



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 20, 2025**  
**Council Chambers**  
**One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:01p.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.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

**V. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. Resolution No. 2025-088 Entering into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e), for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation of *Andreus McGee v Tony Degiusti, et al.***

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-088 Entering into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e), for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation of *Andreus McGee v Tony Degiusti, et al.* 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)

The City Council left Chambers and moved to a Closed Session.

**B. Resolution No. 2025-089 Leaving the Closed Session and returning to the Open Session of this meeting.**

Mayor Brown left the Chambers at 6:55p.m.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-089 Leaving the Closed Session and returning to the Open Session of this meeting. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Nicole Brown

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

8 Members of the public spoke.

Mayor Brown returned to the Chambers at 7:18p.m.

**VII. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Ypsi Transit Center Reconstruction Project Update - POSTPONED**

**B. YpsiBIG Presentation**

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon left the Chambers at 7:39p.m. and returned at 7:41p.m.

- C. **826Michigan Presentation**  
Council Member Fellows left the Chambers at 8:06p.m. and returned at 8:09p.m.
- D. **Proclaiming May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month.**
- E. **Congratulating St. John Missionary Baptist Church on their 75th Diamond Anniversary.**

## VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. **Resolution No. 2025-090 Approving the minutes of the May 6, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting and the May 13, 2025 Special City Council Meeting.**  
Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-090 Approving the minutes of the May 6, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting and the May 13, 2025 Special City Council Meeting. 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) |                                                                                                            |
- B. **Resolution No. 2025-091 Adopting Ordinance No. 1444 Entitled "2025-2026 Tax Levy Ordinance" upon second and final reading.**  
Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-091 Adopting Ordinance No. 1444 Entitled "2025-2026 Tax Levy Ordinance" upon second and final reading. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.  

|         |     |                                                                                                            |
|---------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes:    | (7) | Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean, Amber Fellows |
| No:     | 0   | None                                                                                                       |
| Absent: | (0) |                                                                                                            |
- C. **Resolution No. 2025-092 Adopting Ordinance No. 1445 Entitled "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026" upon second and final reading.**  
Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-092 Adopting Ordinance No. 1445 Entitled "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026" upon second and final reading. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.  
  
Council Member Fellows moved to postpone Resolution No. 2025-092 Adopting Ordinance No. 1445, until the June 2nd meeting. 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) |                                                                                                            |

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen left the Chambers at 8:25p.m. and returned at 8:27p.m.
- D. **Resolution No. 2025-093 Appointing Resident Arika Lycan to the Human Relations Commission with a term ending July 1, 2028.**  
Council Member Fellows moved to Approve the Resolution No. 2025-093 Appointing Resident Arika Lycan to the Human Relations Commission with a term ending July 1, 2028. 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) |                                                                                                            |
- E. **Resolution No. 2025-094 Appointing Non-Resident Julius Buzzard to the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority with a term ending July 1, 2029.**  
Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-094 Appointing Non-Resident Julius Buzzard to the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority with a term ending July 1, 2029. Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen

seconded the motion.

Council Member McLean moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-094 by amending the term ending from July 1, 2029 to July 1, 2026. 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)

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-094 Appointing Non-Resident Julius Buzzard to the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority with a term ending July 1, 2026, as amended. 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)

**F. Resolution No. 2025-095 recognizing June 19th and authorizing to display the Juneteenth Flag from a window in Council Chambers viewable from Huron St., through the duration of the month.**

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-095 recognizing June 19th and authorizing to display the Juneteenth Flag from a window in Council Chambers viewable from Huron St., for the duration of the month. 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)

