



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 7:00 PM, on the Zoom Platform, with the following members present:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Steve Wilcoxon moved to add presentation from YCS to the agenda, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns. On a voice vote the motion carried. The agenda was approved as amended.

IV. CLOSED SESSION - 6:00 TO 7:00 PM

- A. Closed Session to discuss pending litigation - MCL 15.268 (e) Ypsilanti Art Theatre Corp v the City of Ypsilanti.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to adjourn to a closed session at 6:07 PM

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

- B. Closed Session for the consideration of the purchase or lease of real property - MCL 15.268 (d).

- C. Closed Session to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute - MCL 15.268 (h).

Council Member Steve Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville to reconvene to an open meeting at 7:02 PM. On a voice vote the motion carried.

Council Member Steve Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville to add a closed session at the end of the meeting to continue the topics that were not previously covered in the last closed session. On a voice vote the motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1 member from the public spoke

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD) - Pilot Project to protect Trees and Woodlots - Summer Roberts, Community Forester, WCCD
- B. Ypsilanti Community Schools Holiday Support Drive - Cherisa Allen, Program Community Liaison for YCS (added)

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Resolution No. 2021-259, commending artist Curtis Wallace and students from Educate Youth for the mural at 104 S Huron.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-259

WHEREAS, WonderFool Productions partnered with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority, and building owner Simarjeet Sethi to engage a local artist to work with Ypsilanti youth to create a mural at 11 S. Washington Street for ypsiGLOW 2021; and

WHEREAS, artist Curtis Wallace, founder of The Be Creative Studio Community Arts & Events Space was selected as the lead artist to work in partnership with student artists from Educate Youth 501c3; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Wallace guided and inspired the student artists who worked alongside him in creating and installing the mural – A Beautiful Phenomenon: Girls Bee Free – that now serves as a lasting affirmation of the beauty and power of women and girls of color in our Ypsilanti community; and

WHEREAS, student artists were also inspired to create a sidewalk mural for ypsiGLOW in front of the Educate Youth Clubhouse at 104 S. Huron Street

– Love is Love -- reminding us all of the power of love in our community and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti hereby commends artist Curtis Wallace and his student artists from Educate Youth – LanayJah English, Morgan Horgrow, Gabe Moore, Jordan Dorsey, and Kyren Coats – for sharing their creative vision and talents with the Ypsilanti community through this inspiring mural project; and

THAT the City Council also commends Educate Youth student artists for shining a light on the power of love with their sidewalk mural – Morgan Horgrow and Kierra Owens, designers and fellow painters Kyren Coats, Gabe Moore, LanyaJah English, Kendall Johnstone, Morrissio Weatherspoon; and

THAT the City Council shares the deepest appreciation on behalf of the Ypsilanti community for sharing your creative talents and hopes for the future of our city; and encourages these emerging artists to keep sharing their creativity and dreams for our future.

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI at a regular meeting held on December 7, 2021.

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

- B. Resolution No. 2021-260, approving the minutes of November 16, 2021.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-260

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of November 16, 2021 be approved.

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

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown to move item C after item F. On a voice vote, the motion carried. (Council Member Anthony Morgan disagree)

- C. Resolution No. 2021-262, approving the contract with Embracing our Differences (EOD) and placement of art installations in the city's park system.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-262

RESOLUITON TO APPROVE ART PROJECT WITH EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES SE MICHIGAN, INC

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

The certain contract for art project in City parks with EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES SE MICHIGAN, INC. be approved, and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City of Ypsilanti.

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

- D. Resolution No. 2021-263, approving the janitorial contract award to RNA Facilities Management for City Facilities.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-263

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, proposals were solicited for janitorial services for several City facilities; and,

Whereas, the bid of \$56,424 annual submitted by RNA Facilities Management of Ann Arbor, MI meets the specifications, is within 5% of the lowest qualified bidder, subject to the City's local preference guidelines, and would best service the interests of the City; and,

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti award the 2021 Janitorial Services bid to RNA Facilities Management for an annual cost of \$56,474 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract documents and any change orders, subject to approval by the City Attorney, to complete the award of this contract.

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

- E. Resolution No. 2021-264, approving an agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and Recycling Ann Arbor to take recycling to their Material Recycling Facility.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2021-264

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, Recycle Ann Arbor has proposed an agreement to provide processing and marketing services for the City; and,

Whereas, the location of their materials recovery facility is closer than the current material recovery facilities creating efficiencies and cost savings for the city; and,

Whereas, it is anticipated the utilization of the Recycle Ann Arbor materials recovery facility will have a positive impact on the City's recycling program by allowing the city to collect glass in our curbside collection program;

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti approve the agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and Recycle Ann Arbor to have Recycle Ann Arbor provide processing and materials marketing services for the City and to authorize the City Manager to sign the contract documents and any change orders, subject to approval by the City Attorney, to complete the authorization of this contract

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

- F. Resolution No. 2021-261, recognizing the Mayor's Race and Equity Meeting as an Ad Hoc Committee, but not as an official city meeting.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2021-261

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

Whereas, the Mayor has called for ad hoc public meetings to discuss race and equity in the Ypsilanti area, and

Whereas, City Council and city boards and commission members are invited together with the general public, and

Whereas, City Council desires to avoid the appearance of any possible violation of the Michigan Open Meetings Act,

Now Therefore, Ypsilanti City Council recognizes the Race and Equity Meetings as public meetings, but not official City meetings, and directs the Ypsilanti City Clerk to post notice of the meetings as public meetings. The

City Clerk shall accept any minutes of the meetings, but otherwise, the City Clerk and City staff shall have no further obligations regarding the meetings.

