



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, Mayor Nicole Brown, Council Member Desirae Simmons, Council Member Evan Sweet, Council Member Roland Tooson, and Council Member Michelle King

ABSENT: None

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

II ROLL CALL

III PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- a) I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IV AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as submitted

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

VI GOAL SESSIONS - SHARONDA SIMMONS

- a) Goal Sessions Agenda

Goal sessions facilitated by Sharonda Simmons

VII RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No, 2023-008, approving the submission of a local government grant application for the purpose of resurveying the Historic District.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-008

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti will file an application to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the Certified Local Government Grant program in the amount of \$50,000 for the Resurvey of the Ypsilanti Local Historic District and;

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti acknowledges that the Certified Local Government Grant Program is an expense reimbursement program. The City of Ypsilanti authorizes expenditures in the amount of \$50,000 for the project work, with funds from the City's General Fund, and;

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti acknowledges it will be responsible for paying invoices as they become due and that reimbursement will be made upon completion of final project work, SHPO acceptance of the final completion report, and SHPO audit and acceptance of financial documentation for eligible costs, and;

Whereas, upon approval of the application by the SHPO, the City Manager or designee shall be authorized to sign the grant agreement, any necessary grant agreement amendments, and other agreement-related documents, and;

Whereas, Ellen Thackery, Preservation Planner, is appointed as the Grant Project Manager who will oversee the day-to-day grant management and grant administration duties, including vendor selection and coordinating the payment of vendor invoices;

RESOLVED, that City of Ypsilanti directs the Preservation Planner to file an application for a grant from the SHPO Certified Local Government Grant Program for \$50,000; and

RESOLVED, that the City Manager or designee be authorized to sign the grant application and any additional grant documentation, and to take any additional administrative actions necessary to implement this resolution; and

RESOLVED, that Ypsilanti City Council hereby adopts the proposed budget amendment included with this resolution.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King

- b) Resolution No. 2023-009, approving the minutes of January 10 and 17 2023.

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-009

THAT the minutes of January 10 and 17, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Evan Sweet
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King

- c) Resolution No. 2023-010, approving the extension of an agreement with the Washtenaw County Prosecutors Office for an expungement program.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-010

That an extension for the grant agreement with the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney for \$25,000 for support of the Expungement Program is hereby approved and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Roland Tooson
SECONDER:	Council Member Evan Sweet
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King

- d) Resolution No. 2023-011, approving salary increases for the City Manager and the City Clerk.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to divide the question for Resolution No 2023-011, separating the City Manager and City Clerk

WHEREAS, the City Council has evaluated both the City Manager and City Clerk for their performance; and

WHEREAS, both employees were rated highly in their performance reviews; and

WHEREAS, both employees' salary will increase by 3%.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approve the above salary increases effective retroactively to the date of employee evaluations

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-011A, City Clerk
WHEREAS, the City Council has evaluated the City Clerk for their performance; and

WHEREAS, the employee was rated highly in their performance review; and

WHEREAS, the employee's salary will increase by 3%.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approve the above salary increase effective retroactively to the date of employee evaluation.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
SECONDER:	Council Member Roland Tooson
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Evan Sweet, and Roland Tooson
ABSTAINED:	Desirae Simmons and Michelle King

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-011B, City Manager
WHEREAS, the City Council has evaluated the City Manager for their performance; and

WHEREAS, the employee was rated highly in their performance review; and

WHEREAS, the employee's salary will increase by 3%.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approve the above salary increase effective retroactively to the date of employee evaluation.

RESULT:	FAILED.
MOVER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
SECONDER:	Council Member Roland Tooson
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, and Evan Sweet
NAYS:	Steven Wilcoxon
ABSTAINED:	Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King

VIII BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. - None
2. Human Relations Commission. None
3. Arts Commission. - Council Member Sweet stated he spoke with the chair of the commission and is excited to go to his first meeting.
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. - None
5. Sustainability Commission. - None
6. Historic District Commission. - None

7. Planning Commission. - Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen stated the non-Motorized Committee chair will be stepping down as chair, and Dylan Goings will be taking the seat. The Committee asked the Planning Commission to amend the bylaws concerning officer appointments of committees. The Planner Hollie Andrews brought forth a text amendment to remove supportive housing for the code.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals - None

IX LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen stated SEMCOG University held a forum on carbon reduction for FYs 24-26 concerning surface transportation and fleet replacement with potential grant opportunities to upgrade the city's fleet.
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
3. Urban County - Mayor Brown stated there was a general introduction to new members.
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - DDA Director Jacobs stated there was discussion regarding the way the Holiday store front competition would be reviewed.
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - Mayor Pro -Tem Wilcoxen stated the pool continues to seek DNR and SPARK Grants to resurface the pool. The Friends group is also examining potential funding to increase programming.
6. Bicentennial Committee - None

X COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

a) **King**
None

b) **Simmons**

1. Stated she would be following up with staff regarding information presented in the Council Information Letter.
2. Stated a resident emailed about speeding concerns at Prospect and Forest and inquired about traffic calming techniques.
3. Stated a resident stated there was an emergency call that received a large police presence in response. The individual felt the situation escalated as a result, and the police failed to properly identify themselves when requested.
4. A resident has offered to apply for an environmental justice bill grant.

c) **Wilcoxen**

1. Stated that the grant application for the Pen Dam removal is due by January 31, 2023, and the engineering group is working on it's submission. The project has received several letters of support, however, Ypsilanti Township has denied submitting a letter based on unanswered questions.

d) **Sweet**

1. Stated it was nice to meet everyone at the DPS Yard during his visit to the facility.

e) **Symanns**

1. Stated police do respond to emergency calls and are trained as first responders, however, she is uncertain why so many officers were sent.
2. She asked for a resolution to rescind the mask mandate for public meetings, which was supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen.

f) **Tooson**

1. Stated he was provided a tour of the DPS Yard and was amazed how much they can do with their equipment.

XI COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Stated that she will be taking a tour of the DPS Yard on Thursday of next week, and would like to visit the other facilities.
2. Stated that the conversation was a learning experience. She was amazed by the alignment of Departments and Council and hopes that better communication will avoid confusion moving forward.
3. Stated she attended the Martian Luther King celebration at EMU as well as some EMU basketball games. She referenced the need for Council to provide support for the students of the university and to better collaborate with university administration.

XII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

XIV REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XV ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-012, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 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.