



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
5:30 P.M. – CLOSED SESSION
7:00 P.M. – OPEN SESSION**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Jefferson	Absent	Council Member Robb	Present (5:57)
Council Member Moeller	Present	Council Member Vogt	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Schreiber	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Present		

Council Member Vogt moved, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson to excuse the absences.

On a voice vote the motion carried.

III. INVOCATION –

The Mayor asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

V. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Agenda approved as submitted.

VI. CLOSED SESSION – (5:30 to 7:00 p.m.)

Closed Session to discuss Attorney/Client communication and pending litigation (OMA 15.268, Sections 8(e)(h)).

On a roll call, the vote to adjourn to closed session was as follows:

Council Member Jefferson	Absent	Council Member Robb	Absent
Council Member Moeller	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Schreiber	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Jefferson, Robb) Vote: Carried

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 5:42 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

VII. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Schreiber introduced Former Council Member and YCUA Board Member Michael Bodary, YCUA Executive Director Jeff Castro and YCUA Finance Director Dwayne Herrigan.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS –

IX. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING –

Ordinance 1192

1. An ordinance determining that the assessments for the Streetlight Special Assessment District are in proportion to the benefits derived or to be derived, confirming the Special Assessment Roll, placing the Special Assessment Roll on file in the Office of the City Clerk/Treasurer and directing the City Treasurer to collect the various amounts on the roll in accordance with this ordinance pursuant to the authority granted in MCL 117.4d, the City of Ypsilanti Charter and Chapter 90 of the Ypsilanti City Code.

- A. Resolution No. 2013-161, determination

That a ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING THAT THE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE STREETLIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ARE IN PROPORTION TO THE BENEFITS DERIVED OR TO BE DERIVED, CONFIRMING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL, PLACING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER, AND DIRECTING THE CITY TREASURER TO COLLECT THE VARIOUS AMOUNTS ON THE ROLL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN MCL 117.4d, THE CITY OF YPSILANTI CHARTER, AND CHAPTER 90 OF THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE" be approved on First Reading.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock

SUPPORTED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

City Manager Lange gave a brief explanation of the proposed special assessment of approximately \$57.50 per parcel for two years, and gave an update on the process to date. He said it is a good program and will save on carbon emissions.

Mayor Schreiber asked how an overage would be handled.

City Manager Lange said the city doesn't know what the final conversion costs will be however, if residents are charged under the actual costs there is no problem but if there is an overage (charged too much) it would require a resolution from City Council to address it.

Attorney O'Jack confirmed that an action from City Council would be necessary to address any overage or refund.

- B. Open the public hearing

1. Dr. Ernest Terry, 1927 Roosevelt, objected to the streetlight special assessment. He said he was not opposed to the use of LED lights or a carbon footprint but he doesn't believe that calling this a special assessment fits the legal definition of what it is. He said the streetlight is already on the property and they are merely changing the light bulb. He said special assessments increase property value, according to Michigan Supreme Court law and the only benefit he's heard it that it improves the general fund.

2. Chris Starkey, 1927 Roosevelt objected to the streetlight special assessment and said it is a creative way to get the taxpayers to pay a special assessment by putting the burden on the residents. He said the lights currently don't illuminate the sidewalk because of trees and the sidewalks are not well lit. He said the trees are never trimmed unless there is a storm.
3. Joann Waller, 1009 Pearl Street, objected to the streetlight assessment and said brush and trees are around the lights and poles and if cleared they could get more light. She said the assessment is an added expense on tax payers.
4. Godfrey Udoji, 1826 Witmire, supported the streetlight special assessment and said street lighting is part of the city's infrastructure and he doesn't see why it cannot be financed through a special assessment.
5. Bill Welsh, 711 Cambridge, said he supports better street lighting and he hopes city staff has considered the nature of LED. He said quality is what matters. He said he supports the special assessment but doesn't like how he would be assessed because he lives on a double lot. He said he has no problem paying but doesn't like that he's being charged twice for a single-family residence.

