



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, March 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 Tooson moved to Approve the AGENDA. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows, supported by Council Member Tooson, requested to add a discussion regarding additional funds for Water Street.

Council Member King requested to add a discussion regarding the MML Police Chief Search.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve the AGENDA, as amended. Council Member King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 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)

9 Members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Peacenic Community Transformation Coalition

B. Dark Sky Compliance presented by Planning Commission

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution Approving an additional \$1,000 for purposes of supporting relocation assistance services for persons currently housed on lands requiring hazardous materials site preparation and removal. (added at the table)

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve an additional \$1,000 for purposes of supporting relocation assistance services for persons currently housed on lands requiring hazardous materials site preparation and removal. (added at the table) 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)

B. Resolution No. 2025-037 Approving the minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2025.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-037 Approving the minutes of the meeting of February 18, 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)

C. Resolution No. 2025-038 Approving the request to waive the park rental fees of \$1,085, police field services fees of \$1,913, and administrative fees of \$191.30, totaling \$3,189.30 for the Peacenic Festival 2025.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-038 Approving the request to waive the park rental fees of \$1,085, police field services fees of \$1,913, and administrative fees of \$191.30, totaling \$3,189.30 for the Peacenic Festival 2025. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Council Member Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Fellows, to table the resolution. Council Members Simmons and Fellows withdrew their motion to table.

Council Member Simmons moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-038 by removing the waiving of police field services fees of \$1,913. Council Member Fellows seconded the motion. The motion failed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (2) Desirae Simmons, Amber Fellows

No: 5 Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

Absent: (0)

Council Member Tooson called the question, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-038 Approving the request to waive the park rental fees of \$1,085, police field services fees of \$1,913, and administrative fees of \$191.30, totaling \$3,189.30 for the Peacenic Festival 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)

D. Resolution No. 2025-039 Approving the request to waive the park rental fees for A Brighter Way Barbecue 2025 in the amount of \$1,785.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-039 Approving the request to waive the park rental fees for A Brighter Way Barbecue 2025 in the amount of \$1,785. 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)

E. Resolution No. 2025-040 Honoring the heroic acts of Patrolman Douglas Downing by approving the ceremonial renaming of Park St South of Michigan Ave., to Douglas Downing St, so that he may always be remembered.

Council Member Fellows left the Chambers at 8:47p.m.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-040 Honoring the heroic acts of Patrolman Douglas Downing by approving the ceremonial renaming of Park St South of Michigan Ave., to Douglas Downing St, so that he may always be remembered. 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
Council Member Fellows returned to the Chambers at 8:49 p.m.

F. Resolution No. 2025-041 Appointing Residents to Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Brown left the Chambers at 8:49p.m.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-041 Appointing Residents to Boards and Commissions. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Nicole Brown

Mayor Brown returned to the Chambers at 8:55p.m.

G. Resolution No. 2025-042 Appointing Bonnie Wessler as WRRMA Delegate, and Ryan Dillon as WRRMA Alternate Delegate, both with a term expiring December 31, 2025.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-042 Appointing Bonnie Wessler as WRRMA Delegate, and Ryan Dillon as WRRMA Alternate Delegate, both with a term expiring December 31, 2025. Council Member King seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

H. Resolution No. 2025-043 Authorizing the City Manager to submit the Renewable Energy and Electrification Infrastructure Enhancement Grant application, and for the City to act as Fiduciary in its administration.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-043 Authorizing the City Manager to submit the Renewable Energy and Electrification Infrastructure Enhancement Grant application, and for the City to act as Fiduciary in its administration. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

I. Resolution No. 2025-044 Approving the PUD (CR 2024-124) Agreement and Master Deed for 124 Pearl Street and 120 Pearl.

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

Council Member King left the Chambers at 9:12p.m. and returned at 9:14p.m.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-044 Approving the PUD (CR 2024-124) Agreement and Master Deed for 124 Pearl Street and 120 Pearl. Council Member King seconded the motion. Council Member McLean left Chambers at 9:44p.m. and returned at 9:46 p.m. The motion passed 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)

