



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
Tuesday, December 16, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Brown	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Council Member Vogt	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Present	Mayor Edmonds	Present

III. INVOCATION –

Mayor Edmonds 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 Edmonds introduced the following individuals; City Clerk Frances McMullan, City Attorney John Barr, Planning Consultant Megan Masson-Minock, Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy, Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack, Washtenaw County Economic Development Specialist Nathan Voght, Assistant City Attorney Dan Duchene, and Ypsilanti Housing Commission Director Zach Fosler.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved, supported by Council Member Vogt to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the agenda was approved.

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

- Audit presentation - Kimberley Alleman, Audit Manager of Abraham & Gaffney, P.C.

Audit Manager Kimberly Alleman provided a presentation regarding the audit.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the change to the Police and Fire Pension fund is based off of legal requirements, or if the City chose to modify its current practices.

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

Ms. Alleman responded that it is required because Ypsilanti has a pension trust fund.

City Manager Lange stated MERS has a significant surplus and asked if the City would be given credit for that surplus.

Ms. Alleman responded yes, if Ypsilanti has a net pension asset for MERS it will show as an asset.

Mayor Edmonds thanked Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy, City Manager Lange and any other staff that worked on the City's audit.

Council Member Murdock stated one fund mentioned was the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and asked where it was located in the audit document.

Ms. Alleman responded it is located on page 44 and 45, which show the balance sheet, expenses, general revenues, and program revenues.

Council Member Murdock asked if the revenues over expenditures for the Depot Town DDA were \$32,571.

Ms. Alleman replied correct.

Council Member Murdock stated on page 33 of the audit, relative to personal property reimbursement for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, the State of Michigan will replace 59.96% of lost revenue. Mr. Murdock stated Ypsilanti will only be reimbursed for 60% of lost revenue as a result of state legislation ending personal property tax.

Ms. Alleman responded that calculation is unaudited information that the Michigan DOA required this year.

Council Member Murdock stated that is the reimbursement for the loss of personal property revenues for local governments.

Ms. Alleman responded yes, 60% is accurate.

Council Member Murdock stated the reimbursement is only for essential services so the state will not fully fund the lost revenue.

Ms. Alleman stated the 60% is a flat rate for all local governments in Michigan.

Council Member Murdock stated another rule may be adopted that would require local governments would need to report, or note, their tax expenditures.

Ms. Alleman answered yes, that is a recent development.

Council Member Murdock stated he is in support of that proposed rule.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification of the new rule.

Council Member Murdock responded when the City awards an OPRA, the DDA tax capture, or circumstances of that nature it will be reflected in the audit. Mr. Murdock stated that proposal should be adopted next year, but the City can begin to administer that proposal before it is adopted by the state making the City's finances more transparent.

- Revised Brownfield Plan – Nathan Voght, Washtenaw County Economic Development Specialist and Bonnie Wessler, Planner II

Washtenaw County Development Specialist Nathan Voght introduced Anne Jamieson, AKT Peerless, and provided a presentation for Council.

Mayor Edmonds stated the plan must be adopted by the end of 2014 to capture the Family Dollar development and asked if that means it must be adopted by Council, or the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Voght responded as long as this is approved before the end of March by the Board of Commissioners it will be on the 2014 roll.

Council Member Murdock stated the information given lists several activities that the brownfield capture could be allocated for beyond any further remediation.

Mr. Voght replied correct, because Ypsilanti is a core community it has the ability to do non-environmental developments such as a streetscape. Mr. Voght stated the idea is urban core communities need the extra help to develop new neighborhoods and other non-environmental activities.

Council Member Murdock stated the funds would not be available for construction.

Mr. Voght responded correct, it has to be brownfield related.

Anne Jamieson, AKT Peerless, stated these are public improvements and are not meant to benefit developers.

Mr. Voght added with the exception of storm water management, such as rain gardens.

Ms. Jamieson stated that is really to offset impact to public infrastructure.

Council Member Murdock asked how rigid is the plan, meaning if a planned street was altered would another plan need to be adopted.

Mr. Voght responded no, it is a plan and it may be amended.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Lisa Walters, 12 W. Michigan, encouraged Council to select Beth Bashert for the Ward 2 vacancy. Ms. Walters said Ms. Bashert is a dedicated member of the Ypsilanti community and has the passion, intelligence, and skills to move Ypsilanti forward.
2. Barbara Hale, 310 N. Hamilton, stated there is a problem with parking enforcement in an alley. Ms. Hamilton stated only one car is allowed to be parked per single family dwelling. Ms. Hale asked why the City is allowing people to put a burden on their neighbors and asked that something be done.
3. Jesse Miller, 93 Oakwood, stated Council has been elected to make decisions on behalf of the citizens of Ypsilanti. Mr. Miller stated he lives in a Ward that is underrepresented and Council has been given the task to select whom they feel the electorate of Ward 2 would select. Mr. Miller asked that Ms. Bashert be selected to represent Ward 2 and asked that decisions be based on who the electorate of Ward 2 would have elected.
4. Roberta Wojcik-Andrews, 7 N. Normal, stated she lives in Ward 1 but would like to recommend Beth Bashert for the Ward 2 vacancy. Ms. Wojcik-Andrews stated she would like to speak to the proposed zoning changes and has seen the memo from staff urging Council to adopt the zoning ordinance with the proposed

changes. Very important to maintain the diversity of housing in the Core Neighborhood and group residences would hinder that goal.

5. Robert DeVries, 1315 N. Huron River Drive, stated he has been before Council several times representing the Tenant's Rights Association. Mr. DeVries stated he is being charged with interfering with the Ypsilanti Police because of his activism. Mr. DeVries stated a year ago he went before Judge Simpson saying the Judge was not treating tenants fairly in disputes with landlords and Judge Simpson is not being charged with a crime he is.
6. David Barowski, 906 Grant St, stated he would like to address the zoning ordinance change that would allow six individuals instead of three allowed, to live together in a home. Stated he supports the changes, not everyone can afford a large historic home and this would allow individuals as a group to purchase a home they would not have been able to afford. This helps avoid sectioning historic homes so that they may be used as apartments as permitted in an R3.
7. Hammer Ravier, 1084 Littleman, stated she is in support of the group living stipulation in the proposed zoning ordinance. Ms. Ravier explained she currently lives in a group living residence which helps them to afford healthy food.
8. Ben Miller, 310 Maple St., stated he came to the special meeting last week and wanted to reiterate his support of Beth Bashert who works tirelessly for the City and would do great things as a member of Council.
9. Jennifer Trombley, 25 N. Washington, stated she is here as a representative of the Ypsilanti Tenant's Rights Association and is very excited that Mayor Edmonds has invited her association to present to City Council. Ms. Trombley stated her organization has been examining best practices across the country and is looking forward to presenting after the holidays. She encourages other tenants to attend the associations meeting at the Library on Michigan Ave on Saturdays at 1 p.m.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

- Thanked everyone who spoke and will direct staff to address Barbara Hales's situation.
- Stated she cannot speak to what Mr. DeVries discussed as Council does not get involved with individual criminal charges, but will follow up with the Police Department.
- Thanked all individuals who spoke regarding the proposed zoning ordinance.
- Thanked those who made recommendations for the Council vacancy.

X. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2014-286, approving the minutes of December 2, December 8 and December 9, 2014.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of December 2, December 8 and December 9, 2014 be approved.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member N. Brown

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

XI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2014-287, approving Ward 2 Council Member appointment.
(Administration of Oath of Office immediately after approval)

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That Anne Brown be appointed as Ward 2 Council Member, term ending November 2016.

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member N. Brown

Mayor Edmonds stated Council agreed at the last meeting to use a blank resolution and the Member of Council that read the resolution would fill in the name. Mayor Edmonds added Council would then vote on that candidate and if the vote failed another nomination will be made.

Council Member Vogt stated this has been a rewarding and challenging process. Mr. Vogt stated it was rewarding because Council was able to interview three outstanding candidates, all of whom would be qualified for the position. Mr. Vogt stated citizens have recommended all three candidates with the most recommendations for Beth Bashert. Council Member Vogt said two years ago in a conversation with Beth Bashert he recommended she run for City Council. Mr. Vogt said he has also gotten to know Anne Brown recently and feels she is also an excellent candidate, which makes for an extremely difficult choice.

Mayor Edmonds stated she agrees with Council Member Vogt that all three candidates were excellent and the choice will be difficult.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated having been on Council for 14 years for anyone to apply for Council or run for Council is a very noble. Ms. Richardson stated all three candidates were exceptional; however, she felt Ms. Brown was the most qualified which is why she was her choice.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2014-287 was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Mayor Edmonds congratulated Anne Brown and thanked all of the applicants both for their interest in becoming a member of Council and their dedicated service to Ypsilanti.

2. Resolution No. 2014-294, approving the 2014 Brownfield Plan for Water Street Development Area for the property located at 1-216 E. Michigan Avenue, in accordance with Act 381, and as authorized by the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County established the Washtenaw County Brownfield Development Authority (WCBRA) in accordance with the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act,

being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended (the "Act") to encourage redevelopment of contaminated, functionally obsolete or blighted property by providing economic incentives; and

WHEREAS, the property located at 1-216 E. Michigan Avenue (the "Property") was previously utilized as a commercial property; is located within the City of Ypsilanti, a qualified local governmental unit, or "Core Community" under Act 381; one of the parcels comprised by the subject property has been determined to be a "facility;" and the remaining parcel is adjacent and contiguous to the parcel determined to be a "facility., thus the property is considered to be an eligible property as defined in the Act; and

WHEREAS, a previous plan was adopted in 2006 between the City of Ypsilanti and the Washtenaw County Brownfield Authority; and

WHEREAS, The new Brownfield Plan for the Water Street Redevelopment Area (the "Plan") has been created to facilitate the redevelopment of the Property in accordance with the street framework, infrastructure plan and lot layout incorporated and adopted by the City of Ypsilanti as part of the Shape Ypsilanti 2013 Master Plan;

WHEREAS, The Brownfield Plan for the Water Street Development Area (the "Plan") has been created to facilitate the redevelopment of the Property of approximately 38 acres for an overall increased taxable value estimated at \$41.816 million over 30 years;

WHEREAS, the Plan will allow reimbursement of up to \$22,874,634 in eligible activities to assist in the redevelopment;

WHEREAS, the Plan must be approved by the City of Ypsilanti, before the WCBRA and Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners will consider the plan for approval; and

WHEREAS, neither Washtenaw County nor the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority will incur a financial note or bonded indebtedness for any eligible expenses related to this Property ;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Ypsilanti City Council approve The 2014 Brownfield Plan for Water Street Development Area for the property located at 1-216 E. Michigan Avenue, in accordance with Act 381, and as authorized by the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

AND MAY IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, That the City of Ypsilanti recommends termination of the 2006 Water Street Development Area Brownfield Plan, contingent on final approval of this Plan by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

OFFERED BY: Council Member N. Brown
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2014-294 was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

3. Resolution No. 2014-288, approving Ordinance No. 1236, an ordinance to Convey Two City-Owned Parcels to Strong Future LDHA Limited Partnership for rehabilitation and/or redevelopment of existing low-income housing throughout the City. Properties under consideration are 130 S. Grove St. and 928 W. Michigan Ave. ***(Second Reading)***

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance entitled "An ordinance to sell city-owned property to Strong Future LDHA Limited Partnership" be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

City Manager stated he has since spoken with City Planner Bonnie Wessler and the trail is wide enough to meet the requirement of the grant.

Planner Bonnie Wessler stated the area currently reserved for the railroad easement is where the trail will be constructed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked for clarification of the unaddressed area of the map.

Ms. Wessler stated between the unaddressed parcel and Hollow Creek is 130 S. Grove which is the parcel you are voting on today.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated according to the map there is not a parcel between Hollow Creek and the unaddressed parcel.

Mayor Edmonds stated the 130 S. Grove is above the unaddressed parcel, which is the area covered with trees.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded the arrow on the map signifying where 130 S. Grove is not above the unaddressed parcel.

Mayor Edmonds stated yes, and that area is tree covered.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2014-288 was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson
Council Member A. Brown

Yes
Yes

Council Member Vogt

Yes

VOTE:

YES: 7

NO: 0

ABSENT: 0

VOTE: Carried

City Manager Lange asked if these projects were awarded a MSHDA grant for the 9% round.

Ypsilanti Housing Commission Director Fosler responded no, the City did receive the grant.

4. Resolution No. 2014-289, approving right of way telecommunications permit for KEPS Technologies, Inc., (d.b.a. ACD.net).