C. Resolution No. 2013-162, close public hearing.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing on an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING THAT THE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE STREETLIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ARE IN PROPORTION TO THE BENEFITS DERIVED OR TO BE DERIVED, CONFIRMING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL, PLACING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER, AND DIRECTING THE CITY TREASURER TO COLLECT THE VARIOUS AMOUNTS ON THE ROLL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN MCL 117.4d, THE CITY OF YPSILANTI CHARTER, AND CHAPTER 90 OF THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE" be officially closed.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a voice vote the motion carried and the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Robb stated that 292 streetlights have already been replaced yet those who are not benefitting from them will still have to pay. He asked if the city's argument is that although I live on the east side, I benefit from those on the west side?

City Manager Lange replied that the city has put together a fact sheet on all of the benefits of the streetlights.

Council Member Robb asked if it is legal to design the streetlight assessment so that everyone pays for everything.

City Attorney John Barr answered to levy a special assessment Council must set up a district and those properties pay the assessment and in this case the entire city was set up as a district so everyone benefits, therefore everyone pays since the city is improving the streetlights city wide.

Council Member Robb asked if people can opt out of special assessment districts.

City Attorney John Barr answered no and said residents can file an appeal with the tax tribunal stating that the assessment is not a benefit to them.

Council Member Moeller asked about how double lots be assessed.

Attorney John Barr answered each parcel will be levied equally. He stated that each parcel has a taxable value and it is related to the streetlight value. He added that double lots pay more taxes.

Mayor Schreiber asked about trimming trees.

City Manager Lange answered DPS has done a good job keeping the trees trimmed. He said tree inventory and lists for tree removals and maintenance are being monitored and can be seen on the website. He said he would ask Mr. Kirton to go out and observe to see what else needs pruning.

Mayor Schreiber stated that if residents are concerned they should call the Clerk's office or go on the website.

Council Member Moeller asked how to report trees that need pruning.

Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage stated that residents can go online under tree maintenance to see the schedule for tree removal. She said the site shows what the schedule is for removing trees and it states how the city will go about removing a tree if it is not on the list. She said the pruning list is not on the website and that all trees that were pruned or trimmed are on the website.

Council Member Murdock asked to be walked through the appeal process.

Attorney O'Jack answered people can appear tonight in person to object or they can put something in writing tonight. He said people must object at this level first in order to file to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. He recommended that they file within 30 days. He said if a person files in the small claims bureau it takes about 6 months, however in full claims it could be a couple of years.

Council Member Robb said it is stated that the payback is 5 years when in fact it is really zero and asked of the city could decide in the future to pay people back.

City Manager Lange said he thinks it could be done. He said it would be a policy decision by Council.

Council Member Robb asked what would be the mechanism for refunding if decided by Council.

Attorney John Barr answered a city may not gift money. He said he has never seen a refund either, however the city can reduce the millage across the board for all taxpayers.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-161 (Ordinance No. 1192) was as follows:

Council Member Moeller	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Schreiber	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Jefferson	Absent
Council Member Robb	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1 (Jefferson) Vote: Carried

Ordinance 1193

2. An ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinance to increase Water Rates within the City of Ypsilanti".

A. Resolution No. 2013-163, determination

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

The ordinance entitled An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase Water rates within the City of Ypsilanti be approved on First Reading.

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Murdock

YCUA Executive Director Jeff Castro gave an overview of the ordinances. He stated that at its regular meeting of the YCUA Board of Commissioners on August 28, 2013, the Board approved a recommendation to the Ypsilanti City Council rate adjustments for City Division customers: a water rate increase of 5%, a sewer rate increase of 4.5%, and a surcharge decrease of 1%. This would decrease the surcharge to 67%. The combined effect of these rate adjustments, which will be effective October 17, 2013 would be a 4.14 increase in a City Division customer's bimonthly bill. He stated that the customer would see a minimum increase of \$3.01/bi-monthly or \$1.50/monthly for water and sewer and an average user will be charged \$5.87/bi-monthly or \$2.94/monthly. He said that although Detroit has increased the cost for water by 6.3% YCUA reduced the cost to 5% for residents due to containment of other costs. He said Detroit charges a fixed rate no matter the consumption and have changed their methodology to cover the decreased consumption.

YCUA Board Member Michael Bodary said he is enjoying serving on the YCUA Board so far and has learned a lot. He said there are fixed costs on water rates no matter what and YCUA is trying to break even only.

