



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 2, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008194762>
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Revised 2-1-2021**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

V. PRESENTATIONS

- 4** A. Gun Violence Survivors Week Proclamation - Mayor Richardson
[Proclamation](#)

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5** A. Resolution No. 2021-017, approving the Consent Agenda.
[2021-017 - Pdf](#)
- 6 - 11** B. Resolution No. 2021-018, approving the minutes of January 26, 2021.
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- 12 - 13** C. Resolution No. 2021-019, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.
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- 14** D. Resolution No. 2021-020, appointing Project Manager Bonnie Wessler as alternate representative to WRRMA.
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VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- 15 - 17** A. Resolution No. 2021-021, approving sidewalk café program.
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- 18 - 26** B. Resolution No. 2021-022, approving the Fiscal Year 21-22 City Council Goals.
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- C. Selection of Council Liaisons
- Human Relations Commission

- Arts Commission
- Police Advisory Commission
- Planning Commission
- Historic District Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Police Advisory Commission
- Sustainability Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission

VIII. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - NOMINATIONS

A. Police Advisory Commission - (Council Members Morgan, Wilcoxon)

Herman Humes - (Exp. 2/1/2024 - Reappointment)
1105 Grant
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Kathleen McCormick - (Exp. 2/1/2024 - Reappointment)
407 Ainsworth
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

B. Arts Commission - (Council Member Somerville, Mayor Pro-Tem Brown) - Added

Michael McAtee - (Exp. 2/1/2024 - Reappointment)
703 Virginia
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

IX. LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
3. Urban County
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool

X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

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- ### **A. 2020 Historic District Commission Report**
- [Report](#)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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- ### **A. Resolution No. 2021-023, adjourning the City Council Meeting.**

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- 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.

**GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK PROCLAMATION
DECLARING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021 TO FEBRUARY 7, 2021 TO MARK
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVOR WEEK**

This proclamation declares the week of February 1, 2021, to February 7, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Survivor Week in the City of Ypsilanti to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and uplift the resilient voices of survivors across the nation.

WHEREAS, every year, nearly 39,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and nearly 85,000 more are shot and wounded;

WHEREAS, by early February, more Americans are killed with guns than are killed in our peer countries in an entire calendar year;

WHEREAS, a gun violence survivor is anyone who has personally experienced gun violence — whether you have witnessed an act of gun violence, been threatened or wounded with a gun, or had someone you know and cared for wounded or killed;

WHEREAS, forms of gun violence can include, but are not limited to: gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a gun, shootings by law enforcement, and unintentional shootings;

WHEREAS, 58 percent of American adults, including 68 percent of Black and Latino Americans, or someone they care for has experienced gun violence in their lifetime, demonstrating the reach and impact gun violence has in communities across America;

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens;

WHEREAS, Americans in cities across the nation are working to end the senseless violence by advocating for common-sense gun safety legislation;

WHEREAS, by commemorating National Gun Violence Survivors Week on February 1 to February 7, cities across America will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives stolen by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ypsilanti declares February 1 to February 7, 2021 to be National Gun Violence Survivors Week. We encourage all citizens to support their communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.



Resolution No. 2021-017
February 2, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

1. **Resolution No. 2021-018, approving the minutes of January 26, 2021.**
2. **Resolution No. 2021-019, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.**
3. **Resolution No. 2021-020, approving Project Manager Bonnie Wessler as the alternate representative to WRRMA**

OFFERED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE:

This resolution is adopted by the Council of the City of Ypsilanti and approved by the Mayor this
2 day of February 2021

#Resolution No. 2021-017



Resolution No. 2021-018
February 2, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of January 26, 2021 be approved.

