



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Council Member King asked to move Presentation B "Peacenic" to the next meeting of March 4, 2025.

The City Clerk asked to update Resolution No. 2025-032 by amending the amount from \$39,860 to \$42,360, due to a staircase being left out of the proposal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve the AGENDA as amended. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

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

7 Members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Ypsi Solar 4 All Program

B. Peacenic Community Transformation Coalition

Postponed to March 4th meeting.

C. Historic District Commission and Historic Preservation Program Annual Report

D. DPW Facilities Update

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-028 Approving the minutes of the meeting of February 4, 2025.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-028 Approving the minutes of the meeting of February 4, 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. 2025-029 Reappointing Residents to Boards and Commissions.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-029 Reappointing Residents to Boards and Commissions. 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)

C. Resolution No. 2025-030 Appointing resident Evan Sweet to the Huron River Watershed Council with a term expiring February 18, 2027.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-030 Appointing resident Evan Sweet to the Huron River Watershed Council with a term expiring February 18, 2027. 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)

D. Resolution No. 2025-031 Approving a YCUA Contract and Authorizing Notice for Water Meters, Water Mains, and Lead Service Line Project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-031 Approving a YCUA Contract and Authorizing Notice for Water Meters, Water Mains, and Lead Service Line Project. 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)

E. Resolution No. 2025-032 Accepting the proposal from OHM in the amount of \$39,860 for design and bid services for Parks Structural Repairs.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-032 Accepting the proposal from OHM in the amount of **\$42,360** for design and bid services for Parks Structural Repairs. 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. 2025-033 Urging Michigan State Representatives to Reintroduce Michigan House Bill 4893 for Single-Payer Healthcare in Michigan.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-033 Urging Michigan State Representatives to Reintroduce Michigan House Bill 4893 for Single-Payer Healthcare in Michigan. Council Member Fellows seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon offered a friendly amendment by changing "including" to "like" in the 5th "Whereas" clause and naming Jeff Irwin by his title of Senator (this naming is included for Resolutions 2025-034 & 2025-035 as well). Council Members Simmons and Fellows accepted the friendly amendment. 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)

G. Resolution No. 2025-034 Urging the Repeal of the 1988 Statewide Ban on Rent Control, MCL 123.411 to Advance Housing Justice.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-034 Urging the Repeal of the 1988 Statewide Ban on Rent Control, MCL 123.411 to Advance Housing Justice and Fellows corrected the Bill reference from

HB4947 to HB4009. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen offered a friendly amendment by removing the 2nd "Resolved" clause. Council Members Fellows and Simmons accepted. The amended resolution was adopted upon a roll call vote as follows:

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

No: 1 Patrick McLean

Absent: (0)

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Tooson, to extend the meeting to 11p.m. The motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

H. Resolution No. 2025-035 Urging the Adoption of Area Median Income Reform to Advance Housing Justice.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-035 Urging the Adoption of Area Median Income Reform to Advance Housing Justice. Council Member Fellows seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen offered a friendly amendment by removing the first phrase of the 2nd "Resolved" clause, so that the clause begins with "encourages". Council Members King and Fellows accepted.

Council Member Simmons offered a friendly amendment to add Debbie Dingell to the recipient list. Council Members King and Fellows accepted. The amended resolution was adopted upon a roll call vote as follows:

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

I. Resolution No. 2025-036 Speaking out against tariffs.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-036 Speaking out against tariffs. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 2 Desirae Simmons, Amber Fellows

Absent: (0)

VIII. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson reported that the next meeting is February 27th in Council Chambers. They are still looking for a Ward 1 representative. If you're willing and interested, please submit an application and Council Member Tooson will contact you.

B. Human Relations Commission

Council Member King reported the next meeting is this Thursday at 6p.m.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

Council Member McLean reported that they met on Monday and he will have a full report at the next meeting.

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons reported they discussed Earth Day events and are planning a multi-day event.

E. Historic District Commission

Council Member McLean reported they met last Tuesday and approved their Annual reports, as well as discussed several projects including:

- Windows at 46 N Huron
- Fence portion at 332 Oak
- Handrail at 218 N Washington
- New addition on side of house at 332 E Cross; significant discussion, ultimately postponed
- New build on a vacant lot at 620 Norris; discussion but no vote
- New Deck and railings at 10 S Huron deck and railings discussion

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported the next meeting is tomorrow and they will be taking up safe camping.

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 there will be a Public Session on the 20th at the Ypsilanti Township Hall. A virtual legislative round table will take place on March 7th and the first of three sessions on Main Street Revitalization will take place on March 14th.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Council Member Simmons reported the February meeting was cancelled and the next meeting is in March.

C. Urban County

Mayor Brown reported the next meeting is in March.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Brown reported the next meeting is this Thursday.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported they met last week. This is the off season so they are looking at budget and funding sources. They are getting funding from the townships and are looking for direct funding from the City.

X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Tooson -

- Huge Ward 1 - Southside shout-out to DPW for the great job with snow removal!
- Had an opportunity to meet with Interim Police Chief, Captain Anderson & new Sgt. Lane.
- Encouraging the Community to pay attention to all the programming at Parkridge - Monday is tutoring and basketball after school and Friday is spades and history program.

Council Member King -

- Mentioning again the need for a team-building event.
- Memory Lane at Parkridge on Friday, 5:30-8:30p.m.
- Discuss Police Chief Search - residents are thrilled that Captain Anderson is engaging the community. Why are we spending all of this money on a search? Can we appoint Captain Anderson? Have we appointed from outside before? City Manager indicated that Council cannot appoint this position, but can make recommendations.

Council Member Fellows -

- Subbed in on the Short-Term Rental committee - thank you Council Member Simmons. It was a good initial meeting & looks forward to where we will go with that.
- Wants to schedule a work session for Community Benefits Ordinance. The meeting was scheduled for 6pm before the 7pm Council Meeting.

Council Member Simmons -

- Washtenaw Housing Alliance event Friday - celebrating the Built for Zero 100 Day Challenge focused on ending veteran homelessness.
- Prosecutor Eli Savit released policy to operationalize drug checking for County - will send to Council Members.
- Met with Jake Phillips who is interested in and applied for the Planning Commission.

Council Member McLean -

- Many thanks to salt and snow plow folks - you did a nice job!

- Recognize and thank City Manager Hellenga for working on the Water Street project and making significant progress.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon -

- Had opportunity to go to EMU campus for meeting sponsored by Campus Democratic Students & League of Conservation Voters discussing the climate action pre and post inauguration. The question came of what is the day to day impact of people in our community. Wilcoxon encouraged the student body to engage with City Council.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Thanks to DPW for handling the storms, snow and ice.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. 2025 Marketing & Communications Strategic Plan

Presenting draft Communications Strategy by Katie Jones. This is at the Department level to see how each department can work their strategy into this plan. A final draft will come before Council soon for approval. This has been a long time coming and many thanks to Katie.

B. Water Street Update

There have been three intakes. City Manager is working with Washtenaw Camping Outreach and the Shelter Association to provide storage, equipment and lodging as needed and able. Many thanks to both organizations for the partnerships.

C. Peace Plaza

There will be a PUD agreement for the Peace Plaza on the next agenda.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

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 10:33p.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.