YCUA Board Member Andy Cameron was present but had no comment.

Council Member Moeller commented about costs going up and asked why the city is being charged the entire amount although people are using less. She said she always thought that conserving would create lower water bills.

Mr. Castro explained that the water pipes need to be preserved and maintained also. He said when consumption decreases the costs go up because YCUA is still paying the same as when the contract was a large one. He said Detroit must still cover the debt even if there are fewer users.

YCUA Finance Director explained that Detroit changed their methodology to allow them to get the same amount although the city's water consumption has decreased. He added that the debt is the same no matter what and they must cover the debt.

Council Member Moeller asked about the refinancing of bonds.

YCUA Finance Director replied as a utility they have low rates through the state and they are pretty much as low as you can get. He said the 5% is an increase over last year's cost and the city just refinanced or reissued five bonds on last year.

Council Member Moeller asked for an explanation of the depreciation and operating expense.

YCUA Finance Director replied they have to allocate the use of it, however it is taken out when the surcharge is calculated.

Council Member Moeller said it is hard for her to vote for a water increase when most people have tried to reserve in order to lower their bill.

YCUA Finance Director stated that they are now seeing more water and sewer breaks because of the rain and with less usage and as a result there is less revenue to pay for the repairs.

Council Member Moeller asked what happens if the city votes against an increase. She said the cost is way beyond inflation and she would like to know how increases can be stopped.

Council Member Murdock commented that the purchase of Detroit water is only half of the costs and expenses. He said with industries leaving, the consumption is down in the city and now residents feel more of the bill because we are locked into the same 48 parcels although customers are not expanding.

B. Open the public hearing

1. Godfrey Udoji supported the water increase and said it's hard to keep the costs down. He said he is proud of YCUA and pleased with their performance and record.
2. Dave Strenski, founder of Solar Ypsi, commented that YCUA should also consider renewable energy to reduce cost.
3. Bill Welsh, 711 Cambridge, commented that he doesn't want to pay more money for water but the rates are low for such a fundamental service. He said there is quality water in the city and the system probably needs maintenance and this is not an unusual request. He said it is not an unreasonable request because the city pays low rates for fundamental services.
4. Mr. Lewis, property owner, asked what happens if the city doesn't support the increases.

C. Resolution No. 2013-164, close public hearing

THAT the public hearing on the ordinance entitled, An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase water rates within the City of Ypsilanti be officially closed.

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Schreiber asked what happens if the vote goes down and if Council decides to never approve a rate increase in the future.

Mr. Castro answered the water rate would still increase.

Attorney John Barr gave the history of the formation of YCUA. He said the agreement said one authority would be formed to manage the water and that there would be three divisions and each division would have separate fees. He said if the city cannot afford to pay its bills either YCUA will shut the water off or the state will appoint an EM to come in. He said the contract with YCUA states that rates will be set with the consent of City Council and that is why it is before Council.

YCUA Finance Director stated that the city backs YCUA's full faith and credit for its debt.

Council Member Murdock commented that YCUA is here because the city requested to know in advance when rate increases would go into effect.

Council Member Murdock asked if a surcharge reduction is possible, given the rate increases.

YCUA Finance Director stated that part of the increase is due to the debt. He said the shared part includes improvements that were financed. He said the debt is about \$3 million and with this year's budget and the reduction in consumption, the increase balances the number. He said with the 1% decrease they will bring in \$20,000 less than last year even though the rates are slightly up.

Council Member Murdock asked for the debt schedule.

YCUA Finance Director said they anticipate a 2-3% increase going forward and that the rates won't start dropping off for another 7 years or so.

Council Member Murdock asked about the water only meters and what the charge is.

Director Castro indicated that rate experts are currently analyzing the rate structure.

Council Member Murdock noted that Ann Arbor has a flat fee and a tiered rate structure and wondered how this could apply to Ypsilanti.

Director Castro said this is something the experts are looking into.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-163 (Ordinance No. 1193) was as follows:

Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Schreiber	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Jefferson	Absent
Council Member Robb	Yes	Council Member Moeller	No
Council Member Vogt	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 5 No: 1 (Moeller) Absent: 1 (Jefferson) Vote: Carried

Ordinance 1194

3. An ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-455(a) of the Code of Ordinances to increase sewage disposal service rates within the City of Ypsilanti".