OFFERED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

VOTE:

This resolution is adopted by the Council of the City of Ypsilanti and approved by the Mayor this
2 day of February 2021

#Resolution No. 2021-018



MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Zoom Meeting

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 7:00 PM, in a Zoom Meeting, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Steven Wilcoxon (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Lois Richardson (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Anthony Morgan (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Annie Somerville (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), and Mr. Brian Jones-Chance (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti)

ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Council Member Anthony Morgan, seconded Annie Somerville. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

2 members of the public spoke

V. PRESENTATIONS

a) June 30, 2020 Comprehensive Financial Presentation by Rehmann.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Resolution No, 2021-010, approving the Consent Agenda.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

Resolution No. 2021-011, approving the minutes of January 5th, 12th, 14th, and 19th 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-012, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No 2021-010

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

- b) Resolution No. 2021-011, approving the minutes of January 5th, 12th, 14th, and 19th 2021.
- c) Resolution No. 2021-012, approving appointments to boards and commissions.

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2021-013, requesting the Michigan Legislature pass legislation to allow local municipalities to ban long guns and open carry from legislative Council Chambers and public areas.

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

Whereas, the US Constitution and the Michigan Constitution protect the right of persons to keep and bear arms, and

Whereas, the right is not absolute, but can be subject to reasonable and needed restrictions, and

Whereas, the Michigan Legislature has passed laws controlling arms, but denying municipalities similar powers, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan Capital Commission has recently banned long guns from the State Capital, and

Whereas, the Ypsilanti City Council believes that the restriction is reasonable and needed for the safety and wellbeing of persons in the State Capital, and

Whereas, the same safety and wellbeing concerns apply to persons in the Ypsilanti City Hall and other municipal property summarily situated,

Now therefore, the Ypsilanti City Council does hereby request the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation with all convenient speed to allow local municipalities to ban long guns and open carry from legislative Council Chambers and public areas and other municipal facilities for the the safety and wellbeing of all persons, and

Further, that the Governor sign and approve the legislation as soon as presented, and

Further that a copy of this resolution be provided to the clerk of the Michigan Senate, House of Representatives, the Governor, and the city lobbyist.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No/ 2021-013

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance

- b) Resolution No. 2021-014, approving the YDDA Street Closure Request.**

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the City of Ypsilanti and our businesses extremely hard; and

WHEREAS, the public health guidance indicates that outdoor dining is safer than indoor dining and consumers preferred these outdoor spaces in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the city seeks to assist in the recovery of our small businesses when weather allows customers to return to outdoor dining; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that indoor restaurant capacity will be reduced by 50% once allowed to reopen and vaccine distribution is not yet widely available or expected until mid to late 2021

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approves a special event permit closing E Cross Street-stretching from Rice Street to River Street, North Washington Street from Pearl to Michigan Avenue, as well as the South Washington Street between Michigan Avenue and the South Huron Parking Lot. The closures would remain in effect during overnight hours and last from May 15, 2021 until October 16, 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Live amplified music is only permitted on Fridays and Saturdays until 10pm in the areas of street closure. Additionally, live amplified music is only permitted between Memorial Day and Labor Day in the designated street closure areas.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No 2021-014

Council Member Somerville moved to amend the dates of the closure to May 15, 2021 until October 16, 2021 as a Friendly Amendment
Council Member Morgan accepted the Friendly Amendment

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, and Brian Jones-Chance

- c) Resolution No. 2021-015, approving a Memorandum of Understanding the the Huron River Watreshed Council Concerning Peninsular Dam.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti has identified the removal of Peninsular Dam as a strategic priority; and

WHEREAS, the Huron River Watershed Council has been awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of design removal and has selected a qualified engineering firm to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, the MOU provided is necessary to define the working relationship between the City of Ypsilanti and the Huron River Watershed Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the MOU as provided and shall reimburse the HRWC for an amount not to exceed Thirty-Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$33,000.00) toward completion of the approved scope of work in the MDNR FHGP grant described herein.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No 2021-015

Council Member Wilcoxon moved to amend the date included in the MOU from October of 2021 to November of 2021 as a Friendly Amendment
Council Member Symanns accepted the Friendly Amendment
Council Member Morgan accepted the Friendly Amendment

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

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

3. Urban County-
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool

IX. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - NOMINATIONS

a) Human Relations Commission (Exp. 7/1/2024)

New Appointment

Olivia Hill
34 E. Forest
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Clete McLaughlin (Exp. 7/1/2024)

New Appointment

8 N Normal
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- a)** Resolution No. 2021-016, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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.



