



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 5, 2026**  
**Council Chambers**  
**One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:03p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT at roll call were Mayor Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon, Council Member Simmons, Council Member King and Council Member Tooson. ABSENT : Council Member McLean, and Council Member Fellows (appeared by Zoom)

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to excuse Council Member McLean. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown  
No: 0 None  
Absent: (2) Amber Fellows, Patrick McLean

Mayor Pro-Tem King moved to excuse Council Member Fellows. Council Member Simmons seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown  
No: 0 None  
Absent: (2) Amber Fellows, Patrick McLean

**III. A MOMENT TO CENTER AND FOCUS**

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve the AGENDA. Council Member King seconded the motion. City Manager Helliga asked to move Resolution No. 2026-110 to the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve the AGENDA as amended. Council Member King seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown  
No: 0 None  
Absent: (2) Amber Fellows, Patrick McLean

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT - 60 MINUTES TOTAL (3 MINUTES/EACH SPEAKER)**

2 Members of the Public spoke.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month**

**B. Proclamation for Provider Appreciation Day**

**C. Proclamation for National Public Works Week**

**D. Budget Presentation**

Council Member McLean entered the Council Chambers at 6:22p.m.

Council Member King left the Chambers at 7:39p.m. and returned at 7:44p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon left the Chambers at 7:46p.m. and returned at 7:49p.m.

**VII. ORDINANCES FIRST READING**

- A. Ordinance No. 1463 – “The 2026-2027 Tax Levy Ordinance.”**  
**Public Hearing Resolution No. 2025-106, close the public hearing.**  
**Resolution No. 2025-105, determination.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon moved to Approve Ordinance No. 1463 – “The 2026-2027 Tax Levy Ordinance.”  
Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.  
Public Hearing Resolution No. 2025-106, close the public hearing.  
Resolution No. 2025-105, determination.

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

## VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2026-107 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda.**

Council Member Tooson moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-107 Approving all items on the Consent Agenda, as amended. Council Member McLean seconded the motion.

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

- B. Resolution No. 2026-108 Approving the minutes of the regular meeting of April 21, 2026 of the Ypsilanti City Council.**

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-107.

- C. Resolution No. 2026-109 Declaring 326 E. Michigan Blighted, in accordance with Act 381, and recommending that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners make a similar determination, to allow the Youth Arts Alliance to be eligible to apply for a Local Brownfield Revolving Fund grant from the Washtenaw County Brownfield Authority.**

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-107.

- D. Resolution No. 2026-110 Approving traffic control orders as listed and adopting Ordinance No. 1462, entitled "2026 Spring Traffic Control Orders" upon second and final reading.**

Approved under the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2026-107.

## IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Tabled Resolution No. 2026-102 Approving the MOU with the Depot Town Economic Development Corporation to hold a Cruise Night on Thursday nights between the beginning of June until the end of September for a period of three-years.**

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-102. Council Member Tooson seconded the motion.

Council Member King moved to amend the motion by removing the MOU and amending to waive half the fees. The motion died for lack of support.

Council Member Simmons moved to Amend Resolution No. 2026-102 by accepting the one year fee waiver. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (4) Michelle King, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown  
No: 2 Roland Tooson, Patrick McLean  
Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

Council Member McLean moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-102 Approving the MOU with the Depot Town Economic Development Corporation to hold a Cruise Night on Thursday nights between the beginning of June until the end of August for a period of three-years, including the one-year fee waiver. 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

- B. Resolution No. 2026-097, A resolution directing \$1,000,000 for a City-Run Community Responder Program and requesting County buy-in.**

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-097. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Council Member Simmons moved to Amend Resolution No. 2026-097 by stipulating the fund allocation come from Fund 205. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon offered a friendly amendment that these be the funds already allocated for this purpose in Fund 205. The friendly amendment was accepted. The Amendment passed upon a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown

No: 1 Patrick McLean

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

Council Member Simmons moved to Approve the Resolution No. 2026-097, A resolution directing \$1,000,000 for a City-Run Community Responder Program and requesting County buy-in. as presented. Council Member King seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Michelle King, Roland Tooson, Desirae Simmons, Steve Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown

No: 1 Patrick McLean

Absent: (1) Amber Fellows

**C. Discussion Item - Water Street clear cutting.**

Council Member McLean left the Chambers at 9:16p.m. and returned at 9:20p.m.

