bashert asked if Council wanted to limit Council discussion. Council agreed not to limit time, but to allow all members to speak first before allowing someone to speak again. Council Member Wilcoxon asked if there could be a system to be called on. Council discussed the length of minutes. Mr. Wilcoxon asked about the retention schedule for recordings. City Attorney Barr will recommend a retention schedule. Council opposed shortening public comment.

- h)** Discussion regarding the city's snow ordinance. (added)

Council Member Somerville asked about snow removal on Garland Street. DPS Director Akers explained the nature of the issue. Council Member Wilcoxon mentioned the disparity of enforcement for residents and the City. Council Member Symanns stated that there are not very many staff to clear all the roads and sidewalks. Ms. Somerville asked if it is possible to include resources for seniors with the warning and spoke against citations that cause financial hardships. Economic Development Director stated that staff works with community members. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that the City should not ask residents for things that the City is not doing and would like to see the ordinance before Council.

XII. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- a)** Human Relations Commission Resolution No. 2019-013

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to discuss HRC Resolution 2019-013 on the January 21st meeting.

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

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to extend the meeting until 11:15 p.m.

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

XIII. LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - none
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - none
3. Urban County - none
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - none
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - none
6. Housing Equity Leadership Team - none

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Symanns

None

Brown

1. Pleased Truancy ordinance was removed and suggested hiring a social worker.
2. Concerned about the decommissioning on Anne Brown.
3. Reminded Council to be supportive of staff.

Somerville

1. Spoke against truancy ordinance.
2. Will contact Mr. Meyers about tree complaints.

Wilcoxon

1. Asked for schedule for bumpouts on Congress
2. Asked about temporary parking/ visitor permits.
3. Going through late Council Member Murdock's belongings

Richardson

1. Community Dinner at Parkridge on Monday
2. Fundraiser for a new kitchen at Parkridge
3. Abaco Fundraiser

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS

NOMINATIONS

- a) **Huron River Watershed Council**
Lisa Wozniak- Exp. 11/19/2021
1018 Congress St.

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

- b) **Huron River Watershed Council**
Elijah Shalis - Exp. 12/5/2021
1066 Louise St. #3
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Council Member Wilcoxon stated that the applicant does not seem qualified for the position.

- c) **Historic District Commission (added)**
James Chestnut
1223 Sherman St
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
- d) **Ypsilanti Housing Commission (added)**
Yen Azzaro - Exp. 11/19/2024
621 N. Adams St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
- e) **Proposed Washtenaw County Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA) FY 2020 Budget (added)**

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

XIX. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XX. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2019-277, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 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.