



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM - Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT at roll call were Mayor Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon, Council Member King, Council Member McLean, Council Member Simmons, 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 as presented. 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)

No members of the public spoke.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Housing Commission Presentation

Presented by Zac Fosler, YHC Executive Director/CEO.

B. Presentaqtion regarding the M-17 (Washtenaw Avenue) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study.

This presentation was postponed to a future meeting.

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-054 Approving the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2025.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-054 Approving the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2025. 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)

B. Resolution No. 2025-055 Adopting Ordinance No. 1443 Entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 71 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS BUREAU" OF THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE, BY AMENDING ARTICLE II "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS BUREAU", SECTION 71-33 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER—POWERS AND DUTIES", SECTION 71-34 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING 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" upon second and final reading.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-055 Adopting Ordinance No. 1443 upon second and final reading. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-055 by amending Section 71-33, Subsection (10)(iii) of Ordinance No. 1443 to read as follows:

(iii) waive or reduce any fines, fees, or costs established by City Council for such violations unless reasonable mitigating factors for reduction of a fine are established by the Respondent by a preponderance of the evidence and detailed in the hearing officer's written findings of fact; except the administrative hearing officer may in his or her discretion, upon oral or written motion of the City Attorney or Building Official (or their respective designees) at the time of the hearing, waive a fine for a blight violation at an owner-occupied residential dwelling for a first time offender of a blight ordinance, but only if the offender has, to the satisfaction of the Building Official or their designee, corrected the circumstances for the violation prior to or within a reasonable time (not to exceed 30 days) after the hearing; and further provided, that only an individual is eligible for the waiver of fines, fees, or costs under this provision. A Respondent who is a private or public organization is not eligible for a waiver of fines, fees, or costs unless an applicable ordinance or statute authorizes such waiver.
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)

Council Member Tooson left the Chambers at 8:22p.m. and returned to the Chambers at 8:25p.m.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-055 Adopting Ordinance No. 1443 Entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 71 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS BUREAU" OF THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE, BY AMENDING ARTICLE II "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS BUREAU", SECTION 71-33 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER—POWERS AND DUTIES", SECTION 71-34 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING 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" upon second and final reading. 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)

C. Resolution No. 2025-056 Appointing residents to Boards and Commissions.

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-056 Appointing residents to Boards and Commissions. 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. 2025-057 Appointing resident Isabella Coughlin to the Sustainability Commission as a youth member with an expiration of May 1, 2026.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-057 Appointing resident Isabella Coughlin to the Sustainability Commission as a youth member with an expiration of May 1, 2026. 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)

E. Resolution No. 2025-058 Approving the proposal from OHM for Design Engineering Services for the Cross Street Bridge replacement project in the estimated amount of \$295,000 and that Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this contract, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and any change orders may be approved by the City Manager.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-058 Approving the proposal from OHM for Design Engineering Services for the Cross Street Bridge replacement project in the estimated amount of \$295,000 and that Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this contract, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and any change orders may be approved by the City Manager. 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. 2025-059 Approving the proposal from OHM for Design Engineering Services for the reconstruction of Harriet (Hawkins to Hamilton) project in the estimated amount of \$112,400 and that Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this contract, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and any change orders may be approved by the City Manager.**

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-059 Approving the proposal from OHM for Design Engineering Services for the reconstruction of Harriet (Hawkins to Hamilton) project in the estimated amount of \$112,400 and that Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign this contract, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and any change orders may be approved by the City Manager. 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)

- G. Discussion regarding Water Street RFP Development and public participation.**

Council Member McLean left the Chamber at 8:56p.m. and returned to the Chambers at 8:57p.m.

- H. Discussion regarding process for Council Members to utilize or rent City facilities.**

Council Member Fellows moved to Amend Resolution No. 2022-042 by changing "citywide event" to "public event" and also amending the corresponding Council Event Request Form by changing the wording in #8 from "city at large" to "public". Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon offered a friendly amendment to change the wording in #8 from "city at large" to "city". Fellows & Simmons accepted the friendly amendment. The amended motion passed unanimously 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)

- I. Approving the request of SafeHouse Center (SHC) to tie ribbons around the City of Ypsilanti For Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) this April to help raise awareness.**

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-060 Approving the request of SafeHouse Center (SHC) to tie ribbons around the City of Ypsilanti For Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) this April to help raise awareness. 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)

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved to extend the meeting until 10:30p.m. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

VIII. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Police Advisory Commission**

Council Member Tooson reported that the next meeting is April 24th.

- B. Human Relations Commission**

Council Member King reported that the last meeting was cancelled and the next meeting is April 17th at 6p.m.