- A. Resolution No. 2013-165, determination

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

The ordinance entitled An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase Water rates within the City of Ypsilanti be approved on First Reading.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

- B. Open the public hearing

There were no speakers.

- C. Resolution No. 2013-166, close public hearing

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

That the public hearing on the ordinance entitled, An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase Water rates within the City of Ypsilanti be officially closed.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a voice vote the motion carried and the public hearing was closed.

On a roll call the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-165 (Ordinance No. 1194) was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Jefferson	Absent
Council Member Robb	Yes	Council Member Moeller	No
Council Member Vogt	Yes	Council Member Murdock	Yes
Mayor Schreiber	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 5 No: 1 (Moeller) Absent: 1 (Jefferson) Vote: Carried

Ordinance 1195

4. An ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 of the Code of Ordinances to decrease the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer service bills within the City of Ypsilanti".

- A. Resolution No. 2013-167, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 of the Code of Ordinances to decrease the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer bills" be approved on First Reading.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Moeller
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

YCUA Finance Director stated that the original surcharge was 80% and now it is 68%.

Council Member Murdock added that the surcharge includes the water main debt, improvements to Factory Street, sewer plant expansion, etc.

Mr. Lange commented about rain decreasing usage and asked how the system relates to storm water.

YCUA Finance Director answered they are two separate systems and storm water is completely separate.

- B. Open the public hearing

There were no speakers.

- C. Resolution No. 2013-168, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing on the ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 of the Code of Ordinances to decrease the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer bills" be officially closed.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Moeller
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a voice vote the motion carried and the public hearing was closed.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-167 (Ordinance 1195) was as follows:

Council Member Robb	Yes	Council Member Murdock	Yes
Council Member Vogt	Yes	Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes
Mayor Schreiber	Yes	Council Member Moeller	Yes
Council Member Jefferson	Absent		

VOTE:

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1 (Jefferson) Vote: Carried

Ordinance 1196

5. An ordinance to approve lease of part of city hall to Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority.

- A. Resolution No. 2013-169, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing on an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 of the Code of Ordinances to decrease the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer bills" be approved on first reading.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Murdock

Mr. Lange stated that the ability to lease space in city hall is now feasible since the Clerk and Treasurer's offices are combined. He said this will save the DDA money and they've chosen to move to the 3rd floor. He said the DDA will remain independent and be governed by their own board. He said things are moving a little slower, however as soon as logistics are worked out they will move to city hall.

Council Member Robb asked if the DDA will pay the city for parking spaces.

City Manager Lange answered yes and said it is stated in the lease agreement that they will purchase two parking spaces.

Council Member Robb clarified that the wording actually means the city is providing two spaces for them to purchase and not that we are giving them two spaces.

Mr. Lange replied yes.

- B. Open the public hearing

There were no speakers.

- C. Resolution No. 2013-170, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing on an ordinance to lease part of

city hall to the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority be officially closed.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Moeller

On a voice vote the motion carried and the public hearing was closed.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-170 (Ordinance No. 1196) was as follows:

Council Member Vogt	Yes	Council Member Murdock	Yes
Mayor Schreiber	Yes	Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes
Council Member Jefferson	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Moeller	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1 (Jefferson) Vote: Carried

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

XI. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

None

XII. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2013-171, approving the minutes of August 20, 2013.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of August 20, 2013 be approved.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Moeller

Council Member Vogt requested a change to his comments on page 3, line 2 as follows:

Council Member Vogt agreed that Prospect is the next road for repair and explained how road funding comes from various sources ~~and with the streetlight conversion DTE is the sole source paying~~ **but expenses for streetlights are paid from the general fund.**

On a voice vote the minutes were approved as amended.

The meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

XIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2013-172, approving implementation of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Advantage Plan for all eligible retirees.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, City Council of the City of Ypsilanti deems it to be in the best interest of the City to continue to reduce health care costs where applicable; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2013, Blue Cross Blue Shield presented the Medicare Advantage Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare Advantage Plan would reduce retiree health care costs while still offering additional benefits to the retirees; and

WHEREAS, retirees currently enrolled in Medicare A & B would be eligible for this Medicare Advantage Plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI to adopt implementation of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Advantage Plan for all eligible retirees.

