



MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT at roll call were Mayor Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon, Council Member King, Council Member McLean, Council Member Simmons, and Council Member Tooson. ABSENT: Council Member Fellows.

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. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Resolution to enter into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8 (e), for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation of City of Ypsilanti v Brent Yuchasz.**

Council Member Tooson moved to enter into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8 (e), for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation of City of Ypsilanti v Brent Yuchasz. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

Council moved to the basement Conference room for the closed session.

- B. Motion to leave the Closed Session.**

Council Member Tooson moved to leave the closed session and return to the open session of the meeting. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion and the motion passed upon a voice vote.

V. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon and Council Member Tooson requested to add a Presentation regarding and Overview of the Retiree Health Care Plans.

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

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

No members of the public spoke.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Overview of Retiree Healthcare Plans

VIII. ORDINANCES FIRST READING

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2024-272 Approving the minutes of the meeting of November 26, 2024.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-272 Approving the minutes of the meeting of November 26, 2024, as amended. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

B. Resolution No. 2024-273 Adopting Ordinance No. 1442 entitled "A Revised Sewer Ordinance" amending Chapter 106, Sections 140 through 450 of the Code of Ordinances, upon second and final reading.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-273 Adopting Ordinance No. 1442 entitled "A Revised Sewer Ordinance" amending Chapter 106, Sections 140 through 450 of the Code of Ordinances, upon second and final reading. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

C. Resolution No. 2024-274 Electing Council Member King as Liaison to the Senior Center.

Council Member McLean offered a friendly amendment by changing the resolution from "electing" to supporting the nomination of" and it was accepted.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-274 supporting the nomination of Council Member King as Liaison to the Senior Center. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

D. Resolution No. 2024-275 Removing the Pledge of Allegiance from the Council standing Agenda.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2024-275 Removing the Pledge of Allegiance from the Council standing Agenda. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

X. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson reported that the next meeting is Thursday, December 5th. They have their Annual Report complete and are still looking for a Ward 1 Commissioner.

B. Human Relations Commission

No report.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

Council Member McLean reported that the next meeting is December 16th.

D. Sustainability Commission

No report.

E. Historic District Commission

No report.

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported that there have been no meetings.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported that there have been no meetings.

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

No report.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

No report.

C. Urban County

No report.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

No report.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported that there is a meeting scheduled this month.

XII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Tooson -

- Many thanks to the Blake Corum Foundation and the Supreme Felons for handing out over 600 Turkeys for Thanksgiving. Tooson hopes for the same generosity around Christmas.

No business from Council Member McLean.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen -

- Requesting repairs to the alley off Grant Street and fielding requests for snow removal.
- Planning to bring forward ways to change the schedule and structure of Council Meetings. Wilcoxen is hoping for more participation and discussion before voting on items. Wilcoxen would also like to get the Agenda packet a week ahead of the meeting.

Council Member Simmons -

- Agreed with Wilcoxen, but believes that other things need to change as well, such as how items are brought forward to Council.
- Requesting to add a discussion and/or resolution about reaching out to Washtenaw County with housing needs.
- Would like to have the Sustainability Commission look at ordinances and laws regarding lawns, weeds, and leaf blowers and then give recommendations.

Council Member Simmons moved to instruct the City Clerk to contact the Chair of the Sustainability Commission and instruct the commission to have a conversation regarding the questions, thoughts, and concerns they have for Council that will help them work on a review of the Lawn, Weed, and leaf blower ordinances. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (0) Amber Fellows

Council Member Simmons continued -

- The commissions need guidance. Asking that the staff liaisons talk to their respective commissions and ask what they want and need from Council.

- Would like to have a discussion about creating a Dog Park in the City. Is there interest and is it viable? Simmons offered a motion to have this discussion sent to the Parks and Arts Commission, but withdrew after further discussion.
- Requesting to add a discussion about a possible competition to design a new City Flag.
- Received an email regarding car sharing and is that something that would go through the City? City Manager Hellenger noted that the City has tried that in the past and the cars sat in the Washington lot and were never used. DPW Director Wessler also noted that there was a program like this on the EMU campus from approximately 2016-2019.

Council Member King -

- Bringing forward resident concerns regarding smoking in Riverside Park. DPW Director Wessler noted that outdoor smoking is allowed, except in the Tot Lots and within 25 feet of a playground.
- Congratulations to Alyshia Dyer who was just sworn in as Washtenaw County Sheriff.
- King would like to see the Youth Mini-Grant Applications.
- Would like to see City be proactive in Juneteenth Sponsorship
- Would like to have a conversation about does staff bring forward items to the Council Agenda.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Attended the Domestic Violence Summit; it was powerful and engaging.
- Attended the Depot Town Tree Lighting; what a great example of our partnerships, like with the DDA.
- In 2025, wants to focus on the order and organization of meetings and how we prioritize things, with a commitment to balance.
- Offering public condolences to the family of Catherine McClary, barely retired, long time Washtenaw County Treasurer, who passed suddenly. She was a trailblazer and a big part of the Forclosure Prevention Program in the county.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Echoing the sentiment of Mayor Brown regarding the sudden passing of Catherine McClary. She was just retiring after 50 years of public service and we are all saddened by the loss.
- Mayor and City Manager will meet with Dr. Milner to discuss how Council goal sessions will be facilitated and then City Manager will email Council with the directions. The dates are tentatively Dec. 17th and 19th, and/or Jan. 7th and 14th.
- Looking at open dates for a Council retreat.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

XVII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

A. Resolution 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.