



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 (7:05 p.m.), and Council Member Fellows (7:05 p.m.). ABSENT: Council Member Tooson.

Council Member King moved to Excuse Council Member Tooson from the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion, and it passed upon a voice vote.

III. A MOMENT TO CENTER AND FOCUS

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member McLean moved to Approve the AGENDA as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes:	(6)	Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No:	0	None
Absent:	(1)	Roland Tooson

V. PUBLIC COMMENT - 45 MINUTES TOTAL (3 MINUTES/EACH SPEAKER)

22 Members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. AFCR Audit Report

VII. ORDINANCES FIRST READING

VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-001 Approving the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2024.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-001 Approving the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2024, as presented. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

<u>Yes:</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows</u>
<u>No:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Absent:</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>Roland Tooson</u>

B. Resolution No. 2025-002 adopting Ordinance No. 1441, entitled An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 80, Entitled "Parks and Arts" of the Code of Ordinances upon Second and Final Reading.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-002 adopting Ordinance No. 1441, entitled An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 80, Entitled "Parks and Arts" of the Code of Ordinances upon Second and Final Reading. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

C. Resolution No. 2025-003 Approving the updated Alternate Fuel Policy recommended by the Sustainability Commission.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-003 Approving the updated Alternate Fuel Policy recommended by the Sustainability Commission. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

D. Resolution No. 2025-004 recognizing the life and work of President Jimmy Carter, celebrating him as a role model for leaders both in and out of government, and declaring January 9, 2025 as a Citywide Day of Mourning, to coincide with President Biden's National Day of Mourning,

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-004 recognizing the life and work of President Jimmy Carter, celebrating him as a role model for leaders both in and out of government, and declaring January 9, 2025 as a Citywide Day of Mourning, to coincide with President Biden's National Day of Mourning. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: 1 Amber Fellows
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

E. Resolution No. 2025-005 Authorizing an increase of \$7,000 to account number 101-7-2621-757-00 to cover the grant purchases for the Clerk's Department and also add the same amount to revenue account 101-4-2621-539-00, until the funds are reimbursed by the Federal Election Security Grant.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-005 Authorizing an increase of \$7,000 to account number 101-7-2621-757-00 to cover the grant purchases for the Clerk's Department and also add the same amount to revenue account 101-4-2621-539-00, until the funds are reimbursed by the Federal Election Security Grant. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

F. Resolution No. 2025-006 Directing City Staff to Create a Comprehensive City Council Member Onboarding Process.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-006 Directing City Staff to Create a Comprehensive City Council Member Onboarding Process. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows moved, supported by Council Member King, to Amend Resolution No. 2025-006 by changing the title of the resolution. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Council Member Fellows moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-006 by adding "and bring back to Council for review," and by changing "includes" to "may include" in the first "resolved" clause. Council Member McLean seconded the motion. The amendment to the motion passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

Council Member King moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-006 by replacing the words "City Staff" with City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney". Council Member McLean seconded the motion. The amendment to the motion passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

Council Member Wilcoxon moved, supported by Council Member McLean, to Amend Resolution No. 2025-006 by adding that the Clerk provide CivicClerk information. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-006 Directing City Staff to Create a Comprehensive City Council Member Onboarding Process, as amended. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until 10:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

G. Resolution No. 2025-007 Requesting Washtenaw County Allocate Funds Toward the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Shelter in Ypsilanti for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-007 Requesting Washtenaw County Allocate Funds Toward the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Shelter in Ypsilanti for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness. Council Member Fellows seconded the motion.

Council Member Simmons offered, supported by Council Member Fellows, a friendly amendment by removing "homeowner" from the fifth "whereas" clause. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Council Member Simmons moved, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon, to Amend Resolution No. 2025-006 by adding Section 8 on Short Term Homelessness. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Council Member Simmons moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-007 by adding "local municipalities within the 48197 & 48198 zip codes, EMU" and "such as the Shelter Association" to Clause 2. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until 11:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

Council Member McLean moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-007 by adding the words "Eastern Washtenaw County" after "shelter in" in Clause 1. Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon offered a friendly amendment to change the wording to "Eastern Washtenaw County, preferably". The friendly amendment was accepted and the original amended amendment passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean,
No: (1) Amber Fellows
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-007 by adding the words "We suggest" to the beginning of Clause 5. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Roland Tooson

Council Member McLean offered a friendly amendment, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon, change \$50K to \$100K in the 4th "whereas" clause. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon offered a friendly amendment that the added partners in Clause 2 be included throughout the resolution, for clarity. The friendly amendment was accepted and the original amended resolution passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes:	(6)	Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No:	0	None
Absent:	(1)	Roland Tooson

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 10:39 p.m. for a short break and reconvened the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