Resolution No. 2021-019
February 2, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>
Clete McLaughlin 8 N Normal Ypsilanti, MI 48197 New Appointment	HRC	7/1/2024
Olivia Hill 34 E Forest Ypsilanti, MI 48198 New Appointment	HRC	7/1/2024
Gina Thompson 1011 W Cross Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Reappointment	Arts	2/1/2024
Garret Schumann 1726 Collegewood Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Reappointment	Arts	2/1/2024

OFFERED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

VOTE:

#Resolution No. 2021-019

This resolution is adopted by the Council of the City of Ypsilanti and approved by the Mayor this
2 day of February 2021

#Resolution No. 2021-019



Resolution No. 2020-020
February 2, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti entered into the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA) on April 2, 2019 through the adoption of Resolution No. 2019-070; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is awarded a representative and alternate to sit on the board of the authority; and

WHEREAS, Chris Simmons, DPS Environmental Services Foreman, was selected as the alternate representative; and

WHEREAS, Chris Simmons has since retired from his position with the City of Ypsilanti.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti does hereby resolve to designate Project Manager Bonnie Wessler as the alternate representative to the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority for the City of Ypsilanti.

OFFERED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE:

This resolution is adopted by the Council of the City of Ypsilanti and approved by the Mayor this
2 day of February 2021

#Resolution No. 2020-020



REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Christopher Jacobs
DATE: February 2, 2021
SUBJECT: 2021 Sidewalk Café Resolution

DESCRIPTION:
2021 Sidewalk Café Resolution

SUMMARY:

Each year many restaurants in Ypsilanti choose to offer outdoor cafés along MDOT trunklines using sidewalk frontage. This year, MDOT and the MLCC will require updated resolutions from local municipalities who may regulate this right of way activity. As the battle against COVID-19 rages on, we recognize the need to continue using sidewalks along MDOT trunklines to support restaurants and the overall health of our districts in 2021. There will certainly be indoor capacity restrictions well into 2021 and outdoor dining spaces have proven to be safer and preferred by customers. Some businesses not located in the areas of street closure and those without rear access are left with sidewalk cafes as their only outdoor dining option available. The two primary areas affected by this resolution are those on Michigan Ave and West Cross. We plan to follow this same process in years past to inspect the outdoor sidewalk cafes to ensure accessibility for pedestrians.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of 2021 Sidewalk Café Resolution

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: _____ COUNCIL AGENDA DATE: _____

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: _____

FISCAL SERVICES DIRECTOR APPROVAL: _____



Resolution No. 2021-021
February 2, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City regulates persons, firms and corporations who sell, offer to sell, buy, or offer to buy goods, wares, produce, fruit, vegetables or merchandise upon any public right-of-way in the City pursuant to Ypsilanti City Code Chapter 94-193; and

WHEREAS, said state trunk line highways within the city are under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as "MDOT"); and

WHEREAS, Public Act 1 of 2005 requires that certain businesses, such as sidewalk cafés, must receive a permit from MDOT to conduct such activities within the right-of-way of any state trunk line; and

WHEREAS, MDOT requires under the Act that the City pass a Resolution supporting the activities described above and committing to enforcing MDOT sidewalk café permit

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ypsilanti City Council, authorizing persons, firms and corporations to sell or offer for sale or display or attempt to display for sale goods, wares, produce, fruit, vegetables or merchandise upon any state trunk line highway in the City so long as said person, firm or corporation has secured a permit for such activities from MDOT and the same comply with the City of Ypsilanti code sections, set forth above.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall enforce compliance with the MDOT Sidewalk Café permit;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the authorization, set forth above, shall remain in force and effect so long as the permitted activities do not create an unsafe situation and do not interfere with the transportation along any state trunk line highway in the City of Ypsilanti pursuant to Public Act 1 of 2005.