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

Michelle Bolser, broker with Griffin, Smalley and Wilkerson, explained that 59 of 99 retirees would be eligible. She said there was not great attendance at the two meetings held, however those who attended were excited. She said the retirees received the information, understood it and were grateful to have coverage. She said the cost analysis shows the current medical costs, and the savings and the rates are good through 2014.

Council Member Robb asked if the plans for spouses are attractive.

Ms. Bolser replied yes with the new plan.

Council Member Robb questioned how the city would get them to buy into it.

Ms. Bolser answered during open enrollment. She said meetings will be held and mailings would be sent also.

Council Member Robb asked who would pay for the spouse.

Ms. Bolser replied most would be paid for by the spouse or employee. She said spouse coverage would be based on what is in each contract.

Council Member Robb said he is scared about what might happen if the plan is opened up to spouses and is concerned about who will pick up the cost.

Ms. Bolser replied the city's insurance would be less expensive than what it currently is for the spouse.

Ms. Moeller expressed concern that the more spouses that take the coverage will raise the city's prices.

Ms. Bolser said the cost will depend on the number that sign up. She said the actual rates are not in yet so she doesn't know the exact cost.

Council Member Murdock asked if adopted will everyone who is eligible for Medicare Advantage be switched or is it voluntary.

Ms. Bolser replied everyone who is eligible will be placed into this plan and others will be transferred as they become eligible.

Council Member Murdock asked if there is any legal hesitancy for doing this.

Mr. Lange replied yes and said Labor Attorney Rick Fanning had some concerns and they are going to revisit them.

Council Member Moeller left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Lange talked about the exposure that exists in changing plans and said there is nothing that says the city can't go back to its original plan.

Council Member Murdock asked if retirees that left the plan can come back.
Human Resources Manager Judi Smith replied yes during open enrollment.

Council Member Murdock asked how much is the waiver.

Ms. Smith replied \$5,000 for a family, \$4,000 for two persons and \$2,000 for single.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Representative Rose Cook said she looked at the current plan design and tried to duplicate it. She explained that there are the added benefits in the Medicare Advantage plan and they are getting \$140 back in their pockets under proposed plan design.

Mr. Lange stated although the plan has changed there is no damage because it is better and there is no loss.

Ms. Cook said the added benefits are IV therapy, skilled nursing and glaucoma testing.

Ms. Smith said there are 12 retirees with spouses so that is the maximum number that could come back on for coverage.

On roll call the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-172 was as follows:

Mayor Schreiber	Yes	Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes
Council Member Jefferson	Absent	Council Member Robb	No
Council Member Moeller	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 4 No: 1 (Robb) Absent: 2 (Jefferson, Moeller) Vote: Carried

2. Resolution No. 2013-173, approving the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Participation Agreement and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Board adopted the MERS Deferred Compensation Plan on November 8, 2011; and

Whereas, the City wishes to offer the plan to all employees to encourage them saving for retirement by offering salary reduction contributions; and

Whereas; the plan offers lower administrative cost and attractive investment opportunities; and

Whereas; in order to set up a MERS 457 plan, the City needs to enter a participation agreement to add MERS 457 plan in addition to the current 457 carriers the City has, ICMA and The Hartford; and

Whereas; after the plan is adopted, MERS representative will make a presentation to the City employees to introduce the MERS 457 Deferred Compensation Plan;

Whereas, the MERS Uniform 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Resolution and the MERS 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Participation Agreement is required to be approved by City Council, and;

Whereas, all city employees will now be eligible to participate in the MERS 457 Deferred Compensation Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council approves the MERS 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Participation Agreement; MERS 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Participation Agreement; MERS 457 Loan Addendum; MERS 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Resolution; MERS 457 Loan Procedures; fees comparison, and

THAT the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign all necessary documents to enter into the contract(s) with MERS, subject to the approval of the city attorney as to form.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SUPPORTED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

Finance Director Marilou Uy gave a brief explanation.

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND:

On November 8, 2011, Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Board adopted the MERS Deferred Compensation Plan. The City wishes to offer the plan to all employees to encourage them saving for retirement by offering salary reduction contributions. The plan offer lower administrative cost, and attractive investment opportunities.

