Approved

CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
Tuesday, January 6, 2015
7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER –

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

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Anne Brown	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Council Member Nicole Brown	Present	Council Member Vogt	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Edmonds	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 –

The Mayor introduced the following individuals; Assistant City Attorney Dan Duchene, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, Ypsilanti Housing Director Zach Fosler, and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Cathy Thorburn.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member Murdock motioned, supported by Council Member Vogt to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Alex Upham, 25 N. Washington, stated he represents the Ypsilanti Tenant's Rights Association and his organization was asked to prepare a presentation regarding tenant/city relationships. Mr. Upham stated currently his organization has been researching section eight housing and best practices. Mr. Upham stated the Tenant's Association has been holding regular meetings on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Library on Michigan Ave.

2. Robert Grams, 317 Oak Street, stated the vacation of the alley on Forest and Oak will help to cut down on traffic, as well as keep the levels of dust under control.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

– Mayor Edmonds thanked Mr. Upham for his update and asked his organization send an email once the presentation is complete to schedule a date and discuss the presentation format.

X. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2015-001, approving the minutes of December 16, 2014

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of December 16, 2014 be approved.

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

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

XI. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING -

Ordinance No. 1237

1. Ordinance to vacate Lathers Street, located between the City boundary to the west and Warner Street to the east, within the City of Ypsilanti.

A. Resolution No. 2015-002, determination.
(Public hearing will be held at Second Reading – Feb. 17, 2015)

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the owners of the property located at 1010 W Michigan, have requested that the City vacate a street that runs north of their property; and

WHEREAS, after considering the request, the City does not believe any of the factors listed in Section 94-271 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ypsilanti indicate that ownership interest in the purported alley should not be vacated; and

WHEREAS, Section 94-297 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ypsilanti provides that when a public alley is vacated by the City, the public right-of-way is extinguished and title to the publicly owned land reverts to the adjacent property owners, "except that the city shall in each case retain and reserve within the entire former right-of-way an easement for installation and maintenance of utilities…;" and

NOW THEREFORE:

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

A. It is in the best interests of the City to vacate the street described above; and
B. The ordinance entitled "An ordinance to vacate Lathers Street, located between the City boundary to the west and Warner Street to the east, within the City of Ypsilanti" be approved on first reading.

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

Mayor Edmonds asked City Planner Bonnie Wessler to discuss the easement at West Warner.

City Planner Wessler responded in order to provide a more walkable and connected City that right-of-way should not be extinguished.

Mayor Edmonds stated at the moment that is a right-of-way, but it is on private property.

Ms. Wessler replied yes, it is a right-of-way and may be maintained by individuals living adjacent to the alley, or Ypsilanti's Department of Public Services.

Council Member A. Brown asked what the recommendation of staff is.

Ms. Wessler answered that the portion of Lathers be vacated and on the record stated that the City does not plan to vacate West Warner.

Council Member Murdock asked why West Warner is being mentioned in this resolution.

Ms. Wessler responded it was an item discussed during a Planning Commission meeting.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-002 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

Ordinance No. 1238

2. Ordinance to vacate alley: Forest/Prospect/Oak/River, second north-south alley from east.

   A. Resolution No. 2015-003, determination.
   (Public hearing will be held at Second Reading – Feb. 17, 2015)

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance entitled "An ordinance to close the second north-south alley running between East Forest and Oak between River and Prospect in the City of Ypsilanti" be approved on First Reading.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

Council Member Murdock asked where the barrier would be placed.

Ms. Wessler responded it would be located in the center of the alley.

Mayor Edmonds asked resident Robert Grams where the barricade should be located.

Robert Grams replied north of the East/West alley.

Council Member Murdock stated if the barricade is put in the center of the ally essentially two lanes would be closed.

Ms. Wessler responded the barricade could be moved to either side, but yes, essentially two lanes would be closed.

Mayor Edmonds asked if Council would need to decide on a location, or would that be at the discretion of the Department of Public Services.

Mr. Grams suggested the barricade be constructed on the north side in order to provide access to utility trucks.

Council Member Murdock responded the City should follow the suggestion of Mr. Grams and avoid need to notice and hold a public hearing for the closure of the other road. Mr. Murdock motioned that the resolution be amended to state the barricade be located on the north side to allow access to the east-west road.

Council Member A. Brown supported the motion

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-003 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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-003 as amended 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

Ordinance No. 1239

3. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 2014-1212 in order to provide for a service charge in lieu of taxes for two additional parcels of a housing project for low income persons and families pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966 (1966 PA 346, as amended; MCL 125.1401, et seq) (the "Act").

A. Resolution No. 2015-004, determination.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 2014-1212 in order to provide for a service charge in lieu of taxes for two additional parcels of a housing project for low income persons and families pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966 (1966 PA 346, as amended; MCL 125.1401, et seq) (the "Act")" be approved on First Reading.

