



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7p.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 McLean moved to approve the Agenda. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Council Member Simmons moved to Amend the AGENDA by adding a resolution to Stop Government Takeover by Private Individuals. Council Member King seconded the motion.

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

No: 1 Roland Tooson

Absent: (0)

Council Member King moved to Amend the AGENDA by adding a resolution for a \$2,500 sponsorship of the Juneteenth event. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

The motion to approve the amended agenda passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

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

8 Members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclaiming the month of February as Black History Month.

B. Human Relations Commission 2024 Annual Report, presented by Kat Layton, Chairperson.

Presentation by Chair Layton and Commissioner Harper.

C. Police Advisory Commision 2024 Annual Report, presented by Gail Wolkoff, member and past Chairperson.

Report was submitted, but no presentation given.

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-016 Approving the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2025.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-016 Approving the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2025. 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)

- B. Resolution No. 2025-017 Adopting the Ypsilanti City Council 2024-2025 Goal-Setting Report as the city council's budget priorities for FY 2025-2026 and directing the City Manager to consider these adopted priorities during the preparation of the FY 2025-2026 budget, in accordance with Section 5.02 of the Ypsilanti city charter.**

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-017 Adopting the Ypsilanti City Council 2024-2025 Goal-Setting Report as the city council's budget priorities for FY 2025-2026 and directing the City Manager to consider these adopted priorities during the preparation of the FY 2025-2026 budget, in accordance with Section 5.02 of the Ypsilanti city charter. Council Member King seconded the motion.

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

No: 1 Patrick McLean

Absent: (0)

- C. Resolution No. 2025-018 Authorizing to dissolve the lease agreement between DTE, the City, and the Highland Cemetery and to allow all revenue produced by the lease to be allocated to the Highland Cemetery.**

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-018 Authorizing to dissolve the lease agreement between DTE, the City, and the Highland Cemetery and to allow all revenue produced by the lease to be allocated to the Highland Cemetery. 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)

- D. Resolution No. 2025-019 Adopting a new schedule for Agenda Item Due Dates and Deadlines.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-019 Adopting a new schedule for Agenda Item Due Dates and Deadlines. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

- E. Resolution No. 2025-020 acknowledging the City Manager's Authority to sign the Pen Dam Removal grant agreement for the City of Ypsilanti with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-020 acknowledging the City Manager's Authority to sign the Pen Dam Removal grant agreement for the City of Ypsilanti with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

- F. Resolution No. 2025-021 Approving a mini grant to Trades Program for Youth and Adults in the amount of \$5,000 to support programs assisting community youth through their efforts.**

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-021 Approving a mini grant to Trades Program for Youth and Adults in the amount of \$5,000 to support programs assisting community youth through their efforts. Council Member King seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

- G. Resolution No. 2025-022 Approving a mini grant to All About Speed Track Club in the amount of \$5,000 to support programs assisting community youth through their efforts.**

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-022 Approving a mini grant to All About Speed Track Club in the amount of \$4,000 to support programs assisting community youth through their efforts. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

H. Resolution No. 2025-023, supporting the City of Ypsilanti joining the DTE City Smart pilot program.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-023, supporting the City of Ypsilanti joining the DTE City Smart pilot program. 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)

I. Discussion regarding Water Street Fence Repair and Tree Removal.

Council Member Fellows moved to direct the Planning Commission to look at the Zoning Code with regard to safe tenting and safe parking and explore the possibilities (can it work? If so, what will it look like?) and submit recommendations to Council. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion. (Resolution No. 2025-024)

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Council Member McLean moved to Approve \$7,500 for purposes of supporting relocation assistance services for persons currently housed on lands requiring hazardous materials site preparation and removal. The source of funds shall be identified by the City Manager and the Finance Director from currently unrestricted funds. Council Member Fellows seconded the motion. After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved, supported by Council Member Tooson, to call the question and the motion passed unanimously. Then, Council voted on the original motion which passed upon a roll call vote as follows: (Resolution No. 2025-025)

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Council Member Tooson moved, supported by Council Member Simmons, to extend the meeting until 11p.m. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

J. Discussion regarding Boards & Commissions Policy & Procedure

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-026 to Stop Government Takeover by Private Individual. Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to direct that this resolution be sent to our US Senators, Congressional Delegates, and the Governor.