OFFERED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

VOTE:

#Resolution No. 2021-021

This resolution is adopted by the Council of the City of Ypsilanti and approved by the Mayor this
2 day of February 2021

#Resolution No. 2021-021



Resolution No. 2021-022
February 2, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, during January of 2021, the city council engaged in goal setting and budget prioritization exercises with the valuable assistance from facilitator Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein and city administration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bernstein prepared a report titled *Ypsilanti City Council Goal-Setting Report* which outlines the results of the city council's goal setting sessions; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has reviewed the presented report, and with City Council direction, developed five umbrella goals that incorporate priorities set during goal session process. The goals are as follows:

1. **Communications and Connection**
 - a. Refresh and upgrade city website and functionality, including accessibility for visually impaired.
 - b. Develop comprehensive communication plan – including hiring director.
 - c. Seek governmental partnerships/agreements with neighboring cities.
2. **Community safety**
 - a. Hire a social worker within YPD for support and crisis intervention and create Mental Health Response Team.
 - b. Implement Community Policing philosophy to enhance safety of all residents, businesses, and visitors, and eradicate gun violence and shooting. Promote community security.
3. **Infrastructure –**
 - a. **Commons**
 - i. Allocate funds to repair city sidewalks.
 - ii. Continue to upgrade existing park facilities and maintenance.
 - iii. Create community warming space.
 - b. **Housing**
 - i. Establish policy for making current housing more affordable to address issues of housing insecurity.
 - c. **Safety**
 - i. Explore new and creative options for increased traffic calming and crosswalk safety in neighborhoods and main streets.

#Resolution No. 2021-022

- d. **Sustainability**
 - i. **Increase recycling (current levels are about 50% lower than the region)**
 - ii. **Create resilience hubs.**
- e. **Building**
 - i. **Equitably develop long-term vacant sites in the city, including Water Street.**

4. **Council Staff Workflow**

- a. **Do a compensation study of non-Union employees, including council, to structure the salary scale and allow for implementation of raises.**
- b. **Explore regional transit and available grant funding.**
- c. **Complete the Master Plan and Sustainability Plan and update the Parks and Recreation Plan.**

5. **Council Staff Development**

- a. **Develop positive staff/council work relations (communication, team building, etc.)**
- b. **Develop a student program with WCC, EMU, and YCS for city and civic work with council and city staff, including admin support for council.**
- c. **Create framework for organization diversity and inclusion through more effective recruiting, staffing, and promotion for city staff**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5.02 of the Ypsilanti city charter, the city council desires to adopt goals, objectives, and budget priorities for 2021-2022 to provide the necessary direction to the City Manager for allocation of resources for FY 2021-2022 proposed budgets.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that the Ypsilanti city council does hereby adopt the Ypsilanti City Council 2021-2022 Goal-Setting Report as the city council's goals, objectives, and budget priorities for FY 2021-2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti city council does hereby direct the City Manager to consider these adopted goals, objectives, and budget priorities during the preparation of the FY 20201-2022 proposed budgets in accordance with Section 5.02 of the Ypsilanti city charter.

OFFERED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

VOTE:

This resolution is adopted by the Council of the City of Ypsilanti and approved by the Mayor this 2 day of February 2021

#Resolution No. 2021-022

Ypsilanti City Council Goal-Setting Report

**Prepared by Jeffrey L. Bernstein
Department of Political Science
Eastern Michigan University**

January 25, 2021

Overview of the Process

The Ypsilanti City Council and Department Heads met on January 12, 2021, and January 19, 2021, to develop this goal-setting document for the coming year. Prior to the first meeting, the equivalent document from last year was shared with the attendees, and they were instructed to generate their own goals to be shared with the facilitator. At the first meeting, a series of goals within each area was generated, combining unrealized goals from last year, as well as new goals that arose from the discussion. At the second meeting, the goals from the first session were reconsidered – edited, condensed, or eliminated as needed – and then voted on by the Council and Staff members.