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas KEPS Technologies, Inc. (d.b.a. ACD.net) has, on November 10, 2014 filed an application with the City of Ypsilanti applying for a Right of Way Telecommunications Permit pursuant to the Metro Act, Act 48 of 2002; and

Whereas KEPS Technologies, Inc. (d.b.a. ACD.net) has paid the required \$500 application fee to the City; and

Whereas the application meets all the requirements of the said Metro Act;

NOW THEREFORE, the said Telecommunications Permit for KEPS Technologies, Inc. (d.b.a. ACD.net) is approved, and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign said permit, for and on behalf of the City of Ypsilanti.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock

SUPPORTED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

City Attorney John Barr explained that the City of Ypsilanti is a Home Rule City and it has the rights to their streets, highways, and right-of-way. Historically, if a private entity wished to use any of those items they would need to apply to the City for permission. A number of years ago AT&T and other companies approached the state to have an Act to form a state program passed for dealing with right-of-way for telecommunication providers called the Metro Act. The Metro Act is a franchise agreement which sets a general fee and sets all the provisions of the application process. All fees are paid to the state and are refunded to the City. Mr. Barr stated this company has followed the proper protocol and has asked permission to use the right-of-way and Mr. Barr recommends that Council approves the application.

Eli Bing, KEPS Technologies, stated his company has been contracted to install fiber optic cable from the Centennial building to the campus of EMU. Mr. Bing explained all materials needed for the installation will be located in the right-of-way. Mr. Bing stated his company normally permits all steps of the installation process through the Metro Act Permit, which Ypsilanti is enrolled. Normally the route plans given are preliminary because KEPS prefers acquiring the Metro Act permit before surveying the land.

Council Member Murdock asked if the project consists of installing cable only.

Mr. Bing replied yes, in the right-of-way section. Mr. Bing stated additional pole mounted radio enhancement facilities will be constructed on Eastern Michigan University's campus.

Council Member Murdock asked if any PED units will be installed.

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

Mr. Bing replied not on the public right-of-way, however, they will be installed on EMU's campus.

Council Member Robb asked how many feet will the project cover.

Mr. Bing responded 1.5 miles, or around 7,000 ft. to reach the campus and then a mile on the campus.

Mayor Edmonds asked Mr. Barr how many of Metro Act permits are in use and what is the revenue developed from these permits.

Mr. Barr responded around \$60,000 a year in Metro fees and there are several permits which are all controlled through the state.

City Manager Lange stated typically those funds are allocated for projects in the right-of-way for ADA ramps next year those funds can be used for other projects.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2014-289 was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

5. Resolution No. 2014-290, supporting funding Legislation and opposing the House Adopted Transportation Funding Legislation.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, SEMCOG represents counties, cities, villages, townships, Intermediate School Districts, and Community Colleges within the seven-county Southeast Michigan region;

WHEREAS, state gas tax revenue does not increase over time because the tax is based on consumption rather than cost;

WHEREAS, the state gas tax has remained unchanged since 1997;

WHEREAS, federal-aid-eligible roads within the SEMCOG region have gone from a situation where 4 percent of the roads were determined to be in "poor" condition in 2004 to a point where 43 percent of the roads evaluated this year were categorized as "poor";

WHEREAS, roads in poor condition cost vehicle owners additional expense in repairs and endanger those who travel on the roads;

WHEREAS, local road agencies have reduced winter plowing and salting activities due to budget constraints, further endangering those who travel;

WHEREAS, state transit share funding sources have remained unchanged since 1987;

WHEREAS, the SEMCOG region's transit systems are currently considered deficient when compared to other major metropolitan regions in the country;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG supports increased funding for road and transit needs implemented over the quickest possible timeframe;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG opposes efforts to divert existing revenue sources that fund local government and local public schools in order to fund transportation needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City of Ypsilanti supports the Senate-passed package of bills to enhance transportation funding based on their ability to generate significant new revenue for our roads and transit systems phased-in over a reasonable period of time and containing provisions that will allow the funding to grow in future years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City of Ypsilanti opposes the House-passed package of bills impacting transportation funding because they fail to generate enough revenue to reverse the deterioration of our roads, offer no relief for the immediate problems of underfunding, cripple our transit systems, divert a significant existing revenue stream from public schools and divert significant revenues from local governments.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member A. Brown

Mayor Edmonds asked who drafted the resolution.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded the resolution was drafted by SEMCOG for a press conference. She stated that during the press conference there was no support for the House Bill package, support for the Senate Bill package, and no support to take from funds from local governments. She added no one is in support for raising taxes but people are paying more for car repairs than the amount of the tax increase. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she is strongly in support of this resolution.

Mayor Edmonds asked Council Member Robb to look up a link regarding the article from that press conference and asked how much local schools would lose.

City Manager Lange stated the lack of support of transit funding hurts economic development, especially for Ypsilanti. Mr. Lange added Ypsilanti is currently spending 4.5 mils on road repairs which can only be afforded for so long and the state needs to provide more funding.

Council Member Murdock stated as he understands the Senate and the House each drafted a bill and appointed a conference from each body which have not yet met. Mr. Murdock stated both are meeting with the Governor to discuss this but they are running out of time.

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

Council Member A. Brown stated Mr. Murdock is correct committees have been formed but are yet to meet and are hoping that it dies because of the amount of time remaining in this session. Ms. Brown added if it does die it will be brought to the floor again next year.

Mr. Lange stated the Governor is in support of this program.

Mayor Edmonds stated she is in support of this resolution.

Council Member Vogt stated he is in support of this resolution and he agrees with Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson that individuals will spend more on repairs than on this tax, citing his son spending more than a \$1000 on repairs in less than a month.

Council Member Robb stated the decrease in funding for schools would be \$415 a student.

Mayor Edmonds stated it would be around \$2 million for Ypsilanti schools.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2014-290 was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

6. Resolution No. 2014-291, denying the requested extension deadline set forth by the December 2012 ordinance entitled, "Conditional Rezoning for 311 S. Grove Street.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the owners of the property located at 311 South Grove, have requested that the City rezone the property "Conditional B4" in December 2012; and

WHEREAS, the applicant freely offered conditions on the rezoning; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has been unable to satisfy those conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City has developed a proposal as part of the implementation of the Shape Ypsi Master Plan to rezone the property "General Corridor;"

WHEREAS, the proposed zoning designation does not preclude the applicant's desired use, nor does it preclude the applicant's ability to apply for such use in the future;

NOW THEREFORE:

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

The requested extension of the deadline set forth by the December 2012 ordinance entitled "Conditional Rezoning 311 S. Grove St" be denied.