H. Resolution No. 2025-008 Requesting the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Commit Funding for an Unarmed Crisis Response Program and Directing the City of Ypsilanti to Develop an RFP for the Program.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-008 Requesting the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Commit Funding for an Unarmed Crisis Response Program and Directing the City of Ypsilanti to Develop an RFP for the Program. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Council Member Simmons offered a friendly amendment by adding the Fire Department to Clause 3. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Council Member Fellows moved to Amend Clause 2 of Resolution No. 2025-008 by changing the first sentence to read as follows: "Requests County Partners and City staff work together to develop a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the Unarmed Crisis Response Program, which could include:". Council Member Simmons seconded the motion. The amendment passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes:	(6)	Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No:	0	None
Absent:	(1)	Roland Tooson

Council Member Simmons offered a friendly amendment by adding "such as Care Based Safety" after "community-based organizations" in Clause 4. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Council Member Fellows offered, supported by Council Member Simmons, a friendly amendment by changing a phrase in Clause 1 to read as follows: "and exploring **other** potential funding, **including**". The friendly amendment was accepted.

Council Member McLean offered a friendly amendment by adding "the root causes of" before the word "crime" in the second "whereas" paragraph, to mirror the first. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon offered a friendly amendment for Clause 5 by replacing "will" with "Desires to" and adding "The City requests" before "regular progress reports". The friendly amendment was accepted.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-008 Requesting the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Commit Funding for an Unarmed Crisis Response Program and Directing the City of Ypsilanti to Develop an RFP for the Program, as amended. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion. The amended motion passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes:	(6)	Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No:	0	None
Absent:	(1)	Roland Tooson

Council Member King moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until midnight. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

I. Discussion regarding city plans for promoting the earned income tax credit and supporting those Ypsilanti residents eligible to claim the credit.

J. Resolution No. 2025-009 Reappointing residents Tasha Palmer and Lakesha Williams to the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-009 Reappointing residents Tasha Palmer and Lakesha Williams to the Ypsilanti Housing Commission. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

<u>Yes:</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows</u>
<u>No:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Absent:</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>Roland Tooson</u>

IX. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

The Mayor reported Council Member Tooson is absent and there has been no meeting.

B. Human Relations Commission

Council Member King reported that the next meeting is January 16, 2025 at 6p.m. and the Chair will be presenting their annual report at the February 4th Council meeting.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

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

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons reported the next meeting is January 13th.

E. Historic District Commission

Council Member McLean reported the meeting is next Tuesday, January 14th.

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported they met on December 18, 2024. Highlights include reviewing drafts of the annual report; setting meeting dates; reappointing a member of the Non-Motorized Advisory Board; and reviewing a site plan.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

No report.

X. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported he has not met with them recently. There are some upcoming events. Tomorrow Transportation Alternative Program is in session planning for next few fiscal years and there is \$10 million available each year for regional trails, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and Storm Water Management. January 9th engaging students and regional planning.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Council Member Simmons reported there is a meeting coming up. The WATS Crash Report came out. Increase in overall crashes. The intersection with the highest number of crashes in our City is Cross and Adams, with 24, tying for 10th in the county. Pedestrian crashes are up, many are fatal, and they occur most in urban communities. Crashes involving cyclists increased by 33%. This is something we need to be aware of and on the look out for.

C. Urban County

Mayor Brown reported that they went over the year-end information and a report on warming shelters in the county and possible funding opportunities. The next meeting is in March.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

The Mayor reported that she, the City Manager and the Chief of Police held a community chat before the last meeting in December. At the actual meeting, discussions included the progress from the SHINE program and the Freighthouse Plaza project.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that the next meeting is tomorrow. City Manager reported that we have received the State share of the funding for the pool resurfacing and wants to thank our state partners and Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon.

XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Fellows -

- Would like to schedule a Commission Work Session. Council discussed, and scheduled the meeting for March 12, 2025 at 7p.m.

Council Member Fellows made a motion, supported by Council Member King, to extend the meeting until 12:15 a.m. and the motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

- Wants to mention the conversation of Health Insurance and acknowledge the need for single payer Medicare for all and looks to submit resolution to forward to State.

Council Member McLean -

- Presented Council's resolution on their 100th Anniversary to First United Methodist Church last Sunday.

Council Member Simmons -

- Did receive mini-grant applications and will schedule meeting to bring forth recommendations to Council, hopefully at the first meeting in February.

Council Member King -

- Asking online speaker, Anthony Morgan, to resend the emails, because King has not received them.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon -

- The ZBA is meeting Thursday to review applications, with the Watershed Council, for the Pen Dam removal. It's very exciting because we have several great proposals.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Happy New Year!
- Scheduled meeting for Wednesday, January 15th at noon to discuss Council Agenda process and procedure.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Reminder that the next City Council meeting will begin at 6 p.m. for the final budget priorities session.
- The City has gone live with our BS&A Cloud module and it will be fully live by the beginning of February.
- Start next round of community chats end of February, beginning of March.
- Will bring forward resolution to approve the request of Highland Cemetery to let them have our 25% of the Solar Ray agreement income.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED (3 MINUTES/EACH SPEAKER)

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Resolution No. 2025-, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:59 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.

