



**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 PM - Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT at roll call were Mayor Brown, Council Member McLean, Council Member Fellows, Council Member Simmons, Council Member King and Council Member Tooson. ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon.

III. A MOMENT TO CENTER AND FOCUS

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve the AGENDA as amended. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

Council Member King asked to add a discussion regarding the Council Retreat follow up.

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve the AGENDA as amended. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Steve Wilcoxon

V. CLOSED SESSION

A. Resolution No. 2025-200 entering into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e), for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation of VTP River Woods LLC and VTP Arbor One LLC v City of Ypsilanti.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-200 entering into a Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e), for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation of VTP River Woods LLC and VTP Arbor One LLC v City of Ypsilanti. Council Member King seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Steve Wilcoxon

The Council entered a Closed Session at 6:36p.m.

B. Resolution No. 2025-201 Leaving the Closed Session and returning to the Open Session of this meeting.

Council returned to the Open Session at 7:30p.m.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-201 Leaving the Closed Session and returning to the Open Session of this meeting. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Steve Wilcoxon

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

7 Members of the Public spoke.

VII. PRESENTATION

- A. **Presentation from Washtenaw Housing Association on their Shared Housing Program by Danielle Bryant.**

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Resolution No. 2025-202 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda.**

Council Member Tooson moved, supported by Council Member Fellows, to excuse Mayor Pro Tem from the meeting. The motion passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

Council Member Fellows left the Chambers at 8:07p.m.

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-202 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Nicole Brown, Patrick McLean

No: 0 None

Absent: (2) Steve Wilcoxon, Amber Fellows

Council Member Fellows returned to Chambers at 8:10p.m.

- B. **Resolution No. 2025-203 Approving the minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2025.**

Approved by Consent Agenda Resolution No. 2025-202.

- C. **Resolution No. 2025-204 Approving the request of the SafeHouse Center to tie purple ribbons throughout the city during the month of October to promote and support Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

Approved by Consent Agenda Resolution No. 2025-202.

- D. **Resolution 2025-205 voting for the only 2 candidates for the Board of Directors for the Michigan Municipal League (MML) Liability and Property Pool.**

Approved by Consent Agenda Resolution No. 2025-202.

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. **Discussion Regarding September 23, 2025 Hearing to Review A Removal Action.**

Council Member McLean moved to affirm the decision of staff regarding the removal action of complainant.

Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows offered a Friendly Amendment to add a Third Party investigation with the scope to be determined later. The friendly amendment was accepted by Council Members McLean and Tooson.

Council Member McLean moved to affirm the decision of staff regarding the removal action of the complainant and to add a third party investigation with the scope to be determined later. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None

Absent: (1) Steve Wilcoxon

- B. **Resolution No. 2025-206 approving the request to waive the application, event, and electrical turn-on fees totaling \$1,085 for the All Hallows Eve Illumination Event.**

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-206 approving the request to waive the application, event, and electrical turn-on fees totaling \$1,085 for the All Hallows Eve Illumination Event. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Council Member Fellows moved to Amend Resolution No. 2025-206 by cutting the fees in half, to \$542.50, with the condition that petitioners and canvassers not be bothered. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Nicole Brown, Amber Fellows

No: 1 Patrick McLean

Absent: (1) Steve Wilcoxon

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-206 approving the request to waive the application, event, and electrical turn-on fees in the amount of \$542.50 for the All Hallows Eve Illumination Event, as amended. Council Member King seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Steve Wilcoxon

C. Resolution No. 2025-207 recognizing October 2025 as Transgender Empowerment Month in our city.

Council Member Fellows moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-207 recognizing October 2025 as Transgender Empowerment Month in our city. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

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

No: 0 None
Absent: (1) Steve Wilcoxon

D. Discussion regarding implementation of the Transportation Asset Management Plan.

Council Member McLean left the Chambers at 9:23p.m.

At 9:25p.m., Council Member McLean returned to Chambers and Council Member Tooson left the Chambers.

Council Member Tooson returned to the Chambers at 9:27p.m.

E. Discussion of Retreat Follow Up with Bianca Drewery

Council agreed to schedule a follow-up retreat on a Friday in January, before a second, larger goal-setting meeting.

X. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

A. Police Advisory Commission

Council Member Tooson reported that the next meeting is October 23rd and they are still looking for a Ward 3 Commissioner - please apply if interested! Tooson also brought attention to the Communication on the Agenda from YPAC regarding Ordinance suggestions. City Manager Hellenga believes these sections refer more to the Administration. Council will review the Ordinance.

B. Human Relations Commission

Council Member King reported that the next meeting is October 16th at 6p.m.

C. Parks and Arts Commission

Council Member McLean stated the next meeting is two Mondays from now.

D. Sustainability Commission

Council Member Simmons reported that the next meeting is October 13th at 7p.m.

E. Historic District Commission

No report.

F. Planning Commission

No report.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals

No report.

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

A. SEMCOG Update

No report.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Council Member Simmons reported that there is an upcoming meeting and there is a call for potential Transportation Planning Projects that could be approved.

C. Urban County

No report.

D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

The Mayor reported that they have not met.

E. Friends of Rutherford Pool

No report.

XII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Tooson -

- Many thanks to the community and the Council for supporting the WMWFC Annual Domestic Violence 5K Walk/Run
- Heard complaints from parents in the parks with their children and people smoking too close to them - just a reminder that there is an Ordinance against that.

Council Member King -

- There has been a lot of loss in the community and offering sympathy to all those suffering
- The speed bumps have been removed!!! Thank you!!

Council Member Fellows -

- Attended a great event at Library Plaza in conjunction with the SOS
- Almost finished with the Council Onboarding packet
- Look for the Tenants Rights Committee resident application to be online soon!
- Looking for a timeline regarding the Water Street RFQ committee timeline

Council Member Simmons -

- Received Youth Mini-Grant applications and will schedule with Council Members Tooson and King to review together.
- In this contentious state budget, Rep Jimmy Wilson was able to get \$3M in funding for Cross Street Bridge.
- Offers, for the next meeting, a presentation on Participatory Budgeting. Mayor Brown supported.
- Would like an update from City Clerk on the AI Policy Draft.
- Asking for a proclamation for passing of Jerry Kriner, past DDA commissioner.
- Asking for a report from the Police Chief on staffing and some recent incidents - what can they do; what can't they do
- Remembrance for those who lost their lives on October 7th

Council Member McLean -

- Wants to publicly thank the Police Chief for bringing attention to stop sign skipping and speeding
- Tomorrow night is the Finance Committee Meeting, where they will discuss his Rainy Day Fund Ordinance and everyone is encouraged to attend!
- Will be actively soliciting peoples thoughts on the roads and our options.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Working on a proclamation for Jerry Kriner - it was really sad; so fast and shocking.
- Has been reading to students at YIES and will email Council an invitation as they would love to have us all come out and read to the children. You can't believe how awesome and smart all these kids are!

Council Member Fellows moved, supported by Council Member Tooson, to extend the meeting until 10:05p.m. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Staff met with the new director of the Shelter
- POAM negotiations are almost complete and that contract should be coming before you in November.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Submitting YPAC Resolution No. 2025-149 regarding suggested changes to the YPAC Ordinance.

B. Submitting Ypsilanti District Library Resolution No. 2025-23 Supporting a permanent shelter on the eastern side of the County.

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

XVII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:02p.m.

- A. 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.**