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

B. Open public hearing.
C. Resolution No. 2015-005, close public hearing.

That the public hearing to amend Ordinance No. 1212 in order to provide for a service charge in lieu of taxes for two additional parcels of a housing project for low income persons and families pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966 (1966 PA 346, as amended; MCL 125.1401, et seq) (the "Act") be officially closed.

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

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

Assistant City Attorney Dan Duchene stated this is a resolution to amend a pilot adopted by Council during the first round of ordinances for the Strong Future housing project. The amendment includes two additional parcels to the pilot.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is new state legislation that would require pilots obtain approval from the state before receiving funding.

Mr. Duchene responded he will research that further, but the draft of this pilot was based on the form provided by the state. Also, to be considered for exemption under the ordinance it must be exempt from the statute.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the pilot would last for the duration Strong Future Housing Project.

Mr. Duchene responded the pilot lasts as long it is tax exempt under the statute. Mr. Duchene said he believes the duration is 40 to 50 years before the pilot would need to be reapproved.

Mayor Edmonds stated some of Ypsilanti's housing projects are around 40 years old.

Council Member A. Brown stated Town Center is coming up for renewal.

Mr. Duchene replied correct, the Town Center will need approval in the next few years.

Council Member Murdock stated the pilot is based on the structures on the land, not the land. Mr. Murdock asked what the purpose is for including vacant land in the pilot.

Mr. Duchene stated one parcel will include a parking lot and the other will have a building. Mr. Duchene asked Housing Commission Director if housing will be located on those parcels.

Housing Commission Director Fosler responded no, there is no housing planned for those parcels.

Mr. Duchene stated this is all one project and it is the intention of staff to include all the land involved in the pilot.

Council Member Murdock asked if the inclusion of these parcels would impact the formula for the pilot.

Mr. Duchene replied no, the formula would not change.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-004 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

XII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2015-006, approving Amendment #1 to the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti SmartZone Agreement between Michigan Economic Development Corporation, City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti and the Local Development Finance Authority of the Cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

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

Whereas on November 25, 2002, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation ("MEDC"), the City of Ann Arbor, and the City of Ypsilanti (collectively the "Cities") and the Local Development Finance Authority of the Cities ("LDFA") entered into an agreement to establish the terms and conditions governing the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti SmartZone ("Agreement"); and

Whereas under the terms of the Agreement, the Cities and the LDFA are required to obtain prior approval of the MEDC to amend the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti SmartZone LDFA Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan; and

Whereas the Cities and the LDFA have previously approved application to the MEDC to extend the tax capture period of the LDFA by additional fifteen (15) years which required the Cities and the LDFA to enter into an agreement with a Satellite LDFA to designate the Satellite LDFA District as a SmartZone Satellite for the benefit of regional cooperation and collaboration, and to amend Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the

LDFA to comply with Public Act 281 of 1986, as amended ("Public Act 281"); and

Whereas the Cities approved and entered into an agreement with Satellite LDFA to designate the Satellite LDFA District as a SmartZone Satellite, which designation has been filed with MEDC; and

Whereas, the Cities and the LDFA now desire to amend the Agreement with the MEDC to incorporate the rights and obligations of the parties in regard to the designation of the Satellite LDFA District as a Satellite SmartZone; and

Whereas, Amendment of the Agreement will:

- **amend Section 3.01 to provide for an additional 15 year period on ratification by State Treasurer and approval of the President of the MEDC of the LDFA amended Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan**
- **amend Section 3.05 of the Agreement to comply with the reporting requirement of Public Act 281**
- **amend Section 5.01 of the Agreement extending its term to May 1, 2032; and**

Whereas it is understood by the Cities and the LDFA that MEDC may revoke its approval of the Cities' amendment to their Development and TIF Plan and the extension of its term from 15 to 30 years if the terms of the Amendment to the Agreement are not satisfied;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Ypsilanti approve Amendment No. 1 to the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti SmartZone Agreement between Michigan Economic Development Corporation, City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti, and the Local Development Finance Authority of the Cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized and directed to execute the Agreement after approval as to form by the City Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the City of Ann Arbor, the Chair of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti SmartZone LDFA, and the MEDC.

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

City Attorney John Barr stated this is part of a process of resolutions necessary for the LDFA Smartzone to amend their governing documents and extend their life 15 years. Council addressed this a few months ago, and this amendment of the bylaws authorizes the extension. This will change the bylaws allowing taxes to be allocated for projects in the Ypsilanti district even though taxes were not captured in that region of the LDFA.