**G. Resolution No. 2025-096 declaring June as "Pride Month" and directing staff to fly the Pride Flag, from a window in Council Chambers viewable from Huron St., through the duration of the month.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-096 declaring June as "Pride Month" and directing staff to fly the Pride Flag, from a window in Council Chambers viewable from Huron St., for the duration of the month. Council Member McLean 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. 2025-097 Approving the purchase agreement with Sutphen for an Ariel Tower Fire Truck for use by the Fire Department.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-097 Approving the purchase agreement with Sutphen for an Ariel Tower Fire Truck for use by the Fire Department. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Council Member McLean moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-097 by adding that the cost is not to exceed \$2.2 Million. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-097 Approving the purchase agreement with Sutphen for an Ariel Tower Fire Truck for use by the Fire Department, as amended. 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)

**I. Resolution No. 2025-098 Approving the purchase of a CAT 938 Front Loader in the total amount of \$264,799 to be expended from the appropriate motorpool capital accounts, with any change orders to be approved by the City Manager.**

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-098 Approving the purchase of a CAT 938 Front Loader in the total amount of \$264,799 to be expended from the appropriate motorpool capital accounts, with any change orders to be approved by the City Manager. 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)

**J. Resolution No. 2025-099 Approving the request of the Ypsi Arbor American Little League to waive fees in the amount of \$5,285 for Baseball fields throughout their 2025 season, from April 27th to October 31st.**

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-099 Approving the request of the Ypsi Arbor American Little League to waive fees in the amount of \$5,285 for Baseball fields throughout their 2025 season, from April 27th to October 31st. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Council Member King moved to postpone Resolution No. 2025-099. Council Member Fellows seconded the motion. The motion failed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (3) Michelle King, Steve Wilcoxon, Amber Fellows  
No: 4 Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean  
Absent: (0)

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-099 Approving the request of the Ypsi Arbor American Little League to waive fees in the amount of \$5,285 for Baseball fields throughout their 2025 season, from April 27th to October 31st. Council Member McLean seconded the motion. The 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)

**K. Resolution No. 2025-100 Approving the installation of the Embracing Our Differences Exhibit in Riverside Park.**

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-100 Approving the installation of the Embracing Our Differences Exhibit in Riverside Park. 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, seconded by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until 10:30p.m. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

**L. Resolution No. 2025-101 and Resolution No. 2025-102 Authorizing to decertify and certify certain parts of Green Road, to comply with Act 51.**

Council Member King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-101 Authorizing to decertify certain parts of Green Road, to comply with Act 51. 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 King moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-102 Authorizing to certify certain parts of Green Road, to comply with Act 51. 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)

**M. Resolution No. 2025-103 Awarding the Stormwater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Contract to Pipeline Management Company in the amount of \$313,330.**

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-103 Awarding the Stormwater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Contract to Pipeline Management Company in the amount of \$313,330. 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)

**N. Resolution No. 2025-104 Directing the City Manager to release a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a commercial real estate professional to search for appropriate locations for the use of the Department of Public Works.**

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-104 Directing the City Manager to release a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a commercial real estate professional to search for appropriate locations for the use of the Department of Public Works. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-104 by replacing the word "commercial" with "industrial". 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)

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-104 Directing the City Manager to release a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a commercial real estate professional to search for appropriate locations for the use of the Department of Public Works, as amended. 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)

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Fellows, to extend the meeting until 11:00p.m. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

**IX. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Police Advisory Commission**

Council Member Tooson reported that the next meeting is this coming Tuesday at 7pm here in Council Chambers. Congratulations to Chief Anderson!

**B. Human Relations Commission**

Council Member King reported that the last meeting was canceled for lack of quorum. They are working out some kinks and there is no meeting in June.

**C. Parks and Arts Commission**

Council Member McLean reported that there was quite an extensive meeting last night. The Parks & Arts Master Plan was a big discussion, including stakeholder outreach ideas. The new plan should be submitted to the DNR by February, so it should come to Council around December for approval, with a 30 day public comment period in October or November. Clean-Up days are planned for the 3rd Saturday of the month, with the next one on June 21st. River Day is set for September 28th.

**D. Sustainability Commission**

Council Member Simmons reported that the new Youth Member jumped right in with a proposal for an idea to recognize businesses for their sustainable practices. Simmons will meet with Bella soon and is really excited to see an engaged Youth Member.

