



ACTION MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Meeting
6:00 PM - Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Nicole Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, Council Member Evan Sweet, Council Member Roland Tooson, Council Member Me'Chelle King, Council Member Desirae Simmons (6:05).

Absent: Council Member Jennifer Symanns.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to add a discussion of Resolution 2023-222 (Expressing Solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza) passed at the November 7th council meeting, seconded by Council Member Sweet.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member King. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Yes - 5, No - 0, Absent - 2 (Council Members D. Simmons and J. Symanns)

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Amy Cell City Manager Search Update**

- B. Youth Mental Health Mini-Grant Application: Our Community Reads**

- 1. Resolution 2023-225, Approving a fund transfer to increase the balance of the Youth Mental Health Mini-Grant.**

Council Member King moved to approve Resolution 2023-225, Approving a fund transfer to increase the balance of the Youth Mental Health Mini-Grant. Council Member Sweet seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

- 2. Resolution 2023-226, Approving a mini grant of \$5,000 for Our Community Reads.**

Council Member Tooson moved to approve Resolution 2023-226, Approving a mini grant of \$5,000 for Our Community Reads. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

C. Youth Mental Health Mini-Grant Application: Ypsilanti Choral Association

1. Resolution 2023-227, Approving a mini grant of \$5,000 for Ypsilanti Choral Association.

Council Member Simmons moved to approve Resolution 2023-227, Approving a mini grant of \$5,000 for Ypsilanti Choral Association. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

D. Youth Mental Health Mini-Grant Application: Elevation Youth

1. Resolution 2023-228, Approving a mini grant of \$5,000 for Elevation Youth.

Council Member Sweet moved to approve Resolution 2023-228, Approving a mini grant of \$5,000 for Elevation Youth. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

E. Care Based Safety

F. Decriminalization Policy

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Fifty-One members of the public made comments.

Council Member Sweet moved to extend the meeting to 11:00 PM, seconded by Council Member Tooson. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Yes - 6, No - 0, Absent - 1 (Council Member J. Symanns)

VII. ORDINANCES FIRST READING

A. Ordinance 1422, an ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to add a new Division 9 to Chapter 2 - Administration, Article VII - Department of the city of Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances to create the Department of Community Services, create the position of Director of Community Services, establish the functions of the department, and provide for the prescription of departmental rules and regulations."

1. Resolution 2023-229, Determination.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcohen moved to approve Resolution 2023-229, Determination for Ordinance 1422 creating the Department of Community Services. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

2. Public Hearing.

One member of the public made comments.

3. Resolution 2023-230, Closing the public hearing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcohen moved to approve Resolution 2023-230, closing the public hearing for Ordinance 1422 establishing the Department of Community Services. Council Member Sweet seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Resolution 2023-231, Approving the Consent Agenda.

Council Member King moved to approve Resolution 2023-231, Approving the Consent Agenda. Council Member Sweet seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

1. Resolution 2023-232, Approving the minutes of the November 7th and November 9th City Council meetings.
2. Resolution 2023-233, Approving special assessments for the winter 2023 tax bills.

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Discussion regarding City Manager search.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to extend the search for city manager candidates to December 10th, increase the salary range to \$120,000 - \$140,000, and instruct Finance Director Rheagan Basabica and Human Resources Director Rachel Frye to provide the total compensation package to Amy Cell Talent Search and City Council as soon as possible. Council Member King seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.
Yes - 6, No - 0, Absent - 1 (J. Symanns)

Amy Cell Talent will provide City Council with information about the top candidates on December 15th. City Council will decide which candidates at their December 19th meeting, and interviews will be scheduled in January.

B. Resolution 2023-213, Approving Ordinance 1421, an ordinance entitled, "Removing the Open Meetings Act Requirements from the Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission." (Second Reading - Tabled)

Council Member Tooson moved to untable Resolution 2023-213, Removing the Open Meetings Act requirements from the Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion to untable. On a voice vote, the motion carried.
Yes - 6, No - 0, Absent - 1 (J. Symanns)

Council Member Tooson moved to approve Resolution 2023-213, Approving Ordinance 1421, an ordinance entitled, "Removing the Open Meetings Act Requirements from the Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission." (Second Reading - Tabled) Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (1) Roland Tooson
No: 5 Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown
Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to extend the meeting to 12:00 AM, seconded by Council Member Sweet. On a voice vote, the motion carried.
Yes - 6, No - 0, Absent - 1 (J. Symanns)

C. Resolution 2023-234, Approving appointments to boards and commissions.

Council Member Sweet moved to approve Resolution 2023-234, Approving appointments to boards and commissions. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown

No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

D. Resolution 2023-235, Approving an agreement with MDOT.

Council Member Simmons moved to approve Resolution 2023-235, Approving an agreement with MDOT. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

E. Discussion regarding Resolution 2023-222 Expressing Solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza (passed 11/7/2023).

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to rescind Resolution 2023-222 and bring forth a new resolution with more balanced language at the December 5th, 2023 City Council Meeting. The new resolution will acknowledge the impact of the violence in Gaza on both Palestinians and Jews, as well as acknowledge the United States government's role in the current conflict. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (4) Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown

No: 2 Michelle King, Desirae Simmons

Absent: (1) Jennifer Symanns

X. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

B. Human Relations Commission

C. Parks and Arts Commission

D. Sustainability Commission

E. Historic District Commission

F. Planning Commission

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

C. Urban County

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

F. Bicentennial Committee

XII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to extend the meeting to 12:15 AM, seconded by Council Member Sweet. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Yes - 6, No - 0, Absent - 1 (J. Symanns)

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Four members of the public made comments.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 AM.

A. Resolution No. 2023-236, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

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.