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

City Planner Bonnie Wessler stated most of the information regarding this resolution is stated in the memo but she will answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Edmonds stated when this item first came before the Planning Commission she was in the audience and could not believe the amount of citizens in attendance showing support for the owner of this business to be granted an conditional zoning extension but there seems like progress is being made. Mayor Edmonds stated because of that progress she will be supporting this resolution.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2014-291 was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

7. Resolution No. 2014-292, approving Ordinance No. 1232 adopting a significant amendment to both the zoning map and the zoning text of the Zoning code, in accordance with the recently adopted Master Plan ("Shape Ypsi") **(Second Reading)**.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, The City of Ypsilanti has adopted a comprehensive Master Plan, "Shape Ypsi;" and

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti is desirous of fulfilling the goals of the Master Plan; and

Whereas, the Zoning Ordinance will help to implement those goals of creating a safe, sustainable, and diverse Ypsilanti;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approve the amendments to Chapter 122 of the City's Code of Ordinances on SECOND AND FINAL READING.

OFFERED BY: Council Member N. Brown
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Murdock

Council Member Vogt asked that staff explain the memos provided.

Council Member Murdock asked for Council to examine each issue individually and suggested to begin with the issue of group residences.

City Planner Bonnie Wessler stated the memo described single family households as individuals related by blood, up to three unrelated people, or continuing non-transient domestic units. A group home, or a foster home, is licensed by the state and must be allowed in any neighborhood. A group home, or adult congregate facility, provides the same type of care but, for seven or more adults and is also licensed by the state. The state will allow local governments to provide special land-use designation for these facilities, which is what staff is proposing. A group residence is defined as four or more unrelated individuals living as a group, such as; sororities and fraternities, but does not include rooming houses. Fraternities and sororities are provided special land-use in the R4, student overlay, and are very limited. Staff is proposing rooming houses for three or more non-related individuals that have separate leases, and recommends that it extends to a special land-use in core neighborhood versus R3 and R4. Ms. Wessler stated during the first reading of this ordinance there was discussion of adding further controls. If Council wishes to do so they may revise Section 122.272 to restrict group residences to special land-use in core neighborhood.

Mayor Edmonds asked Ms. Wessler to describe what needs to transpire in order for a parcel to secure a special land-use designation.

Ms. Wessler responded when a special land-use is requested, under the draft ordinance, the applicant would be required to provide a sketch of the site and if there are major changes to the site, a site plan process would be required. If no major changes are proposed the applicant would go through a special land-use process, which involves a public hearing with those living within 300ft invited to the hearing. The Planning Commission would hear the applicant's case and judge it against a set of criteria laid out in the zoning ordinance and discretion based on neighborhood feedback.

Planning Consultant Megan Mason-Minock added the Planning Commission can place conditions to that property which could add additional enforcement.

Ms. Wessler stated there is a provision in the ordinance providing the ability to revoke a special land-use permit if the parcel is not compliant.

Mayor Edmonds asked what the cost is to apply for a special land-use permit.

Ms. Wessler responded currently the cost is \$300.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the license holder for a group home will still be required to reside in that home.

Ms. Wessler replied yes, based on state law.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated there are group homes in Ypsilanti that the owner does not reside. Ms. Richardson stated a group residence does not require the owner to live in the residence.

Ms. Wessler replied the second memo discusses amending that, creating stronger controls and requiring a manager to live at that residence.

Council Member A. Brown asked if this situation is similar to Rainbow Homes that have a social worker living on site.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded homes with an onsite social worker are usually state licensed facilities.

Ms. Wessler stated if those homes were to lose their license they would be in violation of the ordinance as unlicensed facilities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the City has any recourse for group homes without an owner living on the premises.

Mayor Edmonds stated the facilities Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson is referencing are violating state license requirements and would need to be reported to the state.

Ms. Wessler replied the City cannot enforce the terms of a group home's license the state would either need to revoke the home's license or put in place a corrective plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the complaint would need to go to the state.

Ms. Wessler replied yes.

Mayor Edmonds asked if staff had two proposed amendments; the onsite residences and the movement of the group residents from four to six would need to go through the special land-use process.

Ms. Mason-Minock stated yes.

Council Member Murdock asked for clarification of group residences, stating that it seems as if it just a group of individuals renting a home. He said he doesn't see the likelihood of a group of people renting a place with a resident manager and he does not support the three unrelated individual limit for single family homes.

Ms. Wessler responded the rental manager would be appointed by the owner and does not require an outside agency.

Ms. Mason-Minock added the position does not have to be paid just a person that can be held responsible when there are complaints and things that need to be fixed.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the onsite resident is specific to group residence and rooming houses.

Ms. Wessler replied yes.

Mayor Edmonds stated she sees it as a concern more in a rooming house.

Ms. Mason-Minock replied it is in the current ordinance. In the proposed draft, the language is more explicit that the manager must live in the facility.

Council Member Murdock asked for clarification of a rooming house and said that he assumes it is a situation where rooms are rented out and the individuals share a common area as opposed to a group home.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked what the difference is between a group residence and a rooming house.

Ms. Mason-Minock replied the structure of the lease and how they function as a unit. If the lease is written for a group, such as a fraternity, that is a group residence and rooming house facilities are shared and rooms are leased separately.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated in essence the City is increasing the amount of fraternity style homes.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded the definition of fraternity or sorority means that it has to be a student affiliated organization. During the Master Plan process individuals expressed desire to live in cooperative situations this proposed change would allow that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated this is essentially a sorority or fraternity and asked how the idea of expanding group residences developed.

Ms. Wessler replied through public feedback during the Master Plan process, people asked for more flexibility in living arrangements and there is no provision in the current ordinance be it fraternity, sorority, group residence, or coop, or any other situation of a group of individuals living together in a single home.

Ms. Mason-Minock stated it does not have to be a group of students.

Council Member Vogt stated this would also include six elderly women deciding to live in the same home, or three married couples.

Ms. Wessler responded correct.

Council Member Vogt stated the ordinance is not specifically geared toward fraternities and sororities.

Council Member Murdock stated there is a lot of reasons people live together and in his experience if people wish to live together one individual rents the house and the others move in.

Mayor Edmonds stated it is up to the landlord to decide if they want one name on the lease, or each individual who will be living in the home.

Ms. Mason-Minock stated yes, these situations happen and the planning department has had individuals express desire to live in this fashion. Ms. Mason-Minock stated if Council is uncomfortable with the change there are options on how to move forward; Council can direct planning staff to keep it as is in the current ordinance, staff can redefine group residences, separating fraternities, create an overlay, or require these uses to acquire a special land-use permit.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated Ms. Mason-Minock provided three options; leave the ordinance the way it is, create an overlay, or special land-use.