**E. Historic District Commission**

Council Member McLean reported that the meeting was May 13th and they had a Transit Center presentation.

**F. Planning Commission**

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon reported that the next meeting is tomorrow and they will have a Transit Center presentation, as well as Dark Sky Compliance coming back to them again.

**G. Zoning Board of Appeals**

No report.

**X. 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 that there was a Transit Center Redesign presentation as well as an Arts Kids presentation. They passed the Farmers Market agreement and approved some special events sponsorships. Then they went into a closed session.

**E. Friends of Rutherford Pool**

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen reported he was not able to attend the last meeting, but understands they are having difficulties getting open by Memorial Day Weekend. Wilcoxen will follow up.

**XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

**Council Member King -**

- Question for City Manager regarding Heritage Park Neighborhood Association and missing sign. City Manager Hellenga will look into it.
- Question for City Manager regarding LEAF Harm Reduction. City Manager Hellenga indicated the business has no license and what they are doing is currently not permissible under the Zoning Ordinance. Hellenga will meet with the organization to discuss how they can obtain a license and how they can request a Zoning change.

**Council Member Tooson - no report.**

**Council Member Simmons -**

- Emailed questionnaire for retreat to Council Members.
- Question for Mayor regarding joint meeting with School Board. Mayor Brown explained that they are really busy right now, but as the school year is ending, they are working on a date.
- Thanks Administration for AI resources and information and noted that the Federal Legislature just put a 10 year hold on local AI legislation.
- Thanks DPW for quick pothole patch!
- There is a Data Center proposed in Ypsilanti Township and people should think about the reverberations that reach the City, among other possible side effects.
- Part of the Community Responder Cohort with Local Progress and was able to attend launch this past weekend in Pittsburgh. Was able to learn about the program, toured a dispatch center, and able to connect with resources for the City. It was a very full weekend.

**Council Member Fellows -**

- Local Progress Cohort is an unarmed non-police crisis format that has been tried out in many parts of the country. There will be another convening in July in Chicago and Fellows has been awarded a scholarship to attend to learn more about alternative response.
- Reminder about upcoming work sessions - CBO on June 17th and Boards and Commissions on July 1st.
- Expressed concerns regarding LEAF Harm Reduction and has met with City Manager.
- Attended the Paw Paw celebration and it was great!

**Council Member McLean -**

- Thank you to DPW Director Wessler for her work on moving Elm Street forward.

**Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen -**

- More thanks to Director Wessler for the Elm Street project.
- Question for Administration regarding wreaths for the Memorial Day Procession. City Manager indicated he will get them and City Clerk made note to ensure they are purchased in the future.
- Attended meetings over the Dam with Katie Jones and City Manager Hellenga, as well as state and local agencies, including EGLE and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We are at the 40% Engineering stage, and after testing the sediments, there are no major concerns with us moving to the 60% Engineering phase.
- College Heights Neighborhood Association has been meeting on Sundays at 3pm. They've discussed the garage sale and there is renewed interest in a community garden in Candy Cane Park.

**XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Brown was able to attend many events in the last week, including:

- the Peace Officers Memorial on Thursday, which is held every year across the county.
- on Friday, EMU launched the Way Forward, a youth-driven program which is funded by Toyota and was also attended by Representative Debbie Dingell and County Commissioner Annie Sommerville.
- Friday afternoon was the Brighter Way BBQ at Riverside Park
- Educate Youth Fundraiser on Saturday at the Ladies Library with Council Member McLean and Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxen, we got to listen to young people share words of wisdom and poetry.
- Diversity Day on Sunday at WCC kicked off a summer-long stay of banners for Embracing our Differences. It was very exciting with the vendors, and with all the diverse performers.
- This Thursday there will be the grand opening of the MIHQ and the Mayor will share invite with Council Members.

**XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

New Communications employee started today - JD Brown. Also had Events & Facilities Manager start today.

**XIV. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**XVI. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR**

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:52p.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.**

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