



Approved

City of Ypsilanti
City Council Goal Setting Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2013
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Spark East – 215 W. Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, Michigan

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Jefferson (7:08)	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Council Member Moeller	Present	Council Member Vogt	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Schreiber	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Present		

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. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Schreiber introduced staff: City Manager Ralph Lange, City Clerk Frances McMullan, Public Services Director Stan Kirton, Fiscal Director Marilou Uy, Planning Director Teresa Gillotti, DDA Director Tim Colbeck, Interim Police Chief Tony DeGuisti and Fire Chief Max Anthouard.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

VII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

The Mayor commented that this is the second meeting in the series of Goal Setting meetings. He explained that this is an informal meeting for City Council and staff to discuss issues with administration and policy, discuss ways to become more efficient, and to discuss projects that will benefit the city.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS –

A. Goal Setting Review – City Attorney Barr

Gave an overview of where the last goal setting meeting ended. He said he tried to incorporate all of the goals listed by Council at the last meeting. He said the meeting left off with Council Member Murdock, however he has used Mr. Murdock's format and included his goals in tonight's presentation.

Mr. Barr asked Mr. Murdock to discuss the goals he has suggested.

Council Member Murdock explained that his goals fall into the following categories:

Fiscal Stability and Deficit Reduction
Economic Development
Public Safety
Transportation
Sustainability

Mr. Murdock reviewed each goal and the specifics for accomplishing each:

I. Fiscal Stability and Deficit Reduction

- Continue 5 year deficit reduction and solvency planning
- Explore Pension options and Conversion to defined contribution plans
- Freeze or reduce Police and Fire Pension Millage
- Limit Increases to Health Care Benefits to no more than Taxable Value Increases
- Overhaul Motor Pool and Recalculate Rental Fees and Replacement Schedules
- Continue Street Light Conversion and other Energy Efficiency Projects
- Continue to explore opportunities to co-operate with other organizations to improve public service
- Balance the Solid Waste Fund

II. Economic Development

- Continue to Aggressively Market Water Street
- Create a "Flying Squad" team of representatives of the various -- Agencies that are involved in Economic Development to recruit and encourage development by "selling" the Ypsilanti Community.
- Complete the Development Ready Community certification process
- Complete the Zoning Ordinance to include flexible and adaptable Employment and Development Zones or targets such as , Water Street, Boys and Girls Club, old Motor Wheel and Ford Motor Co Property, City Hall infill, Smith Furniture, Washington Street Lot, Abe's Block, Pub 13 Block, Depot and Freight House, Peninsular Paper Dam
- Expand Job Creation focus to include jobs and the skills necessary for Ypsilanti residents that are not entrepreneurs
- Complete a Storm Water Management Plan
- Complete a Capital Improvement Plan

- Apply for Transportation Alternative Project (TAP) grant for Traffic Calming, Bike Paths and ADA Ramps for Huron, Hamilton and Washtenaw
- Complete a Depot DDA TIF Plan that focuses on the Commuter Train arrival and other Public capital projects (lighting conversion, bridge replacement, modifying and resurfacing parking lots, etc)
- Finalize a plan for funding and opening the Freight House as a large public event space and train station
- Continue support of Aerotropolis
- Develop Local Investment and Buy Local Policies

III. Public Safety

- Fully staff Police and Fire Departments per budget
- Reinvigorate Community Policing
- Explore opportunities to improve police and fire service through co-operative arrangements
- Improve Code Enforcement
- Improve timely maintenance of city's public assets – Clean and pretty community

IV. Transportation

- Support the Five Year expanded service plan and funding for AAATA
- Continue the implementation of the recommendations of the Non-Motorized Plan
- Apply for Transportation Alternative Project (TAP) grant for Traffic Calming, Bike Paths and ADA Ramps for Huron, Hamilton and Washtenaw
- Secure Money for reconstruction of North Prospect
- Asset management Plan Incorporating Complete Streets for Future road work
- Continue efforts on securing commuter train stop
- Develop plan and funding for capital projects related to train stop arrival including freight house
- Continue support of Aerotropolis

V. Sustainability

- Continue implementation of the Climate Action Plan
- Complete Street Light Conversion to LED
- Complete Energy Efficiency Projects at City Buildings
- Convert fleet to alternative fuels
- Complete DET Solar Array Project at City Dump
- Work on successfully refurbishing Peninsular Paper Dam for hydro-electric production
- Continue support for the 1,000 Solar Roof Campaign
- Implementation of non-motorized plan

VI. Diversity

- Maintain Ypsilanti as a diverse community

- Maintain a diverse City workforce

B. Establishing City Council Goals & Priorities for FY 2014-2015

Council Member Moeller commented that she wasn't sure if staff was to give specifics on how to accomplish goals or general statements.

