



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, March 18, 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 McLean, Council Member Simmon, Council Member Fellows, and Council Member Tooson. ABSENT: Council Member King.

Council Member Fellows moved, supported by Council Member Tooson, to excuse Council Member King. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

III. A MOMENT TO CENTER AND FOCUS

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve the AGENDA. Council Member McLean seconded the motion. City Manager Hellenga requested to add Resolution No. 2025-053 authorizing to apply to the MDOT Local Bridge Program for superstructure replacement.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve the AGENDA, as amended. Council Member McLean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

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

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

3 Members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Roads Presentation

VII. ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- A. Ordinance No. 1443 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 71, Entitled "Administrative Hearings Bureau" of the Code of Ordinances by Amending Article II, Section 71-33 "Administrative Hearings Officer - Powers and Duties", Section 71-34 "Administrative Hearings Officer - Training Requirements", and Section 71-43 "Violations of Orders and Failure to Pay Civil Fine and Costs" to Update to be in Compliance With State Law.**
Public Hearing Resolution No. 2025-047, close the public hearing.
Resolution No. 2025-046, determination.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve the Ordinance No. 1443 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 71, Entitled "Administrative Hearings Bureau" of the Code of Ordinances by Amending Article II, Section 71-33 "Administrative Hearings Officer - Powers and Duties", Section 71-34 "Administrative Hearings Officer - Training Requirements", and Section 71-43 "Violations of Orders and Failure to Pay Civil Fine and Costs" to Update to be in Compliance With State Law. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.
Public Hearing Resolution No. 2025-047, close the public hearing.
Resolution No. 2025-046, determination.

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-048 Approving the minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 4, 2025.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-048 Approving the minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 4, 2025. as presented. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

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

B. Resolution No. 2025-049 Appointing Residents to Boards and Commissions.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-049 Appointing Residents to Boards and Commissions. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

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

C. Resolution No. 2025-050 Approving the Prospect Street Bridge Replacement Study, with a cost not to exceed \$41,000, which shall be expended from the major streets fund, and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this proposal and the City Manager be authorized to sign any change orders, all subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-050 Approving the Prospect Street Bridge Replacement Study, with a cost not to exceed \$41,000, which shall be expended from the major streets fund, and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this proposal and the City Manager be authorized to sign any change orders, all subject to review and approval by the City Attorney. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

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

D. Resolution No. 2025-051 Authorizing to decertify the entirety of Green Road, to comply with Act 51.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-051 Authorizing to decertify the entirety of Green Road, to comply with Act 51. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

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

E. Resolution No. 2025-052 Authorizing to certify Green Road, to comply with Act 51.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-052 Authorizing to certify Green Road, to comply with Act 51. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

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

F. Resolution No. 2025-053 Authorizing to apply to the MDOT Local Bridge Program for superstructure replacement and authorizing the City Manager to sign any change orders needed to complete the project, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-053 Authorizing to apply to the MDOT Local Bridge Program for superstructure replacement and authorizing the City Manager to sign any change orders needed to complete the project, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Michelle King

IX. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson reported that the commission is now full, except for 2 youth seats, which Commissioner Humes is working on. The next meeting is March 27th.

B. Human Relations Commission

No report.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

Council Member McLean reported that they met last evening and of note was a discussion regarding percent for Arts...more to come on this.

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons reported she missed the last meeting, but saw that the Annual Report has been put forward.

E. Historic District Commission

Council Member McLean reported they met March 11th and he will have a full report at the next meeting.

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported the next meeting is tomorrow.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

They have not met.

X. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported that he will be attending the General Assembly at the Train Depot in Detroit.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Mayor Brown reported they will meet tomorrow morning.

C. Urban County

No report.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Brown reported the next meeting is Thursday morning.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

No report.

XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Simmons -

- Noting that Wallace Road - a Township road that we use - is falling apart.
- Attended River Givers event and saw many fellow council members.
- Discussed issues of bullying going on at local schools and noted in the past this Council held a joint meeting with the School Board. Mayor Brown noted that in the past the Mayor and Superintendent had worked out the details, so she will reach out to the schools.
- She and Council Member King are working on a questionnaire for a Council retreat.
- Working with Council Member Fellows, trying to schedule a Ward meeting and having issues with scheduling spaces and will bring something forward regarding this.

- Would like Council to talk to local real estate agents about informing new home owners about uncapped taxes.

Council Member Tooson -

- April 8th, 5:30-8:30pm will be the first Walk the Ward event, where he will field questions and listen to resident issues. Meet at Ainsworth Triangle.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon -

- Was at the Huron River Event and glad to see so many people having a good time.
- Attended Sunday local gathering in Normal Park.
- Has some blight questions - the Sustainability Commission put forth a few years ago to amend the plant part of blight and would like to revisit that topic.

Council Member Fellows -

- Took tours of City Hall basement and the DPW Yard - it was eye opening!
- Would like to look at the blight ordinance.
- Requesting, supported by Council Member Simmons, to add to the next agenda, the old process for Council Members to rent City space.
- Met with Council Member Tooson to discuss youth events and engagement.
- Had a social housing discussion with Council Member McLean and will bring forward a presentation.
- Requested to set date for another Boards and Commissions work session. It was decided that July 1st at 6p.m., before the regularly scheduled Council Meeting at 7p.m., be a Work Session.

Council Member McLean -

- Working with the community and administration on a good solution for the Peach Trees and Paw Paws.
- Budget season is almost here - McLean's favorite time of year - and we need further discussion on where we want our rainy day fund.
- A Bonding presentation will be coming soon - this is very important and people should listen.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Attended Women of Color Symposium at EMU last week.
- Would like to engage our youth and wants to put out a State of the Youth before the end of the school year.
- There are really cool pictures from Brick Bash of our own water tower.
- Met with Senator Slotkin last week to discuss where Ypsilanti fits into her priorities.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Submitted earmark request for funds to purchase new fire truck.
- YPAC approved a survey - hat's off to them for bringing this project to fruition! Beginning April 1st, anyone that has interaction with an Ypsi Police officer will be given a card with a QR code that links to survey about the interaction. It will be in both English and Arabic, and soon we'll be adding Spanish.
- The Bond Council Funding presentation will be April 15th.

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.

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:16p.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.