The goals were divided into three main areas – Community Engagement, City Infrastructure, and Council and Staff – and were further divided into sub-goals. Goals were voted on separately within each area; each attendee at the meeting was given a set number of votes within each focus area, generally equaling approximately half the goals listed in that area.

The votes presented here are tabulated separately for Council and Staff. As a general rule, there was agreement between the two on the prioritization of goals.

The range of goals included here are wide-ranging and touch on many facets of city governance. The ordering of goals is obviously something that will need to be addressed further as the year goes on, as the Council and Staff wrestle with operationalizing this list, and adjust to changes that might be necessitated as new challenges arise. We have certainly learned in the best year that the most carefully-constructed goals are but a suggestion to be offered before fate intervenes.

I would like to publicly acknowledge Tamia van Geloven, a senior political science major from Eastern Michigan University, for her assistance in this process and in the compilation of this report.

It was my honor to work with you all on this process. I am happy to answer any further questions on this report as desired, and wish you all the best of luck in the coming year on the process of implementing these goals. Best wishes for a safe and productive year!

Jeffrey L. Bernstein
Department of Political Science
Eastern Michigan University
734-417-5540

Community – Connection	Council	Staff	Total
Refresh and upgrade city website and functionality, including accessibility for visually impaired	7	8	15
Develop comprehensive communication plan – including hiring director	7	7	14
Seek governmental partnerships/agreements with neighboring cities	4	7	11
Enhance Board and Commission training and ensure that people are attending these trainings	5	6	11
Nominate qualified candidates (including youth members) to commissions to fill membership rosters	6	4	10
Improve council meeting preparation and transparency in communication	5	5	10
Review City Charter to consider if it should be amended	4	5	9
Engage the public in issues concerning the removal of Peninsular Dam	4	2	6
Provide equipment for entertainment at Frog Island Amphitheatre	2	4	6
Revitalization campaign for city motto	2	2	4
Install 3-4 flyer kiosks for better communication	1	3	4
Create/sponsor Ypsi Art Prize to incorporate Public Art opportunities	1	1	2
Utilize funding for public art on city trucks (YCS art students)	1	1	2

Community – Safety	Council	Staff	Total
Hire a social worker within YPD for support and crisis intervention	5	8	13
Implement Community Policing philosophy to enhance safety of all residents, businesses, and visitors	5	7	12
Work with police, citizens, and other groups to eradicate gun violence and shootings	6	4	10
Increase City Council involvement in security for entire community	4	5	9
Work with county on mental health response	3	5	8
Create a Mental Health Response Team	6	2	8
Use mental health millage money for mental health response team	4	3	7
Address security problems for downtown business owners	1	6	7
Work on issues of COVID safety and vaccines for city officials and residents	4	3	7
Collaborate with EMU social work program on mental health response	1	6	7
Support Barrier Busters program at county level	3	3	6

Infrastructure – Commons	Council	Staff	Total
Allocate funds to repair city sidewalks	5	9	14
Continue to upgrade existing park facilities and maintenance	5	7	12
Create community warming space	7	5	12
Complete road improvement projects as fiscal constraints allow	4	6	10
Re-establish the Parks and Rec Department	4	5	9
Provide more resources for DPS for summer and winter maintenance	4	5	9
Improve physical accessibility to city government buildings	4	4	8
Remove Peninsular Dam: do engineering study	3	4	7
Establish more equity in parking permits	4	3	7
Continue to upgrade existing park facilities and maintenance	2	4	6

Infrastructure – Housing	Council	Staff	Total
Establish policy for making current housing more affordable to address issues of housing insecurity	6	5	11
Continue to support housing trust that has been established	5	6	11
Remove barriers to housing for homeless citizens	5	5	10
Develop city property and non-city-owned property for housing	3	5	8
Increase support for housing commission for addressing security concerns	3	4	7
Work in partnership with EMU to address housing needs	3	4	7
Pursue equitable rezoning	3	2	5

