



MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM - Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. A MOMENT TO CENTER AND FOCUS

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve the AGENDA. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows moved to Amend the AGENDA by adding a discussion regarding Water Street fence repair and tree removal. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Council Member Simmons moved to Amend the AGENDA by switching the order of Sections V & VI, so Public Comment comes after the Goal Session. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Amber Fellows

No: (2) Roland Tooson, Patrick McLean

Absent: (0)

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

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

No: (1) Patrick McLean

Absent: (0)

VI. BUDGET PRIORITY & GOALS SESSION

A. Departmental Goals

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

13 Members of the public spoke.

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-010 Approving the minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2025.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-010 Approving the minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2025. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

B. Resolution No. 2025-011 Reappointing Residents Brian Merlos to the Parks & Arts Commission and Stefan Szumko to the Historic District Commission.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-011 Reappointing Residents Brian Merlos to the Parks & Arts Commission and Stefan Szumko to the Historic District Commission. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

C. Resolution No. 2025-012 Approving GEI as the contractor for the removal design for Peninsular Dam. If GEI cannot enter a contract for any reason, the contract will be awarded to Interfluve.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcohen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-012 Approving GEI as the contractor for the removal design for Peninsular Dam. If GEI cannot enter a contract for any reason, the contract will be awarded to Interfluve. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

The Council added a Discussion regarding Water Street Fence Repair and Tree Removal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcohen moved to delay the Water Street project until the February 4th meeting. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion. Council Member Tooson offered a friendly amendment to add that that time be used to find solutions for this issue and the friendly amendment was accepted. Mayor Pro Tem Wilcohen called the question, supported by Council Member Tooson. An immediate roll call vote occurred as follows:

Yes: (6) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean
No: (1) Amber Fellows
Absent: (0)

The amended motion passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None
Absent: (0)

Council Member Tooson, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Wilcohen, moved to extend the meeting until midnight. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

D. Resolution No. 2025-013 Entering into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e), for the purpose of discussing the following pending litigation: VTP River Woods LLC and VTP Arbor One LLC v City of Ypsilanti; and David McGill v City of Ypsilanti and also, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (c), to discuss Command Officers Association of Michigan (COAM) Contract Negotiations.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-014 Leaving the Closed Session and returning to the Open Session of this meeting.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-013 Entering into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e), for the purpose of discussing the following pending litigation: VTP River Woods LLC and VTP Arbor One LLC v City of Ypsilanti; and David McGill v City of Ypsilanti and also, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (c), to discuss Command Officers Association of Michigan (COAM) Contract Negotiations. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcohen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows
No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-014 Leaving the Closed Session and returning to the Open Session of this meeting. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a voice vote as follows:

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Council Member Tooson, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon, moved to extend the meeting until 12:30a.m. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

- E. Resolution No. 2025-015 Approving the new collective bargaining agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and the COAM, for the term commencing on January 1, 2025, and terminating on December 31, 2028, as presented and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the city after approval by the City Attorney as to form.**

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-015 Approving the new collective bargaining agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and the COAM, for the term commencing on January 1, 2025, and terminating on December 31, 2028, and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the city after approval by the City Attorney as to form. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

VIII. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson reported the next meeting is this Tuesday and they are still looking for a Ward 1 representative.

B. Human Relations Commission

No report.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

Council Member McLean reported the next meeting is February 17th.

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons stated she missed the last meeting due to illness.

E. Historic District Commission

Council Member McLean reported the last meeting was January 14th and several properties were discussed, including 46 N Huron, 325 E Cross, 212 S Huron, and 316 N Grove. The next meeting is February 11th.

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that there was one project for a review - a laundromat on Washtenaw, which came before the board because they will have a more intense use. It was approved and they will be back with a site plan.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that they have not met.

IX. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that they are in Washtenaw County February 20th at the Township Board meeting. There are a number of grant opportunities we can take advantage of including public restrooms.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Council Member Simmons reported at the last meeting, Ypsi city got an allocation of \$80,000. Noted that listed as a priority in next cycle is \$2.4M for Huron Street. Surface Transportation plan expires this year. This is the way the federal money flows. Suggesting contacting federal partners to encourage funding to continue.

C. Urban County

No report.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Brown reported they completed the strategic planning last week.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

No report.

X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Tooson -

- Monday, from 5:30p.m. to 8p.m., at the Parkridge Community Center there is an opportunity for youth to get help with their homework, play some basketball, and enjoy pizza.
- Friday, from 6pm. to 8 or 9p.m, at Ypsilanti Middle School there will be a Friday Fun Night with more pizza!
- Shout out and thanks to Jenice Thompson for offering the opportunity to help people in the community.

Council Member King -

- Would like to tour Dorsey Estates

Council Member Fellows -

- Would also like to tour Dorsey Estates
- Would like to look at Immigration status ordinances - do we need to improve?
- Encourages everyone to visit Shelters

Council Member Simmons -

- The Youth Mini-Grant Sub-Committee will meet January 28th, and bring recommendations back to the entire Council.

Council Member McLean -

- Spoke with Captain Anderson, taking over as acting Police Chief, and it was a good conversation and thinks all of Council will like what they hear from him.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon -

- We have a Zoom meeting tomorrow at noon to discuss the Council Meeting agenda process.
- Has had requests to extend leaf collection dates.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Brown reported that she was able to attend several MLK Day events and although it was cold, it was a great day.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Many thanks to Chief Moore for his service to the City; he will be missed.
- Agrees with Council Member McLean that Captain Anderson knows his stuff and we are in good hands.
- Talked to MML about beginning the nationwide executive search for a new Police Chief and Attorney Barker has developed a contract for Chief Moore during the transition.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Copy of City's "Sanctuary" Ordinance for reference and future discussion.

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

XV. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:05a.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.