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

- G. Resolution No. 2021-265, accepting a grant from the National Resource Trust Fund for the I-94 Pedestrian Crossing.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

The City of Ypsilanti, Michigan, does hereby accept the terms of the project agreement for TF20-0162, Huron Pathway as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DEPARTMENT), and that the City of Ypsilanti does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide local match funds totaling two million seven hundred thousand (\$2,732,500) dollars to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the applicant commits \$120,000 of said local match from its own resources and additional confirmed funds from the following sources:

- **Transportation Alternatives Program, \$2,242,500**
- **WATS Federal Aid \$125,000**
- **MDOT Match for Federal Aid: \$25,000**
- **Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation: \$100,000**
- **Charter Township of Ypsilanti: \$120,000**

2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the DEPARTMENT for auditing at reasonable times.

3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.

4. To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.

5. To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.

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

- H. Resolution No. 2021-266, approving the request of Washtenaw Community College to replace the freestanding sign at Parkridge Community Center.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to table Resolution No. 2021-266

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, Washtenaw Community College wishes to replace the freestanding sign at Parkridge Community Center; and,

Whereas, it is in the City's best interest to ensure that periodic improvements are made to the facility;

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti authorizes Washtenaw Community College to replace the freestanding sign at Parkridge Community Center.

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

- I. Resolution No. 2021-267, supporting the Michigan Prosperity Roadmap Plan.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to call the question

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

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No.2021-2067

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has faced tremendous challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but, at the same time, has been presented an opportunity to change the trajectory of the state's quality of life for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition for a Strong and Prosperous Michigan set out to thoughtfully answer how to strategically invest the billions of dollars the American Rescue Plan (ARP) dedicated to the state to support individuals, education, small business, infrastructure and government; and

WHEREAS, community and business leaders came together to discuss their priorities and listen and learn from each other. Together, they developed a comprehensive roadmap to amplify the ARP funds; and

WHEREAS, the MI Prosperity Roadmap Proposal focuses the state's \$6 billion in ARP resources in a coordinated fashion across five key areas:

infrastructure, fiscal health, thriving communities, strong economy and public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the state's water infrastructure is in desperate need of repair and replacement. The proposal allocates \$2.5 billion in resilient and sustainable water systems with some key investments going to lead line replacement, drinking water, and stormwater; and

WHEREAS, high-speed broadband access increases economic development and access to educational opportunities for communities across Michigan. The roadmap provides \$500 million in broadband investments in areas such as in-fill broadband grants, statewide mapping and enhancing the Connecting Michigan Communities Grant; and

WHEREAS, long-term fiscal health is key to stabilizing Michigan's economy. The proposal allocates \$800 million in smart investments to provide stability for state and local governments in key areas such as revenue sharing, the unemployment insurance trust fund and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, thriving Michigan communities are critical to the state's long-term resiliency. The coalition proposes \$806 million in attainable housing to encourage Michigan population growth and talent recruitment retention; and

WHEREAS, a strong economy is essential for Michigan's future success. The proposal dedicates \$910 million to economic development in keys areas such as brownfield development, job training, direct business support grants and strategic and large site development; and

WHEREAS, protecting the quality of life for residents allows them to participate in their economy and community. The roadmap provides \$500 million in public health and safety to strategically invest in mental health and addiction services, facility improvements and cybersecurity; and

WHEREAS, as leaders representing people from every corner of Michigan, the coalition is ready to find common ground and work together to invest in Michigan's future to emerge more resilient and more prosperous; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti supports the Michigan Prosperity Roadmap Plan

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti direct the City Clerk to forward this resolution to the Michigan House, Michigan Senate, Governor Whitmer, and the city lobbyist.

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

VIII. BOARD AND COMMISSION - COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Police Advisory Commission Resolution No. 2021-006 - Expungement Consolidation

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to add Resolution No. 2021-006 to the next agenda for approval

IX. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. **None**
2. Human Relations Commission. **None**
3. Arts Commission. **None**
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. **None**
5. Sustainability Commission. **None**
6. Historic District Commission. **None**
7. Planning Commission. **Mr. Jones-Chance informed Council that the meeting mostly was about curb cuts and plantings at upcoming marijuana facility on Michigan and First.**
8. Zoning Board of Appeals **None**

X. LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update **Mayor Richardson stated that the Executive Board met last Friday**
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **None**
3. Urban County **Mayor Richardson stated that the body discussed increasing cases of covid in the county.**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **None**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool **Council Member Wilcoxon stated the board discussed upgrading bike racks and that they would like to present their end of the year report to Council.**

XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Jones-Chance

- None

Wilcoxon

- Thanked Ron for responding to the alley

Morgan

- Stated he has been speaking with individuals regarding strategies to maintain talent in the City of Ypsilanti.

Symanns

- Asked about the fireworks during EMU football games, suggesting there should be a caveat that they not occur during the week during next year's approval.

Brown

- **None**

Somerville

- **None**

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- **Asked for a community wide meeting to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act Funds, and asked Council to select dates.**
- **Stated that petitions are being circulated regarding legislation for elections. She asked that everyone be aware what they are for prior to signing.**

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. Discussion on American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to extend the meeting to 11 PM

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

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Goal Setting Dates: January 6th and 13th/ January 25th in Conjunction with the Regular meeting (if needed)

Mr. Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steve Wilcoxon to change the goal setting dates to January 6th and January 18th / January 25th (if needed). On a voice vote the motion carried.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to adjourn into a closed session at 10:09 PM

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

Mr. Brian Jones-Chance, moved, seconded by Council Member Steve Wilcoxon to reconvene into an open meeting. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- A.** Resolution No. 2021-268, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

Council Member Steve Wilcoxon moved, Mr. Brian Jones-Chance seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 PM.

- 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.