Infrastructure – Safety	Council	Staff	Total
Explore new and creative options for increased traffic calming and crosswalk safety in neighborhoods and main streets	7	6	13
Replace Police In-Car Camera System	4	6	10
Install crosswalk on Huron at RAC	3	7	10
Install Hawk light on Hamilton and Michigan Ave	5	5	10
Survey city signage and update as needed	4	6	10
Install 4-way stops at dangerous intersections	5	2	7
Eliminate the slip lane at Huron and Cross	4	3	7
Fix River Street	1	2	3
Research and make proposals for “Snow Buddies” program for winter maintenance	2	0	2

Infrastructure – Sustainability	Council	Staff	Total
Increase recycling (current levels are about 50% lower than the region)	6	9	15
Explore moving from recycling bins to recycling carts apply for grants for carts	3	9	12
Update emergency management plan	4	8	12
Digitize financial records	4	7	11
Allocate funding to an alternative fueling system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	4	6	10
Create resilience hubs throughout the city, at least one in each ward, for emergencies	4	2	6
Convert grass medians to rain gardens to reduce mowing	3	1	4
Send Council members and staff to Michigan Catalyst Community Academy for training	1	2	3
Attain carbon neutrality for city (government)	1	0	1

Infrastructure – Buildings	Council	Staff	Total
Equitably develop long-term vacant sites in the city, including Water Street	7	5	12
Develop a plan to provide regular maintenance schedules for city facilities	2	7	9
Increase rental inspections to catch up from COVID- related slowdown	2	3	5
Increase vacant and dangerous building enforcement	3	1	4

Infrastructure – Office	Council	Staff	Total
Reduce manual process and automate	2	4	6
Clean and organize office	2	3	5
Implement an environmentally friendly office	3	1	4

Council/Staff – Workflow	Council	Staff	Total
Do a compensation study of non-Union employees to structure the salary scale	6	9	15
Explore regional transit and available grant funding	6	7	13
Complete the Master Plan and Sustainability Plan and update the Parks and Recreation plan	4	7	11
Complete MDNR	5	5	10
Hire Records Clerk to increase efficiency and keep windows open Fridays	3	5	8
Reorganize third floor so everyone checks into a central front desk	3	5	8
Explore fail-safe way to stay in compliance with financial infrastructure	3	2	5
Investigate Congressional Partners-Feet in the Ground Federal Grant Writing Agency	3	2	5
Create equitable solutions for city protocols and practices	2	1	3

Council/Staff – Development	Council	Staff	Total
Evaluate staff pay and implement employee raises	5	9	14
Develop positive staff/council work relations (communication, team-building, etc.)	4	8	12
Develop a student program with WCC, EMU. And YCS for city and civic work with council and city staff	6	4	10
Implement training for leadership for employees – internal leadership program	3	7	10
Evaluate council pay scale	3	5	8
Improve customer experience by holding training for frontline staff	1	6	7
Create framework for organization diversity and inclusion through more effective recruiting, staffing, and promotion for city staff	3	4	7
Develop additional administration support for council	5	2	7



**2020 Annual Report
Historic District Commission and
Historic Preservation Program
Ypsilanti, Michigan**

INTRODUCTION

The Historic District Commission of the City of Ypsilanti is governed by the Michigan Local Historic Districts Act, State of Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970, and by Chapter 54 of the City of Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances. The Commission works to safeguard locally designated historic resources through review of exterior changes. City staff works on a broader historic preservation program that aims to recognize significant historic resources across the city.

MEMBERSHIP

Alex Pettit, Chair
Anne Stevenson, Vice Chair
Amy Swift
Erika Lindsay
Ronald Rupert

Hank Prebys (Resigned, end of January 2020)
James Chesnut
James Ratzlaff

COMMISSION AND STAFF

According to Sec. 54-32 of the City's Historical Preservation Ordinance, Historic preservation is declared to be a public purpose with numerous community benefits. The Historic District Commission (HDC) has several responsibilities, but chiefly, it serves as the quasi-judicial body that ensures exterior alterations of historic properties meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation and local Design Criteria to protect the historic integrity of the district for future generations.