Mr. Barr explained that he asked for five goals from each Council Member as a starting point for discussion.

Council Member Robb listed the following goals:

- Process Development – Work on process issues. He said a lot of institutional knowledge will be going from City Hall as people retire so a lot of processes need to be developed for the future so that the City can operate more simply.
- How information is shared and returned is important and stressed the use of the Action and Request Center in order to allow for data and tracking.
- Health Care – Look at capping. Look at new health care options.
- Economic Development – Discuss with developers and realtors the factors that go into site development and review critical areas where Ypsilanti is lacking.
- Code Enforcement
- Use of unpaid interns to help surf the web, update the web and maintain Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Mr. Barr reviewed the categories and then asked Council to rate the goals from 1-5 in order of importance with 5 being most important priority and 1 being least priority.

Through discussion, City Council prioritized the 2014 goals as follows:

1. Fiscal Stability

- Continue 5 year debt reduction and solvency plan
 - Manage city debt
- Balanced Budget
 - Maintain Quality Service
- Manage ongoing expenses
 - Reduce pension costs
 - Reduce pension millage
 - Limit health care expense to taxable value increase
 - Overhaul Motor Pool
 - Sell excess equipment
 - Recalculate rental fees and replacement
 - Continue street light conversion
 - Explore other energy efficiency
 - Use Energy Efficiency fund to convert lighting to LED
 - Balance solid waste fund
 - Review contract, service levels
 - Reduce overhead costs

- Reduce Employee costs
 - Better Facility utilization
- Complete Capital Improvement Plan
- Complete Storm Water Management Plan

2. Economic Development

- Water Street development
- Utilize river frontage
 - Water Street
 - Other development
- Public relations
 - Flying Squad of agencies
 - Sell Ypsilanti
 - Civility of council, staff, police and fire, respect for all
 - Positive image, avoid disrespecting the city and staff
 - Promote good news and accomplishments
 - Develop "Buy and Invest Local" Policies
- Zoning
 - Complete zoning ordinance
 - Employment and development zones
 - Water Street
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Motor Wheel
 - Ford Motor Co
 - City Hall
 - Smith Furniture/Pate
 - Washington Street Lot
 - Abe's block
 - Pub 13
 - Depot
 - Freight House
 - Peninsular Paper Dam
 - Complete Development Ready Certification process
- Freight House
 - Functional and Open
- Thompson Building
 - Strategy for development
- Depot
- Alternative Transportation
 - Train and Rail
 - Support Commuter Train and Rail Station
 - Complete Depot DDA TIF plan
 - Commuter Trail, Lighting, Bridge, surface lots
 - Apply for grants - traffic calming, bike paths, ADA ramps
- Continue support for Aerotropolis
- Place making
 - Explore Food Trucks
- Open and Welcoming to New, Innovative Business Ideas

3. Public Safety

- Fully Staff Police and Fire per budget
- Reinstate Community Policing
- Cooperative agreements with EMU, Sheriff and Townships

- Sheriff deputize Ypsilanti and EMU Police Officer
- Extra Territorial Patrols
- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Cameras
- Vigorous Code Enforcement
- Work on "Broken Window" Theory - Clean and Pretty Community
 - Eliminate graffiti
 - Eliminate litter
 - Community Policing
 - Improve appearance of all city property
 - Encourage improvement of all private property

4. Transportation

- Support 5 year plan AAATA
 - Extended service
- Implement Non-Motorized Plan
- Apply for grants -traffic calming, bike paths, ADA ramps
- Reconstruct North Prospect
- Plan For Future Road Work
 - Asset management
 - Funding
- Commuter Train
 - Continue support
 - Depot
 - Freight house

5. Sustainability, Environment

- Complete Street Light Conversion
- Complete Energy Efficiency projects
 - City Hall
- Complete Solar Array Project Old City Dump
- Develop Peninsular Paper Dam for hydro-electric
- Support for 1,000 Solar Roof Campaign
- Implement Climate Action Plan
- Implement Non-motorized Plan

6. Diversity

- Maintain diverse community
- Maintain diverse workforce

Mr. Barr thanked Council for their participation in the prioritizing exercise and stated that a resolution for approval will be presented to Council at the next regular meeting.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

X. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

The Mayor thanked Mr. Barr and applauded city staff for their hard work.

XI. ADJOURNMENT –

Council Member Jefferson moved, supported by Council Member Vogt to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.