



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT at roll call were Mayor Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon, Council Member King, Council Member Tooson, Council Member McLean, Council Member Simmons, and Council Member Sweet. ABSENT: None

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

Council Member McLean moved to Approve the AGENDA as presented. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

8 Members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation by Corn Williams with an update on the process of drug testing to reduce over-dose.**

VII. ORDINANCES FIRST READING

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2024-174 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda.**

Council Member Sweet moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-174 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda. as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

- B. Resolution No. 2024-175 approving the minutes of the Council Meeting of July 16, 2024.**

Council Member Sweet moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-175 approving the minutes of the Council Meeting of July 16, 2024. as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

C. Resolution No. 2024-176 Appointing Jeff Cifor to the Police Advisory Commission, with a term ending February 1, 2028.

Council Member Sweet moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-176 Appointing Jeff Cifor to the Police Advisory Commission, with a term ending February 1, 2028. as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

D. Resolution No. 2024-177 Approving the request of ACE Pyro, LLC. for a Pyrotechnics Permit for the Fall 2024 Football season at EMU.

Council Member Sweet moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-177 Approving the request of ACE Pyro, LLC. for a Pyrotechnics Permit for the Fall 2024 Football season at EMU. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

E. Resolution No. 2024-178 designating Bonnie Wessler, Director of Public Works, and Tracey Boudreau, City Clerk, as authorized signers, to sign MDOT contract on behalf of the City.

Council Member Sweet moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-178 designating Bonnie Wessler, Director of Public Works, and Tracey Boudreau, City Clerk, as authorized signers, to sign MDOT contract on behalf of the City. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

F. Resolution No. 2024-185 adopting Ordinance No. 1436, entitled "An ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to adjust water service rates".

Council Member Sweet moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-185 adopting Ordinance No. 1436, entitled "An ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to adjust water service rates". Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

G. Resolution No. 2024-186 adopting Ordinance No. 1437, entitled "An ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-455(a) of the Code of Ordinances to adjust sewage disposal rates".

Council Member Sweet moved to Approve the Resolution No. 2024-186 adopting Ordinance No. 1437, entitled "An ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-455(a) of the Code of Ordinances to adjust sewage disposal rates". Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2024-179 recognizing the Ypsilanti Historical Society as a nonprofit organization operating in the City of Ypsilanti for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-179 recognizing the Ypsilanti Historical Society as a nonprofit organization operating in the City of Ypsilanti for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

B. Resolution No. 2024-180 approving the proposal from OHM for construction engineering services in the amount of \$38,450.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-180 approving the proposal from OHM for construction engineering services in the amount of \$38,450. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

C. Resolution No. 2024-181 approving a 5 year lease, with term January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2029, with the Ypsilanti Senior Center, a Michigan non-profit 501c3 corporation for the lease, operation and management of the Ypsilanti Senior Center Facility at 1015 N. Congress, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-181 approving a 5-year lease, with term January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2029, with the Ypsilanti Senior Center, a Michigan non-profit 501c3 corporation for the lease, operation and management of the Ypsilanti Senior Center Facility at 1015 N. Congress, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City, subject to the approval of the City Attorney. Council Member Sweet seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

D. Resolution 2024-182 approving the agreement between Washtenaw County and the City of Ypsilanti for Sub-award of Federal Financial Assistance and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement on the City's behalf, subject to review by the City Attorney.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution 2024-182 approving the agreement between Washtenaw County and the City of Ypsilanti for Sub-award of Federal Financial Assistance and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement on the City's behalf, subject to review by the City Attorney. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

E. Resolution 2024-183 approving the request to waive permit fees for the 2024 Parkridge Summer Festival and Joe Dulin Community Day in the amount of \$1535 and police services fees in the amount of \$908.60.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution 2024-183 approving the request to waive permit fees for the 2024 Parkridge Summer Festival and Joe Dulin Community Day in the amount of \$1535 and police services fees in the amount of \$908.60. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

F. Resolution No. 2024-184 approving the request to waive permit fees for the Ekklesia Fellowship Ministries Gathering in the amount of \$1,752.40.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-184 approving the request to waive permit fees for the Ekklesia Fellowship Ministries Gathering in the amount of \$1,752.40. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Council Member McLean moved to Amend Resolution No. 2024-184 approving the request to waive permit fees for the Ekklesia Fellowship Ministries Gathering in the amount of \$1,752.40 by not including transaction fees in the waived fees. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Resolution No. 2024-184 approving the request to waive permit fees for the Ekklesia Fellowship Ministries Gathering in the amount of \$1,752.40 failed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (3) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, and Patrick McLean

No: (3) Evan Sweet, Desirae Simmons, and Steve Wilcoxon

Abstain: (1) Nicole Brown

G. Discussion regarding Process and Procedure related to Boards and Commissions

Council created a subcommittee, with Council Members Sweet, Tooson and Wilcoxon, to discuss the process and procedure for Boards and Commissions.