The HDC is comprised of seven members, including at least one architect or building/conservation expert, and two residents of the historic district. The HDC is staffed by the Preservation Planner, Scott Slagor and is also supported by a recording secretary, Nancy Hare-Dickerson.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the HDC continued meeting regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. From April through December the HDC met remotely via Zoom, just like the City's other boards and commissions. Business was completed with relatively few technical difficulties.

The turnaround time for most applications was about two weeks from submission to approval. Potential applicants are encouraged to bring projects to the HDC as study items before formal submission of an application. The study item allows the HDC to

provide feedback to property owners at a conceptual stage, clarifying expectations and allowing for a more predictable final review.

Changes in HDC Membership

In January 2020, long-time HDC member and district resident, Hank Prebys retired from service at the end of his term. Mr. Prebys had served on the HDC since May 1996. His seat was not filled until December. Due to an extended period without a full commission, three of the regularly scheduled 2020 meetings were canceled due to lack of quorum. In December the vacant seat was filled by James Ratzlaff, a district resident with an interest in the community and local history.

INITIATIVES

COVID-19 and the HDC

The HDC has managed to meet consistently through 2020 despite COVID-19. Six of the seven commissioners found it easy to use the Zoom application, while one commissioner with limited internet access was delayed in participating. Staff worked with that commissioner to assist them with participating via phone, which they did once. One meeting the phone line failed and an applicant was not able to participate, but otherwise virtual meetings have worked very well. Preservation Planner, Scott Slagor, was invited by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network to present in a training on how to conduct HDC meetings virtually, which was attended by commissioners and staff from HDCs around the state.

HDC Demolition by Neglect

In 2018, the HDC reviewed and made the determination that three properties in the historic district were in danger of demolition by neglect; 302 E Cross, 206-210 N Washington and 401 E Forest. Work to resolve the condition issues of those properties progressed in 2019, but in 2020 has stalled largely due to COVID-19. The HDC and staff had been working with the owner of 302 E Cross to have the building repaired and secured, however the property owner has not been reachable since the onset of the virus. The property at 206-210 N Washington was acquired by the City through foreclosure. The City is working on its redevelopment, which will ultimately resolve the case of demolition by neglect. The City is prepared to take legal action against the owners of 401 E Forest so that the property may be repaired, however that process has been delayed by the pandemic.

CLG Grant

In September/October, staff completed a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for the restoration of the Tiffany Stained Glass windows of Starkweather Memorial Chapel in Highland Cemetery. The HDC reviewed a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the cemetery in 2019. The district was successfully listed, and the Highland Cemetery Association reached out to the City to apply for a CLG grant. If awarded, the City will receive a \$45,000 reimbursement grant for the window's restoration.

New Owner Outreach

New property owners in the historic district receive letters to welcome them to the historic district and provide a general overview of how exterior work is regulated. These new owner mailings occurred in March and September. The regularly scheduled mailings

in June and December were delayed due to the pandemic. Additionally, post cards were sent regularly to realtors who list properties in the Historic District.

Facebook updates

Staff continued utilizing the HDC's Facebook page to do weekly "Throwback Thursday" posts utilizing old photos from City files and surveys as well as photos from the archives at the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Staff has also been utilizing the page more regularly for meeting updates and relevant preservation topics.

Historic Walking Tours

In October 2019 Preservation Planner, Scott Slagor, led walking tours of Downtown and Depot Town in partnership with the DDA to highlight historic resources in Ypsilanti's historic commercial districts. Over the winter, he completed research for a similar tour of the West Cross area. The original plan was to hold tours monthly May through October, however due to the pandemic in-person tours were canceled for the year. In November, these tours were uploaded to the City website to make them more accessible and encourage folks to explore the DDA. Additionally, Slagor gave a virtual version of the Downtown Walking Tour to the Ypsilanti Historical Society at their October meeting.

Historic Coloring Books

Currently, Planning and DDA staff are working on coloring books to highlight some of the historically significant buildings, and remarkable transformations, in the three historic DDA districts. Logistics of producing the coloring books are still being discussed, however staff hopes to have the coloring books done by the end of winter 2021.