Ms. Wessler stated this is an issue that staff will be monitoring throughout the year focusing on neighborhood compliance, administration and enforcement issues, and real time observation.

Mayor Edmonds the proposed alteration to the ordinance allows a framework that was requested and a level of control in the neighborhoods that showed concern. Mayor Edmonds stated she is in support of the amendment.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked for clarification of the amendment Mayor Edmonds is referencing.

Ms. Wessler responded group residences initially would require a special land-use permit and the proposed amendment would require a special land-use permit for four or more people. This would not be as restrictive as an overlay zone and not as permissive as the initial proposed ordinance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if there would be a cap on how many individuals could live in a home.

Ms. Wessler replied no, there is not a proposed cap.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated there should be a cap on how many individuals can live in a home.

Ms. Wessler stated there are several homes in Ypsilanti that are large enough to house 15 to 20 people.

Mayor Edmonds stated the Planning Commission has the authority to regulate how many individuals are allowed to live in a certain home.

Ms. Wessler stated building codes would also have to be adhered to which regulate the amount of individuals living in a home.

Council Member Murdock stated building codes are how this should be regulated. Mr. Murdock stated he has a concern that the City's proposed ordinance overly regulates living arrangements. Mr. Murdock said the purpose of the proposed ordinance was to remove the burden.

City Manager Lange asked if individual apartments would be regulated by the group residence ordinance provision.

Ms. Wessler replied no, it does not.

Mayor Edmonds asked if it is common to have an onsite manager/point person in group residences.

Ms. Wessler replied it is not necessarily uncommon and makes a lot of sense from the landlord's perspective to provide a person whom would be contacted if there is an issue.

Council Member Murdock asked if that would be the person who signed the lease.

Mayor Edmonds stated it is common practice to have each individual living in the home sign the lease.

Ms. Wessler stated that would be at the landlord's discretion.

Council Member Vogt asked what mandates are in place that will cause the responsible party to act and would that person be cited or would it still be the building owner, how does this further the City.

Ms. Wessler replied it depends on how certain sections of the ordinance are written. Ms. Wessler explained regarding the ordinance for snow removal both the resident and the owner would be notified.

Council Member Vogt stated when a lease is signed one of the renters will need to agree to be the responsible party. Mr. Vogt stated he is in support of this amendment and that it should be on all provisions. Mr. Vogt stated he is not sure that a special land-use permit be required for group residences for over six individuals.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification of Mr. Vogt statement that all provisions include a responsible member representing the renters.

Council Member Vogt responded any larger non-family oriented organizations.

Mayor Edmonds stated that provision is already included; the amendment would just strengthen the provision.

Council Member Vogt stated he is in-favor of that provision.

Council Member Murdock stated the reality of the snow removal ordinance is the responsible party is the landlord who can make snow removal a stipulation of the lease, but ultimately responsibility falls to the owner.

Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack stated the City recommends to owners to include a stipulation in the lease that if the owner is fined the tenants would be responsible. He added the City allows owners to name an agent as the responsible party who would be cited for any issues.

Council Member Murdock stated all landlords are required to register with the City and the option stated by Mr. O'Jack is available to landlords.

Mr. O'Jack stated the purpose for registering a single person is that the court may not issue a citation without information of the responsible party and that information is not always available for tenants. Mr. O'Jack stated if there is a registered responsible individual that person can be cited.

Mr. Lange asked for clarification regarding Peninsular Place which can be described as an apartment or a rooming house.

Council Member Robb responded Peninsular Place is a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

Mr. Lange stated the City can have more Planned Unit Developments.

Ms. Wessler responded yes, that is a possibility, but generally speaking the City would only give that classification if it is a commercial property greater than an acre.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she can agree to the special land-use option.

Mayor Edmonds asked if Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson would like to offer an amendment.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved to revise Section 122-272 to permit group residences as a special land-use only and strengthen the special language requiring an onsite manager.

City Attorney John Barr stated the motion would be that the zoning ordinance be revised so if the owner of the property does not reside on the premises, the owner must appoint a manager that resides on the premises and must provide their name and information of this by request of the City. In addition revise Section 122-272 to permit group residences in the core neighborhood by special land-use permit only.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated it is her intention to put a cap on the amount of individuals who can live in a home.

Council Member Robb stated a cap is a function of the fire and building codes.

Council Member Vogt stated there would be no designation of limits; all group residences would require a special land-use permit.

Mayor Edmonds said all group residences of four or more individuals would require a special land-use permit.

Council Member Vogt supported the motion.

Council Member Murdock stated this amendment is full of unintended consequences because the core neighborhood is mainly located around the university and this will require every landlord annually in August to go before the Planning Commission to acquire a special land-use permit.

Ms. Wessler stated the permit would run with the land and would only require applying for the initial permit.

Council Member Murdock stated he will not support this amendment.

Council Member N. Brown asked if the owner would only need to go through the permitting process once.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded yes, the applicant would only need to go through the process once as long as the use stays the same.

Council Member N. Brown stated after a lease expires and ten individuals move out and the next lease is only for six individuals then no change would be required.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded nothing would change as long as the use continues.

Ms. Wessler stated one of the provisions on a special land-use permit is that no more than ten people may reside there, if the next year 11 tenants were to move in one would have to move out.

Ms. Mason-Minock stated it would not be a situation that would occur every year, once awarded the special land-use permit, the next year the owner would still have that right.

Council Member N. Brown stated if an owner acquires a permit for seven people and the next year wants to rent to 11 people the owner would be required to obtain a new special land-use permit.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded if the permit is limited to that number of people and if the owner wanted to increase the number of people then the owner would need to ask for an amendment and go through the process. The fire code and the building code are not appealable.

Council Member Vogt stated if an owner applies for a special land-use permit, more than likely, they will apply for the maximum amount of allowed tenants. Mr. Murdock's complaint is that it does require that one time, however, the counter point to that is if owners are already renting to groups of that size they should not be and this would require them to go through a process. Mr. Vogt asked how a residence having too many tenants effects the responsible party.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded if the owner has not acquired a special land-use permit and this is adopted as proposed in this amendment, the owner is in violation of the ordinance and not allowed to have that use.

Council Member Vogt stated he understands the issue with putting extra burden on landlords, but if they are in violation of the building and fire code then the extra burden is warranted. Mr. Vogt stated this is an appropriate provision and can be changed later if Council feels it's too onerous.

Mayor Edmonds stated Council has heard the last couple of meetings that tenants are asking for policy strategies to make landlords more accountable and having a responsible agent fulfills that accountability.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she could not agree with how this item was originally presented.