In order to set up a MERS 457 plan, the City needs to enter a participation agreement to add MERS 457 plan in addition to the current 457 carriers the City have, ICMA and The Hartford. After the plan is adopted, MERS representative will make presentation to the City employees to introduce the MERS 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.

Council Member Robb asked if the city would provide a match.

Ms. Uy answered no.

Council Member Murdock asked if all employees would be eligible.

Ms. Uy replied yes.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-173 was as follows:

Council Member Jefferson	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Moeller	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Schreiber	Yes

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson Yes

VOTE:

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Jefferson, Moeller) Vote: Carried

3. Resolution No. 2013-174, approving agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for traffic signal installation, maintenance and operation costs at various M17 intersections.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti agrees to participate with the Michigan Department of Transportation for traffic signal installation, maintenance and operation costs at the intersections of:

**M17 (Washtenaw) & Oakwood
M17 (Washtenaw) & Ballard
M17 (Washtenaw) & Mansfield
M17 (Washtenaw & Cross) & Summit**

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti agrees to participate in fifty percent (50%) of the actual cost of electrical energy and;

WHEREAS, the annual energy cost of the above mentioned signals are estimated to be \$3,888.00 of which the City will pay approximately \$1,944.00 and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council approves entering into the MDOT Cost Agreement for Traffic Signal Control; and

FURTHER, that this agreement cancels and supersedes all previous cost agreements and is terminable on thirty days notice by any party; and

THAT the City Manager and City Clerk are authorized to sign the Cost Agreement and any change orders, subject to approval by the City Attorney, to enter into this agreement.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

Summary and Background:

The Michigan Department of Transportation has issued an agreement to be signed by the City of Ypsilanti to participate 50/50 in the cost of installation, maintenance and operation of traffic signals at M17 (Washtenaw) & Oakwood; M17 (Washtenaw) & Ballard; M17 (Washtenaw) & Mansfield and M17 (Washtenaw & Cross) & Summit. The annual energy cost of the above mentioned signals are estimated to be \$3,888.00 of which the city will pay approximately \$1,944.00.

Council Member asked about Washtenaw and Oakwood and said he thought it was done with the installation and asked if these are new signals being installed there?

Mr. Lange replied half of the work is completed.

Council Member Murdock asked if all the traffic lights will be converted to LED eventually.

Mr. Lange replied yes.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-174 was as follows:

Council Member Moeller	Absent	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Schreiber	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Jefferson	Absent
Council Member Robb	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Jefferson, Moeller) Vote: Carried

4. Resolution No. 2013-175, approving implementation of "1,000 solar rooftop initiative".

RESOLUTION FOR 1,000 SOLAR ROOFS INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan emits more 81 tons of carbon pollution annually to produce electricity; and

WHEREAS, solar power is a clean source of energy with which Michigan can power its homes, businesses and cars to achieve better air quality and reduce carbon pollution; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has vast solar potential with more sunlight than Germany, the world's leader solar power; and

WHEREAS, the solar industry provides more than 6,000 jobs to Michiganders, and that Michigan is ranked in the top five states for solar manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, if Michigan were to generate 1 GW of electricity from distributed generation solar, an additional 100,000 solar rooftops would be installed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti has demonstrated its national leadership in pursuit of solar power and is well positioned to benefit from a growing clean energy economy to bring jobs and investments to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti recognizes the above assets of solar power and desires to further its commitment to this important clean energy solution; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti officially sets its own goal of the City of Ypsilanti and its residents generate 5 MW of electricity from distributed solar, to reach 1,000 solar roofs by 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti hereby acknowledges the policy recommendations from the Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center report as to how the City of Ypsilanti and its residents can meet a goal of 1,000 solar roofs by 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti calls on the State of Michigan to follow Ypsilanti's lead in making Michigan a leader in solar power and to set the goal of having 100,000 solar roofs by 2020.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Murdock

Letter from Virginia Shannon, gave the overview of the request.

To make Ypsilanti a "solar destination"-- and hasten the day when solar powers our buildings and our economy -- Ypsilanti must set a bold solar goal of 1,000 solar roofs by 2020 and encourage solar on thousands more homes, businesses and public buildings.