Council Member McLean moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-026 by adding a second resolved clause to read as follows:

Resolved, That all elected officials:

1. Use procedural motions to delay
2. Reject unqualified nominees for executive branch positions
3. Respect security clearance procedures
4. Acknowledge and enforce the National Labor Relations Act and Collective Bargaining

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 Approve Resolution No. 2025-026 to Stop Government Takeover by Private Individual, as amended. 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)

Full text of adopted Resolution No. 2025-026, added at the table, as amended:

Resolution to Stop Government Takeover by Private Individual

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, Ypsilanti is a community with a large population of people with disabilities, senior citizens, low-income, and others who rely on governmental payments to support their housing, food, healthcare, and other costs; and

WHEREAS, federal elected officials take an oath to protect the people of the United States of America and to uphold the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Elon Musk is not an elected official, has not been appointed by Congress, nor is he an official full-time employee of an official department within the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Musk has provided access of sensitive data to people working for him who don't have the security credentials necessary to promote confidentiality and discernment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Musk has a number of business contracts with the government and has been granted access to information that could be a conflict of interest as well as a danger to your constituents here in the City of Ypsilanti and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the Treasury has been sued by union groups over Mr. Musk's access to its systems; and

WHEREAS, Congress has a responsibility to the people of this Country, and to those around the Globe, to act against efforts to create harm to the people; Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, That this resolution is directed to our US Senators, Congressional Delegate and the Governor of the State of Michigan; be it further

RESOLVED That you use all tools at your disposal to stop this government takeover attempt and to slow the efforts of an anti-civil-rights administration; be it further

RESOLVED, That all elected officials:

1. Use procedural motions to delay

2. Reject unqualified nominees for executive branch positions

3. Respect security clearance procedures

4. Acknowledge and enforce the National Labor Relations Act and Collective Bargaining

Council Member Tooson moved, supported by Council Member Simmons, to extend the meeting until 11:30p.m. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-027 supporting the Juneteenth event with a \$2,500 sponsorship and waiving all permit fees. Council Member McLean seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to include using the remaining \$1,000 from the youth mini grants to fund this sponsorship. The amended motion passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

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 February 27th.

B. Human Relations Commission

Council Member King Reported the next meeting is February 20th at 6pm and they're still looking for a youth member.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

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

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons reported the next meeting is February 10th.

E. Historic District Commission

Council Member McLean reported the next meeting is February 11th.

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported the meeting is next week.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported the meeting is next week.

IX. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

No update.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

No report.

C. Urban County

The Mayor reported they are doing web orientation training.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Brown reported the next meeting is February 20th.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

No update.

X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member King -

- Would like to bring back up a request for team building events.
- Reminding of a request to tour Dorsey Estates.
- Looking for an update on Huron St. Marijuana facility
- Thank you to everyone who has been hosting warming centers, but a special shout out to Resource Church

Council Member Simmons -

- Cost for Police Chief search? City Manager responded \$21,000.
- Asked questions regarding Police Chief search and MML's candidate profile and community profile. City Manager explained that Council will have a chance to review the brochure, the position should be posted February 24, for 4 weeks. The selection process was discussed.
- Questioned when the Master Plan will be reviewed.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon - no report.

Council Member McLean -

- Many ways to define neighbors. Our neighbors to the north - Canada - and the threats of tariffs are a particularly bad idea for our ally and will bring resolution strongly opposing.

Council Member Fellows -

- Requesting to schedule another agenda working group meeting in the future.
- Would like to be part of the short-term rental committee, or at least part of discussions and to coordinate efforts.
- Would like to schedule a Community Benefits Ordinance work session for the beginning of summer.
- Will be bringing forth item regarding state efforts and the repeal to the rent control ban.

Council Member Tooson - no report.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Attended Michigan Black Summit in Benton Harbor.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- BS&A almost fully implemented

- Asks Council to return Community Profiles for MML Police Chief search by February 10th.

A. Information regarding nationwide search for Police Chief.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Planning Commission 2024 Annual Report

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

XV. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:13p.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.