Council Member Robb stated what Mr. Murdock was trying to express is this creates an incredible amount of data for staff to collect and maintain. Mr. Robb stated this creates greater burden on staff and runs counter to historic preservation, creating a reason for property owners to section rentals off for individual apartment rental rather than as one unit. Mr. Robb added Council Member Murdock is correct there will be many unintended consequences associated with the amendment. If this is something Council wishes to consider it should not be done at the table it should be looked at more in depth.

Mayor Edmonds asked either Mr. Lange or Ms. Wessler if the Building Department had been consulted to understand the logistics of the proposed amendment.

Ms. Wessler stated if it is already a rental it is a part of the rental inspection program and will not affect the workload of the building department. The resident manager data is collected regularly and the cost and process of the special land-use permit is \$300. Ms. Wessler stated each landlord will have to calculate their own cost-benefit analysis.

City Manager Lange stated that The Building Department does have a heavy workload but a plan has been devised in which qualified inspectors are no longer able to work for other cities due to pension plan issues that will be used to help with inspections.

Ms. Mason-Minock stated the language regarding four to six individuals, as well as that proposing a resident manager, have been reviewed and accepted by the building department.

Council Member Vogt stated he prefers tighter restraints earlier that can be loosened if Council sees fit.

Council Member A. Brown stated she is concerned about the workload and if staff will be able to collect data and put it to use, however, as Mr. Vogt stated begin with tighter restrictions and loosen them if Council sees fit.

Council Member Robb stated the issue with loosening restriction is the unintended consequence that once the house is made into apartments there is no returning to a single family home.

Council Member Vogt asked if special land-use permit fees could be waived if a home is converted from apartments to single family.

Mayor Edmonds asked if waiving special land-use fees for home conversion back to single family units should be voted on after the amendment on the floor.

Ms. Wessler responded yes.

Council Member Vogt asked if that would be sufficient to encourage landlords to go through the process rather than segment the property for apartments.

Council Member Murdock stated as a part of the audit, Council just received, building inspection fees must be provided to the state to ensure the fees are not more than the costs of the project. Mr. Murdock stated the proposed amendment will add additional costs to landlords. Mr. Murdock asked why it matters, in terms of tenants, if they are related.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded due to case law.

Mr. Murdock asked why an owner can't rent a house to five people and answered because the City has an ordinance against it.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded that is correct.

Council Member Murdock stated the City should amend the ordinance.

Ms. Wessler stated the City would amend the ordinance with much input from the City's land-use attorney.

Council Member Murdock stated there is a lot of concern about the amount of people living in a home and does it really matter if they are related or not. Mr. Murdock stated the concern is the behavior of people not the number of people living in a home and none of the proposed changes will solve the issue.

Council Member Robb stated the proposed amendments make the renter the responsible party for issues arising in the residence. Mr. Robb stated he was fine with how the ordinance was originally written.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson offered a friendly amendment to separate the proposed amendment.

Council Member Vogt accepted the friendly amendment.

Council Member Robb objected to the friendly amendment

On a roll call, the vote to separate the amendment of Resolution No. 2014-292 was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	No
Council Member Murdock	No	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 2 (Robb, Murdock) ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Council Member Robb stated a parallel to this issue would be commercial property. Ultimately the owner is responsible, such as 16 N. Washington, and when unable to be reached the City was able to obtain a search warrant to enter the property. Mr. Robb stated the City already has a process in place and the owner is the responsible party. Mr. Robb stated the amendment creates an unfair burden on renters.

Mayor Edmonds recalled Mr. O'Jack stating that having a renter be a responsible party is already a common practice.

Council Member Robb responded the City offers the ability to designate an agent it is not a requirement.

Council Member N. Brown asked for clarification of the current and proposed practices.

Mr. O'Jack stated it can be difficult to contact the property owner, a registered agent would be a person locally that the City can contact with greater ease to remedy issues with a property.

Council Member N. Brown asked if that is a requirement.

Ms. Wessler replied that is a requirement.

Mr. Barr stated the reason the City benefits from having an on-site agent is for noticing.

Council Member Murdock stated this amendment requires that they live at the property.

Council Member Robb stated retirees may live out of the state half the year and the City would not require a registered agent for the property while out of the state.

Mayor Edmonds stated the City would be able to find that person because they are the owner.

Council Member Robb responded the City knows the owner of every building.

Council Member Vogt stated the fact is; when there is a group of tenants the responsibility becomes more diluted and is less likely any one tenant will take responsibility. Mr. Vogt added the more tenants there are the more this problem becomes compounded and this is a practical solution to the issue.

Council Member Robb stated there are already rules in place to confront these situations.

Council Member Vogt stated the current practices are not working adequately.

Mayor Edmonds stated having a single person responsible has the potential to benefit tenants.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked for the vote to be called for the amendment.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2014-292, strengthening language requiring a manager reside on the property, was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	No
Council Member Murdock	No	Mayor Edmonds	Yes

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson
Council Member A. Brown

Yes
Yes

Council Member Vogt

Yes

VOTE:

YES: 5

NO: 2 (Murdock, Robb)

ABSENT: 0

VOTE: Carried

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2014-292, requiring all group residences to acquire a special land-use permit, was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown
Council Member Murdock
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson
Council Member A. Brown

Yes
No
Yes
No

Council Member Robb
Mayor Edmonds
Council Member Vogt

No
Yes
Yes

VOTE:

YES: 4

NO: 3 (Murdock, Robb, A. Brown)

ABSENT: 0

VOTE: Carried

Council Member Murdock asked for the status of Miles St.

Ms. Wessler replied Miles St. is currently on the table to be rezoned as R1. There are four duplexes on Miles and one resident would like to add a second unit to their home. The Planning Department hopes to work with EMU students to have community meetings regarding Miles and Harriet to see if a use based R2 district would be warranted, or zoning it core neighborhood mid.

Mayor Edmonds stated that is her neighborhood and she enjoys living in a neighborhood with mixed uses, but it does make sense to be rezoned as R1.

Council Member Vogt proposed to limit the size of hoop houses and other auxiliary structures, amending the provision to decrease the maximum square footage allowed for passive solar structures. Mr. Vogt stated his proposed amendment would read, "Combined total square footage of passive solar structures (hoop houses, green houses, ect.) are limited to 800 square feet in areas zoned as R1, CNSF, CN Mid, and CNHC, basically all residential neighborhoods.