In order to achieve a goal of 1,000 solar roofs by 2020, the key policies areas identified below should be put in place to increase municipal solar installations, establish successful partnerships that support solar and give Ypsilanti residents and businesses the tools they need to go solar.

- Lead-by example by continuing to identify sites and seek grants for projects on city buildings along with welcoming solar projects on historic buildings;
- Streamline information on financing options and promote financing programs such as PACE to help residents, businesses and industries go solar;
- Partner with nonprofits, solar companies, and Eastern Michigan University to build public awareness of solar potential in Ypsilanti and a literacy of technology and financing options; and
- Support local, state and federal policies that promote the use of solar energy.

With a bold goal of 1,000 by 2020 in place, Ypsilanti can become a solar destination, attracting attention as a national leader and building a solar economy to repower its city and homes.

Approval of this resolution to set a bold solar goal will demonstrate the City's commitment to becoming a destination to study, live and work in and moving to more sustainable energy future.

Dave Strenski was present to answer questions from Council.

Council Member Robb recalled this item was tabled in April in order to get a report from Dr. Welsh in which Council never received.

Mr. Strenski stated that the report is not in electronic form yet. He said he supports the project and the benefits will be good for the city. He said he would try to secure grants as well. He said the item was tabled in April because of question existed regarding if there are 1,000 rooftops and they've discovered that the answer is yes, so now they can move forward.

Professor Welsh said he didn't know a report was expected. He referred to diagram presented and explained where the rooftops are located within the city.

Council Member Robb asked if the implementation plan is to have 600 installations by 2020.

Mr. Strenski said there are 15 to date. He said contractors want the list of eligible rooftops and he suspects this will take off.

Council Member Robb asked if the initiative will work closely with rentals property.

Mr. Strenski answered the data he has is only residential and there are about 5,000 clear of trees and there would be more if commercial is added. He said the roofs are south facing and there are 1,000 addresses.

Council Member Robb asked if socioeconomics will be considered.

Mr. Strenski replied the first phase will consist of the first 1,000 people (addresses) and the roofs are all over the place. He said a lot of the roofs are on the south side because there is less tree coverage.

Mayor Schreiber appreciated Mr. Strenski and Dr. Welsh for volunteering and for the presentation. He said this would be a good statement for the city of Ypsilanti to make.

Council Member Vogt added that Germany is doing a lot more and asked if anyone had any figures for Germany?

Mr. Strenski answered they are at 400 mega watts per million people and currently the US is at 25 mega watts.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson thanked Mr. Strenski and Professor Welsh for their work.

On roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-175 was as follows:

Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Schreiber	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Jefferson	Absent
Council Member Robb	Yes	Council Member Moeller	Absent
Council Member Vogt	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Jefferson, Moeller) Vote: Carried

5. Resolution No. 2013-176, approving extension of the Management Agreement with the Friends of Ypsilanti Freighthouse for a period of six months, to end in March, 2014.

RESOLVED BY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is the owner of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti entered into a five-year Management Agreement with the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse in September 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Management Agreement gives the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse authority to manage the Freighthouse and its redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Management Agreement expires on September 8, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse have requested a six-month extension of the Management Agreement to update their business plan and develop a timeline for fundraising efforts; and

WHEREAS, pending completion of the updated business plan and fundraising timeline, the City and Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse may choose to renew the Management Agreement for an additional five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the extension of the Management Agreement with the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse for a period of six months, to end in March 2014.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Robb

Council Member Murdock stated that the Friends of the Freighthouse developed plans to get the mechanical parts of the building back in shape and they are in Lansing getting approval from SHPO. He said they are looking to redo the business plan and institute finances.

Laura Thompson, Vice-Chair said the group is requesting an extension to work on the business plan. She said they recently spoke with the Ann Arbor Community fund and they have agreed to provide the group with a consultant to help them update their business plan and financial numbers so that they are in alignment, and to also help with the next phase of funding. She said they are making liaisons with corporations for help with materials and had a lot of success at the Heritage Festival. She said she feels they are on a good course to be able to complete the project.

Council Member Robb asked what happens after the six months are up. He suggested extending the agreement now.