H. Discussion regarding Short-Term Rentals

X. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson reported that at last Thursday's meeting, a subcommittee was formed to figure out the logistics for a joint event with HRC.

B. Human Relations Commission

Council Member King discussed the commission's letter of support for Council Resolution No. 2024-150, and noted that Corn Williams came and gave a presentation at their meeting. The HRC is working on the Fair Chance Housing Ordinance and the next meeting is September 16th at 6pm. King also noted that the Commission, by resolution, is requesting Police body camera footage from an incident on August 6th. City Manager Hellenga informed Council that there is an ongoing investigation and no footage will be released at this time. Hellenga also noted that anything of that nature would fall under a FOIA request.

1. Letter of support for Council Resolution 2024-150.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

Council Member Sweet reported that the Commission met last week and has completed a tour of all the parks and is working on updating the improvements for the Master Plan. River Days will be September 29th from 12pm to 3pm and there will be many events, including free canoe rides.

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons reported that at the last meeting there were nominations and elections for a new Chair, because Beth Gibbons stepped down, only as Chair, due to her new resilience work with the County. The Commission spent a fair amount of time on the Resilience Network Hub and will be co-hosting a community conversation on Monday, September 16th.

E. Historic District Commission

Council Member McLean reported that at the last meeting the Commission discussed signage issues on West Cross, at 10 N Washington, and for a new ice cream

F. Planning Commission

Council President Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that the meeting was last week and they held a public hearing for the electronic message board signs; approved a PUD for a readaptive use of a Church, but there are problems with parking and the Commission added stipulations to the approval; a CBO was also discussed, and Josh Burns, Planner, was taking comments.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

No report.

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

No update.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Has not met.

C. Urban County

Has not met.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

No report.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

Council President Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that they hosted National Night Out and it was a great success! This is the last week for the pool - it will close for the season on Labor Day.

XII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member King -

- Heritage Park Neighborhood Association meets the second Saturday of the month at 10am and requests that Chief Moore, or a representative, attend their meetings. Also, on September 14th they will be out pulling weeds in the neighborhood.

Council Member Simmons -

- Residents are concerned about the radioactive waste from the A-bomb coming to Van Buren Township.
- Participated in "Alternative Public Comment", a fun collage event/activity at Riverside Art Center.
- Attended Fresh Start Club House, which provides support for folks with mental health issues and creates a space for people to interact.
- Concerns about rats and putting out poison, but the Administration has indicated that is not happening, and this becomes a bigger conversation about trash and composting.
- Dorsey Estate housing sessions are happening - they are for sale and preference is given to Ypsi residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon -

- College Heights needs new nets for the tennis courts. Wilcoxon took care of the needed weed-wacking.
- Having discussions with Growing Hope and FedUp Ministries surrounding the corridor of Washington Street and there will be follow-up conversations.

Council Member Sweet -

- Thanks to the City Clerk and staff for an accurate and well run Primary Election on August 6th.

Council Member McLean -

- Also thanking City Clerk and staff for a good job on the Primary Election.
- The Senior Center will be holding possible capital improvement discussions and is looking for more public input on the wants and needs of the community.

Council Member Tooson -

- Attended many community events, including Summerfest, and it's wonderful to see the youth come together, have fun, spending time in the community, and just showing love.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- With this break, had the opportunity to attend many robust community events showcasing Ypsi, our residents, and our community in wonderful ways.
- More thanks to the City Clerk for a well run Primary Election.
- Discussed storm that just occurred, and thanked our first responders - Police, Fire, DPS. It is in moments like this, that we are so thankful for the staff that is out there helping and supporting people.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Thanks to Clerk's Department for a good job on the Primary Election.
- Mr. John Barr, City Attorney, will be retiring after 43 years, and we thank him for his many years of service through constant and consistent support of the City.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

5 Members of the public spoke.

XVII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Resolution No. 2024-187, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:28 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.