Ms. Mason-Minock asked if Council Member Vogt request is the maximum square footage of any passive solar structure be 800 sq. ft. in any residential zone. Ms. Mason-Minock stated to make that amendment would require changes in five different sections of the zoning ordinance and would be difficult, at this time. Ms. Mason-Minock requested the motion read "passive solar structures are limited to 800 square feet in residential districts as accessory structures".

Council Member Vogt asked if Ms. Mason-Minock amended his amendment and asked if the amendment would be useful in the historic corridor.

Ms. Wessler stated the historic corridor is not the same as the historic district.

Ms. Mason-Minock stated there are parts of the historic corridor that are part of the historic district so it would be prudent to add that to the amendment. Ms. Mason-Minock listed the districts that should be included in the amendment as; R1, MD, CNSF, CN Mid, CN, and the historic corridor.

Council Member Vogt asked if there would be any argument from staff if the amendment does not include specific zoning classifications.

Ms. Wessler responded MD is a multifamily district and has larger buildings, larger parcels and may have a larger need for larger passive solar structures.

Council Member Vogt stated square footage adjustments are not likely to occur very often and would require combining adjacent parcels, but there should be a reasonable cap on solar passive structures. Mr. Vogt stated his reasoning behind this amendment is not to oppose the use of the structure, but structures be on kept on a small scale.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked for the motion to be repeated.

Council Member Vogt stated in residential areas passive solar structures be limited to 800 sq. ft.

Council Member Murdock supported the motion.

Mayor Edmonds stated hoop houses may be smaller because of other restrictions set in the zoning ordinance.

Council Member Vogt stated Mayor Edmonds is correct there are many limits on the size of passive solar structures and there wouldn't be many occurrences of this happening, but there could be, especially on multiple parcel lots, and could result in substantially larger structures, which could negatively affect neighboring homes and property values.

Council Member Murdock clarified there are limits in residential zones such as only 35% lot coverage is allowed, accessory structures cannot exceed the footprint of the home, and passive solar structures can exceed the foot print by 200 sq. ft.

Ms. Wessler stated a passive solar structure can exceed the footprint by 200 sq. ft. but must abide by setback and lot coverage rules.

Council Member Murdock asked if Mr. Vogt was proposing a maximum size of 800 sq. ft. hoop houses.

Council Member Vogt replied yes, the intention is to close a loophole which creates a possibility of much larger structures in situations in which parcels have been combined.

Council Member Murdock asked what is the reasoning behind the amendment.

Council Member Vogt replied the issue is that people have expectations that where they live will have a certain appearance and amenities, and the City needs to be careful of things that may disrupt that because it could have a negative effect on the City's reputation.

Council member Vogt moved to extend the meeting until 11:00 p.m.

Council Member N. Brown supported the motion.

On a voice vote, the motion passed and the meeting was extended.

Council Member Murdock asked if this amendment is approved would the approval of the resolution to adopt the zoning ordinance need to be tabled until the adjustments have been made in the ordinance.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded the ordinance could be passed conditionally and be reviewed before it is published.

Mayor Edmonds stated the amendment is adding simple language to several places of the ordinance.

Council Member Murdock asked if CNSF and R1 for accessory structures was the same.

Ms. Wessler stated they are similar but not the same.

Mayor Edmonds stated that she will oppose this amendment. She said there is research that shows community gardens and things of this nature raise property values and she has not seen any evidence in the contrary.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she will support the amendment because of concerns raised by citizens.

Council Member A. Brown stated accessory buildings size is already limited based on the house size.

Ms. Mason-Minock responded correct.

Council Member Vogt stated this is new and complicated and Council should make sure that it does not allow an unintended loophole that allows an unattractive structure. Mr. Vogt added a modest sized hoop house would be adequate in the neighborhoods discussed.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2014-292, placing an 800 sq. ft. cap on passive solar structure for the; R1, MD, CNSF, CN Mid, CN, and the historic corridor, was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	No
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 1 (Edmonds) ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Mayor Edmonds stated this amendment really limits commercial farming in the City.

Council Member Murdock asked why the City would want commercial activity in an R1 district anyway.

On a roll call, the amended Resolution No. 2014-292, was as follows:

Council Member N. Brown	Yes	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Mayor Edmonds thanked all staff for their work on the zoning ordinance and stated this will take effect in 30 days. Mayor Edmonds asked when the fee schedule involved with the ordinance would come before Council.

Council Member Robb asked that the fee schedule be brought before Council at the January 20th meeting.

Ms. Wessler confirmed January 20th as a reasonable date.

Council Member Murdock stated the fee schedule is usually reviewed around budget time and asked if this can wait until then.

Ms. Wessler responded the ordinance will take effect on January 15th so the fee schedule should be addressed as quickly as possible.

XII. LIASON REPORTS –

City Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

- A. SEMCOG Update – Held a well-attended news conference last week and everyone present agreed that they were not in favor of the House sponsored bill regarding transportation.
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – The meeting will be held tomorrow December 17th.
- C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – No meeting
- D. Urban County - Will be heard during "Communications from the Mayor".
- E. Freight House – Meeting tomorrow, December 17th, to finalize the bid documents and will be meeting December 18th with to see if the DDA will approve funding.
- F. Parks and Recreation – On December 9th a work session was held to set priorities.

XIII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Robb

- Explained that as part of the rules regulating Boards and Commission once a term expires members are no longer on the Commission or Board. He informed the Mayor that there are a lot of vacancies to fill. Mr. Robb said the highest priority is the Huron River Watershed.

Mayor Edmonds stated she has been in touch with several of the Commissions and will work to fill all vacancies.

Vogt

- Stated there were complaints about some streetlights being out in the Courtland area and said she will forward those to City Manager Lange.

N. Brown

- Stated she also has information regarding streetlights that are out and said she will forward the locations to the City Manager.

A. Brown

- Echoed Mr. Vogt statement regarding streetlights.

Murdock

- Stated it seems that a lot of the streetlight conversions are not working and asked if Council should be aware of any issues.

City Manager Lange stated he and DPS Director Kirton have both commented on that to DTE and have scheduled a meeting for next week.

- Asked if snow removal will be discussed during "Communications from the City Manager".

Mr. Lange replied yes.

Richardson

- Asked what is the status of the Lathers vacation.

Ms. Wessler stated due to an issue of notification this will be an agenda item for the January 6th meeting for first reading and the public hearing should be in February.

- Stated the company that was awarded the worker's compensation contract also wrote the RFP and selected who would get the bid. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the attorney's office informed her that it is legal, but it still bothered her.

Mayor Edmonds asked City Manager Lange to address that matter during communications from the City Manager.

- Wished everyone a happy holiday.