Ms. Thompson said she was under the impression that updated current financial information was needed before another 5 year agreement could be signed.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-175 was as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Jefferson	Absent
Council Member Robb	Yes	Council Member Moeller	Absent
Council Member Vogt	Yes	Council Member Murdock	Yes
Mayor Schreiber	Yes		

VOTE:

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Jefferson, Moeller) Vote: Carried

Resolution No. 2013-178, was added.

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

The action and parameters recommended by the City Manager regarding a worker's compensation claim is approved and the City Manager is authorized to proceed as discussed in closed session.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SUPPORTED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2013-178 was as follows:

Council Member Robb	No	Council Member Murdock	Yes
Council Member Vogt	Yes	Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes
Mayor Schreiber	Yes	Council Member Moeller	Absent
Council Member Jefferson	Absent		

VOTE:

Yes: 4 No: 1 (Robb) Absent: 2 (Jefferson, Moeller) Vote: Carried

XIV. LIASON REPORTS -

- A. SEMCOG Update - none
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - none
- C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – meeting next week
- D. Urban County - none

E. Freight House - none

XV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

MURDOCK

- Commented that it's the one year anniversary on the speed bump request and said the people who submitted petitions are waiting for a response. He asked if there is any idea when the traffic committee will get their act together.

Mr. Lange stated that Planner Gillotti is working on this and it should be completed in a couple of weeks. He said that there should be a recommendation from the traffic committee by the next meeting.

- Mr. Murdock inquired about the erection of "Stop Pedestrian" and "Crosswalk" signs in Depot Town.

Mr. Lange replied that the traffic committee met on that issue and recommended against it.

ROBB

- Commented on statements in the recent CIL regarding IAFF contract and asked if the police chief promotion would still occur?

Mr. Lange replied that issue is still outstanding and he is still working on the final tentative agreement with IAFF so nothing is final. He said the actuarial study is still outstanding.

Council Member Murdock commented that since the city is not doing public safety he finds it difficult to do public safety and the administrative level. He said it creates more bureaucracy at the top.

Council Member Robb agreed with Mr. Murdock's comment.

- Mr. Robb asked what actions are being put in place to prevent the QVC and Fire Muster problem from happening in the future.

Mr. Lange replied he is going to have a summit at the end of this year with Amanda Holsinger, Ericka Savage, the Heritage Festival and others to clean up the events process.

Mr. Robb commented about how quickly the complaint of urine smell in the pavilion was remedied when QVC complained.

Mr. Lange stated that QVC requested the power washing and paid for it.

- Mr. Robb asked if the city uses a checklist when parks are utilized for events.

Mr. Lange replied yes and explained that the city takes pictures of the site and uses the security deposit to cover damages.

- Mr. Robb asked about furlough days ending and said it was not included in the budget. He asked if a request for legislation is coming to Council. He suggested that budget amendments be done quarterly.

Mr. Lange said that is possible. He said he is trying to prepare for goal setting now and would like to have those numbers ready for Council.

- City Manager evaluation is now electronic and said it makes collecting data easier. He said he would send it to Council.

VOGT

- Commented that he is not clear if the city is accumulating complaints regarding trees and how they are being handled. He said it would be nice to take care of them at appropriate time and quickly so that residents know we are paying attention to them.

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Stated he received an email from the Executive Director of the Housing Commission and federal funds have been reduced to nothing. He announced that there would be a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Hamilton Crossing to discuss changes and Chesapeake Advisors will be there to discuss their proposal. He said all interested should attend.

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Thanked City Council for support of the worker's compensation case
- Thanked Council for support of the Medicare Advantage resolution
- Reported that a Water street report is coming soon
- Tree policy project well done by Ericka Savage
- DDA lease complete
- Invited City Council to see the LED lights upstairs in city hall. He said the capital costs are next to nothing.
- Reported he visited the skate park and they are making progress.
- Commented that the Solar Roof project is good for the city
- Announced he will be away at the MML convention next week and offered Council Member a ride to save gas and parking costs.

XVIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION -

None

XIX. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

None

XX. ADJOURNMENT –

Resolution No. 2013-177, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or two (2) members of Council.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SUPPORTED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

On a voice vote the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.