J. Resolution No. 2025-045 Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for Millage funds reporting and directing the City Manager to sign on the city's behalf.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-045 Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for Millage funds reporting and directing the City Manager to sign on the city's behalf. Council Member King seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

VIII. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson expressed with great excitement that there is a potential Ward 1 appointment forthcoming. Also, a long project has come to fruition - there is now a Police Interaction Survey and anyone involved in an interaction with a Police Officer will be given a QR code to go online and fill out a survey which will gauge interactions with Police Officers. This is not a complaint process. The next meeting is March 27th at 7p.m.

City Manager Hellenga added that as of February 28th, the Detective Bureau is now up and running.

B. Human Relations Commission

Council Member King reported that the meeting was very short and 2 resolutions were tabled. The next meeting is March 20th at 6p.m.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

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

D. Sustainability Commission

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

E. Historic District Commission

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

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported the next meeting is March 19th. He also mentioned the Dark Sky presentation and that the Commission will be discussing this and had a good discussion on Camping, but the commission is asking for guidance from Council on the scope.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that the last meeting was cancelled.

IX. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

No report.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

No report.

C. Urban County

No report.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Brown reported there will be a special meeting this Thursday.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

No report.

X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member King -

- Asking again for a Team-building Session
- Offered a tour of St. Luke's Shelter to Council
- Requesting to add, to the next meeting, a resolution appointing Ravyn Kalfyan to the HRC. Council Member Simmons supported.

Council Member Tooson -

- Will be hosting "Walk the Ward" on Tuesdays this spring to hear from residents about things that are out of place or out of order. The first will be around Ainsworth Circle. Details on Social Media - you can call or email.

Council Member Simmons -

- Residents asking about Bird Flu & vaccines.

- Appreciation to staff for all the work regarding Arbor One.
- County Commissioners had a retreat facilitated by Dr. Milner and areas of discussion were outreach, innovation and resource management.
- UMS is coming to the Freighthouse and they have priority registration for Ypsilanti residents.
- Offered to collaborate on a team-building event. It was decided that Council Members King and Simmons will work with City Manager and Clerk to plan a team-building event.

Council Member Fellows -

- Excited about the meeting next week for "All things commissions"
- Appreciates the coordination of the Clerk and City Manager with Washtenaw Camping Outreach to help with solutions for those on Water St.
- Believes we need a constituent services role, but knows funding is needed.
- Wants to discuss Tenant Right of First Refusal.
- Regarding Brownfield Redevelopments - other cities have an oversight committee to hold these businesses to the promises they made to receive the Brownfield designation.
- Requesting information on the cost to change the lights on Frog Island.

Council Member McLean -

- Requesting a presentation on the City's bonding capacity. Council Member Simmons supported.
- Discussed the impact of tariffs.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon -

- Discussed the conditions at Arbor One and commended County Prosecutor and City Staff for joining in lawsuit. Visited residents and discussed a Tenant Union. Wants to ensure tenants are getting accurate information and assistance.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Thanking staff for the collaboration between City and County Prosecutors Office regarding Arbor One.
- Celebrating Women's History Month and Social Workers Month
- Attended Black History Program at Parkridge Community Center which was wonderful to hear local history, visit with seniors and youth.
- Invited to speak last week at NOBLE Executive Conference regarding relationship between Mayors and Police Departments. Learned a lot and hoping to share that information.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Departments are having budget meetings now and Council will have the proposed budget on April 30th.
- Administration is retooling and reformatting the Council Information Letter (CIL) to make it a more effective communication tool.
- Ypsi Housing Commission Director, Zac Fosler, will be here to present to Council on April 1st Meeting.
- Mayor and City Manager met with AATA and will be setting up Quarterly Meetings, which will include members of the board.
- Reminder of Work Session to discuss all things commissions on March 12th at 7p.m.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

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

XV. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 11 p.m.

A. Resolution No. 2025-, 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.