A. Brown

- Thanked Council for selecting her for the Ward 2 vacancy and she is looking forward to contributing to the process.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Urban County priority projects
- Stated a resident has expressed that the streetlights are working too well and is causing her living room to be too bright at night.

City Manager Lange asked for the location.

- Started discussion with the Suburbs Alliance that will facilitate Ypsilanti with an environmental action plan.
- Informed Council there is an estimated \$180,000 available in grants from the Urban County Alliance. Ypsilanti, submitted a proposal, along with Ypsilanti Township, regarding furthering home owner energy efficiency. Ypsilanti Township also proposed \$31,000 allocation to repair their community center roof. There will be much more discussion on how funds should be allocated. Mayor Edmonds stated one suggestion she made dealt with accessibility in the construction of ADA ramps focusing on transit lines. She also suggested expanding on community solar projects and trying to make them more affordable. Mayor Edmonds stated another suggestion to focus on creating a "trails town" involving jurisdictions along the Huron River. Mayor Edmonds asked Council for ideas they may have on how these funds should be allocated.

Council Member A. Brown stated she thought the idea off sidewalk links between jurisdictions would be beneficial.

Mayor Edmonds added the Leforge area could benefit from better sidewalk links and examination of safety.

Council Member Vogt stated as Council Member A. Brown was saying those that stretch along Huron met great opposition from home owners and may be more suitable on the north side. He added on superior there are a lot that could be used for sidewalk connections and that could further the border to border trail as well.

Council Member Murdock stated Huron River Drive has so many pieces and is on the City's list for major repaving, but also could use better sidewalk connection and funds for the border to border trail. The Oakwood intersection needs to be redone and provided with a turn-lane. Leforge needs attention and will continue become more dilapidated.

Council Member Vogt added the township is planning on completing a road diet down that stretch of road from Cornell to Hewitt.

Council Member Murdock stated it wasn't clear what could be funded with this money. Mr. Murdock asked if this is the money that would fund the construction of ADA ramps.

Mayor Edmonds responded funding for ADA ramps comes out of Ypsilanti's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds not the priority projects which are something that would benefit the whole county.

Council Member Murdock stated the habitat weatherization project being undertaken by Ypsilanti Township should align with Ypsilanti goals. Mr. Murdock added he would like to see more discussion on how to create jobs and match people with training for available jobs.

Mayor Edmonds stated the CDBG dollars must be allocated for capital investment.

Council Member A. Brown asked if there has been any more discussion on the I-94 connection/overpass.

Mayor Edmonds responded not during the Urban County meeting.

Council Member Murdock stated WATS is meeting Thursday, December 18th to provide its final plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson informed Council about the area-wide Christmas dinner on Huron St. at the St. Luke's and begins at noon.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Stated the floor in the Council Chamber has been buffed in an attempt to strengthen the City's image.
- Said he has a report on the progress of Water Street and will provide that in writing before the break.
- The City did not receive the urban category or the 9% round for the Water Street Flats project, but Mike Rodriguez and the City is still in contention for the 4% round.

Council Member Murdock requested Mr. Lange provide Council a report that explains the situation in more depth.

- Projects continue to be worked on for Water Street including the border to border trail and the Recreation Center. The border to border trail will be re-bid in January.
- Informed Council that staff, as a part of goal setting he will send the forecasts and present them as a part of the update of City's financial position.

Council Member Murdock asked if Mr. Lange was referencing the bridge section when discussing the border to border trail.

Mr. Lange responded no.

Council Member Murdock stated they are both being rebid.

Mr. Lange replied yes, they are both being worked on as one.

- Mr. Lange asked if the City would be using an outside facilitator for the goal setting process.

Mayor Edmonds responded she has been discussing that she and Mr. Lange can talk about that at a later date.

- Said that a the Police and Fire department overtime report has been done every two weeks and will be pushed back to every four weeks. Mr. Lange stated a half year report will be available at the end of this payroll and overtime has decreased each year.
- Mentioned converting retirees to Medicare Advantage has decreased stress on the pension fund and staff is trying to expand it to other retirees.
- It has been suggested staff would work better if there were more team efforts and several committees are being formed as a result one being a parking bureau with a recommendation coming in March.
- Stated City Hall will be closed on Friday, January 2nd.
- Stated he would be interested in being appointed to the Economic Development Corporation.
- Stated communication lines have been opened with the DTE Solar Power Director.
- Staff has been working on the Freight House as much as it can.
- A snow removal taskforce has been formed headed by Lt. Gress; the City will contract for extra enforcement and snow removal.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the Downtown Development Authority has been involved, and asked if the DDA Director was informed of the meeting.

Mr. Lange replied yes, Mr. Colbeck was informed.

- The staff non-union evaluations will be completed by the end of January.

Mayor Edmonds asked the status of the Economic Development and Planning positions.

Mr. Lange responded Paul Tait formed a succession plan for what to do to replace former Community Development Director accepted another position and will be moving forward with the plan.

XVI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Katlyn Kedri, 1084 LeVona, stated her home is currently a group residence and was surprised by Council's decision. Group housing can be diverse; stated she is a social work student and a part-time pre-school teacher, Alex her housemate is

a graphic designer, Jeff is an archivist with U of M, Ann works for the City of Ann Arbor, and Matt is a Graduate Student at EMU and works at Whole Foods Market so the idea as a group residence as being a "party house" is inaccurate. Ms. Kedri stated the home operates as a family and all decisions are made together. The reality is there are many homes that have four, or more people living in them and it will be difficult for the City to enforce this law.

Council Member Vogt moved to extend the meeting until 11:10 p.m.

Council Member Brown supported the motion.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting was extended until 11:10 p.m.

2. Alexander Borja, 1084 LeVona, stated Council has overlooked a large portion of people in the young 20 age demographic. Many of those individuals are recent college graduates with thousands in student loan debt which can make life difficult. There should be something that differentiates fraternities and sororities from other group residences in zoning. Regarding hoop houses it is unfortunate that how a property looks is more important than a tenant having the ability to feed themselves.
3. Amera Veer, 1084 LeVona, stated when group residences require a special land-use permit the power is given to individuals who might be biased. When buying the home she was met with resistance from the Ypsilanti Township Planning Director.

XVII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Stated in the last year or so there has been a broad negative description of renters which is troubling. Stated the intention of the zoning ordinance is to hold tenants and landlords more accountable. Stated if Ypsilanti staff ever behaves in the manner of the Ypsilanti Township Planning Director a complaint should be filed.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2014-293, 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 A. Brown

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member N. Brown

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.