**D. Discussion Item - Gas Leaf Blower Ban.**

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

**A. Police Advisory Commission**

Council Member Tooson reported that the next meeting is May the 28th at 7pm here in Council Chambers. They are looking for an individual from Ward 3 to fill a commissioner spot.

**B. Human Relations Commission**

Council Member King reported that HRC had an opportunity to meet and tried out Mondays to see if that worked, and most of the commissioners were there. This month, Thursday, May the 21st at 6 o'clock p.m in place of their meeting, HRC will have a town hall to let the city know what HRC does. And that will be the last time we meet on Thursday. We have changed the schedule to the fourth Monday of each month, still meeting at 6pm.

**C. Parks and Arts Commission**

Council Member McLean reported that the next meeting is Monday the 18th, 6.30 here, and I believe there is a search for one more member.

**D. Sustainability Commission**

Council Member Simmons reported that the next scheduled meeting is on Monday, but they haven't been able to have a meeting before due to lack of quorum.

**E. Historic District Commission**

Council Member McLean reported that the next meeting is Tuesday, but has been moved.

**F. Planning Commission**

No report.

**G. Zoning Board of Appeals**

No report.

**XI. LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. SEMCOG Update**

Mayor Pro Tem reported there is a great grant opportunity for green space, but it may not work for us.

**B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study**

Mayor Brown reported that they didn't meet due to no quorum and the next meeting is in June.

**C. Urban County**

Mayor Brown reported the meeting is next Wednesday.

**D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority**

Mayor Brown reported that the last meeting was cancelled for lack of quorum.

**E. Friends of Rutherford Pool**

Mayor Pro Tem reported they've been working on an MOU with the City Manager.

**XII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

**Council Member Tooson -**

- Expressed feelings of disappointment over the last meeting, and asked for respect and professionalism.

**Council Member King -**

- Speeding is an issue and residents have questions about speed humps. Director Wessler indicated that residents must submit a petition and then a traffic study will be performed.

- Discussed voter rights suppression issues.

- Attended a Dress for Success Event and that is an agency that helps women by providing support and personal attire for women to thrive. And it was a completely free event.

*Council Member King offered, supported by Council Member Simmons, to extend the meeting until 10:15. The motion passed upon a voice vote.*

**Council Member Simmons -**

- Discussed speeding issues and the behavior of drivers.

- Wondering if the neighborhood watch signs are outdated.

- Suggesting a City wide survey to get resident input.

**Council Member McLean -**

- Thanks to the Chief for continuing to take seriously our neighborhood requests for monitoring speeds on Congress at Oakwood and Cross at Oakwood, as well as running, stop signs. Asking City Manager for information on current fine levels for speeding, the last time we changed those, and whether or not there are any state limitations on how far we can go with those.

**Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon -**

- Katie and Andrew and Wilcoxon are meeting with folks from GEI and HRWC in terms of Engagement that will be coming up around the dam. Will be posting that at some point in the future. We're waiting on the 90% engineering report. And also conversations I need to have with our city attorney about Property lines, and how they will change with the dewatering of the dam, and then Public engagement planned for this spring.

**XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Brown discussed the Water Street Visioning session, and noted they were off to a great start. She's looking forward to the second one.

And then, since our last meeting, she was able to attend the CVI Summit, as well as the Brotherhood Banquet, and bring, the welcomes on behalf of the City of Ypsilanti. Both events were really great, and very informative in their own way, but really, both of them ultimately spoke to, again, community and the need for us to be working better together.

**XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

- Reminder that next week's special meeting starts at 6p.m.
- City staff will be interviewing some Summer Works program youth tomorrow.
- Lost contact with LEAF, so been trying to contact the state directly to, create a SHARPS program. Haven't been able to get in touch with anybody yet.
- The second Water Street, visioning session is on May 20th at 7pm, and that's over at the 300 building.

**XV. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:09p.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.**