- C. Parks and Arts Commission**

No report.

- D. Sustainability Commission**

Council Member Simmons reported that the next meeting is April 14th and as this is the month of Earth Day, should have info to share at the next Council meeting.

- E. Historic District Commission**

Council Member McLean reported the next meeting is April 8th.

F. Planning Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported the last meeting was March 19th and many items were discussed including:

- Josh Burns, City Planner gave a great Dark Sky presentation
- There was much discussion over safe tenting and parking with the end result being consensus that it is not within the purview of the commission within the code.
- Master Plan consideration and questioning if it is worth the expense to do now, at an estimate of \$50,000, and discussion continues.
- There is an expansion plan for a local gas station and they are looking for public input.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported that they did not meet.

IX. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported that he attended the General Assembly at Michigan Central Train Station in Detroit. The theme was Development and there were several municipalities that gave a presentation along with one on the Gordie Howe Bridge. There are several training opportunities coming up, including SEMCOG 101 on April 14th.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Council Member Simmons reported they had a good meeting and a discussion on getting funding support from Elected Officials for the surface transportation bill. Language will be prepared to help local governments put forward legislation.

C. Urban County

Mayor Brown reported the next meeting is April 9th and staff met to discuss CDBG funds.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Brown reported that a new member was just appointed and the next meeting is in two weeks. The Mayor also highlighted the Sammi Slam event happening all month.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

No report.

X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Tooson -

- April 8th hosting first Walk the Ward - meet at Ainsworth Triangle at 5:30p.m.
- Mr. Witherspoon formally invites us to the Violence Intervention Summit at WCCC on April 28th.
- Mr. Witherspoon looking for recommendations for the Youth Driven Media and how they can get involved - would like to interview Council Members for podcast.
- Also new community based program - We the People - for mock debates and research projects.

Council Member Fellows -

- Had opportunity to attend Ramadan & Eid events put on by EMU groups.
- Thank you to all the volunteers running a stop gap with the Warming Center this winter season.
- Would like to schedule an Agenda Setting Meeting
- Would like to review the vegetation ordinance.
- Disturbed by the illegal student detention - there was no due process and we should be sounding an alarm.

Council Member McLean -

- While in this meeting, Senator Cory Booker set the record for the longest speech - everyone should see this because everything being done in DC will affect us in Ypsilanti - we are not out of our lane; this lane belongs to all.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen -

- Has been in contact with YCUA regarding complaints about holes where they were testing the water lines. There are lots of them! Be careful and report these holes to YCUA. They are gearing up to fill them and are working on a contract to do so.

Council Member Simmons -

- April is UMS (University Musical Society) programming at the Freighthouse - there are lots of great things going on - many free and for all ages - check it out.
- Toured Huron Vista Apartments and Dorsey Estates - it was cool to see the updates and talk to folks.
- Honoring resident, Mark Higbee, Ward 3 resident who passed in February and had a memorial this week. He and his wife were very active in the community and he will be missed.
- Cory Booker's filibuster is going on and Simmons spent the day watching and being moved and feels that's poetry! Simmons shared her own poem.

Council Member King -

- She and Simmons are working on a document to help guide a team-building retreat.
- Community Church of God at 565 Jefferson is offering free tutoring every Thursday.
- There will potentially be a Ward 1 Town Hall on April 24th from 6-7:30p.m.
- Attended event for William P. Clay, Jr. & Larry Smith who have dedicated over 40 years of service to the City.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Much thanks to staff and volunteers who supported Warming Center this season.
- Dorsey Estate Tour - it was nice to go with colleagues and to hear and see updates.
- Much gratitude to Senator Cory Booker, period.
- First Friday's are starting in the DDA district.
- Highland Park has been experiencing serious water issues with low pressure and boil water advisory with no known date in sight.
Asking for donations of cases of water & hoping for a quick resolution.
- Has been asked to serve as a member of the Presidential Search Committee for EMU. Announcing that there will be listening sessions for stakeholders on April 9th and 10th. There are zoom links on the Presidential Search website. This is a closed and confidential search because it's very competitive and done to protect individuals who want to apply. Should be an announcement in November and the Mayor is very humbled to be asked and happy to represent the City.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Next meeting will have a presentation on City Bonding.
- Application process for Police Chief has closed and there are 8 qualified applicants. Asking Council Members to put forth some questions for the interviews.
- Budget Schedule - May 6th present budget & first reading of ordinances
 - May 13 - Department presentations
 - May 20th - 2nd reading of budget ordinances

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Submitting Sustainability Commission Annual Report

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

XV. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:26p.m.

A. Resolution No. 2023-, 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.

[MIN_FOOT]