APPLICATIONS

The number of applications received in 2020 was significantly lower than those submitted in previous years, roughly seventy percent of the total in 2018 and 2019. The number of applications and actions taken is depicted in the table below.

One application was automatically considered approved because the HDC was not able to reach a decision in the required 60-day time frame. This was a unique circumstance where the HDC could not meet as scheduled due to lack of quorum and could not call a special meeting because the State Supreme Court has struck down the Governor's executive order that enabled virtual meetings. To avoid this in the future, staff developed a form where an applicant can agree to extend their review period with the HDC. This "other approval" is tallied in the administrative approvals.

Historic District Commission Actions, 2016-2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Approved as submitted	69	73	68	60	43
Approved with modifications	14	22	11	13	4
Approved administratively	13	36	27	44	32

Amended applications	4	4	5	3	1
Denied: lack of information	1	1	1	0	0
Denied: inappropriate	5	6	3	3	3
Pending at year end	0	2	1	0	0
Notice to Proceed	0	0	5	7	7
Total Applications	106	144	124	125	90
Study Items	42	43	41	35	12

MAJOR PROJECTS in the HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Historic District continued to benefit from investment over the past year. Some of the significant projects are summarized here:

- **New Construction**

Few new buildings were approved in 2020, with the exception of new garages at 412 Oak and 322 E Forest.

- **100 W Michigan Façade Rehabilitation**

In 2019, one of the most notable changes to the district was the removal of metal cladding from 100 W Michigan (formerly Dalat Restaurant). In 2020, work began on rehabilitating the façade and east elevation to something more compatible with the building's extant historic features. It took many meetings, and study items, but eventually the HDC and developer reached an agreement on new windows and storefront treatments that would be appropriate for the building. Due to financial limitations, a full restoration could not be reached, however the ultimate result is a good example of a rehabilitation in the historic district.

- **101 W Michigan**

During 2020 work continued on the façade rehabilitation of 101 W Michigan, which is nearly completely finished. Modifications to the storefront windows had to be made because of structural limitations. The HDC worked with the property owner to ensure the modifications were compatible with the character of the building.

Demolitions

No demolitions were completed in 2020.

Appeals

No appeals were filed with the State Historic Preservation Review Board in 2020.

LOOKING FORWARD

Due to the pandemic, work in the historic district and preservation initiatives were not as robust as projected. There is uncertainty as to when the pandemic will end and its prolonged economic effects, however there are still goals to look forward to in 2021.

Visible changes should continue to take place at the major building projects as work moves to completion.

The Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit bill passed and was signed into law shortly before the new year. The new tax credit is expanded, allowing for both National Register and locally designated properties, which includes a much larger area of Ypsilanti. Staff plans to hold a public meeting once the process is figured out. Commissioners, staff, and many Ypsilanti residents advocated to legislators in favor of the tax credit. Both Representative Peterson and Senator Irwin voted in favor of the bill.

Goals

Staff and the HDC will continue to work toward the goals established by the State Historic Preservation Office in their 2018 Certified Local Government evaluation; including new design guidelines as applicable, continued survey of undesignated historic resources, and education opportunities. Staff will also investigate the creation of a historic district study committee to update the current district to address boundaries that do not conform to parcel lines, an updated period of significance, and updated contributing/non-contributing resources list.

To help complete these goals, staff hopes to secure funding for an intern. Work to establish an intern began in 2020, however it was suspended due to uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

SUMMARY

Despite the challenges of virtual meetings, the HDC and property owners continued to work together. Ongoing work in the historic district despite the declining economy speaks to the vibrancy of Ypsilanti and the value its residents place in the city's historic resources. The HDC and staff will build on the achievements of 2020 in fulfilling goals for the historic preservation program in 2021.



Resolution No. 2021-023
February 2, 2021

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: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE:

This resolution is adopted by the Council of the City of Ypsilanti and approved by the Mayor this
2 day of February 2021

#Resolution No. 2021-023