Mayor Edmonds stated a few years ago a business wanted to move to the Ypsilanti area but were restricted to the Ann Arbor area because of past practices of the LDFA. Mayor Edmonds stated this a positive change for Ypsilanti.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-006 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

2. Resolution No. 2015-007, approving annual compensation for the Mayor and City Council.

Be it resolved that pursuant to Section 2.04 of the City Charter and effective as of January 1, 2015, the annual compensation for the Mayor and City Council shall be set as follows:

Mayor	**$ 9,143.28**
Mayor Pro-Tem	**$ 6,095.52**
City Council Members	**$ 5,254.02**

And be it further resolved that the budget for City Council for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 be adjusted to reflect these changes.

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

Council Member Murdock stated before the current charter was adopted in 1994, Council compensation was recommended by a compensation committee. The current charter suggests that Council review compensation periodically since then Council has done nothing with compensation other than in 1996 and the 5% reduction in 2007. Mr. Murdock stated this is something that should be periodically reviewed as the charter states.

City Manager Lange stated there is universal support from staff for this increase.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-007 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	No
Council Member A. Brown	Yes		

VOTE:

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

3. Resolution No. 2015-009 approving Release of Right of First Refusal for Towner House, 303 North Huron, Ypsilanti MI 48197

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

Whereas the City of Ypsilanti has a right of first refusal on the Towner House at 303 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan, and

Whereas the Towner House Foundation desires to purchase the Towner House to preserve and maintain it in perpetuity, and

Whereas the City of Ypsilanti has no interest in purchasing the property,

Now Therefore, the City Council approves the release of the Towner House right of first refusal and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a release, subject to the approval of the city attorney.

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

City Attorney Barr stated Towner House is one of the oldest structures in the State of Michigan and owned by the Presbyterian Church. The Heritage Foundation was formed to help to preserve the property and has decided to purchase the property. Council had the right of refusal and in 2013 gave up that right. Mr. Barr stated he was asked if the City would close the deal so the foundation could purchase the property.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated when first on Council this was one of the issues brought forth and thinks it is time to release the property.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-009 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

XIII. L<u>IASON REPORTS</u> –

A. SEMCOG Update – No report
B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Stated the legislature decided to have the voters make the final decision in May on how to address the issue of roads. If the vote passes the sales tax will increase to pay for repairs. Congress has not completed a transportation bill, but there is a temporary measure that expires in May. As a result MDOT has placed a hold on federal funds which could have an impact on the City's designated road projects.
C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – No report
D. Urban County – Stated priority projects being discussed are; one that most effects Ypsilanti is sidewalk connectivity with the Township and a Habitat program to construct energy retrofits on 50 homes in the Township and there is discussion if this is how CDBG funds should be allocated.
E. Freight House – Stated the DDA approved a contribution which is the final piece in the funds needed to bid for construction.
F. Parks and Recreation – Ypsi trail town meeting is next Friday, January 9 to discuss Trail Town Week which will incorporate kayaking and stopping in towns along the way to patronize local shops and restaurants.

Mayor Edmonds stated there is still a need for Council Liaisons on local committees such as Millennial Mayors and asked Council Member N. Brown if she would like to be that committee's liaison.

Council Member N. Brown accepted the appointment.

Mayor Edmonds asked if Council Member A. Brown would be the liaison for the Eastern Washtenaw County Safety Alliance liaison.

Council Member Murdock stated during Council Proposed Business he will address a solution to resolve a Council member not being able to sit on Boards or Commissions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated when the Parks and Recreation Commission was reinstated she was appointed to the Commission, not a liaison.

Council Member Murdock stated that would have been against the charter.

Mayor Edmonds asked City Clerk McMullan to add Millennial Mayors, Eastern Washtenaw County Safety Alliance, and the Downtown Development Authority to Liaison Reports.

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Murdock

- Stated there has been an issue with truck traffic causing disruption to citizens along roads.
- Asked if there was any action taken in placing stop for pedestrian signs at the crosswalk at Catherine Street by Chidester and at the Crosswalk on River Street at the Food Coop.
- Stated there is damaged pedestrian railing at the ramp on East Cross at Normal and asked when that would be repaired.
- Asked when the update of Water Street Flats will be provided.
- Asked for more detail regarding the snow removal enforcement.
- Asked for the OHM Michigan Ave. lane reduction report.
- Asked when the Peninsular Paper building will be made secure.
- Stated during the May Special Election he will propose to add two charter amendments; one removing the prohibition of Council members to sit on Boards and Committees and another amending the charter to require a Council Member reside in the Ward they serve until the end of their term. Mr. Murdock stated the filing deadline for any other ballot proposals is February 10th.

Richardson

- Asked that Council submit a resolution honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

A Brown

- Stated there are many new businesses coming to the area and they should be recognized by City Council.
- Asked if there is a communication that could be sent from Council to neighborhood groups to provide information regarding City practices.

- Puffer Red's has never been recognized by the City during its 30 years of operation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated it may be useful working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and creating a packet to send to new businesses.

Council Member Robb stated the Downtown Development Authority should recognize new and long standing businesses and the City should not usurp that task.

Mayor Edmonds responded the DDA should perform that task if said businesses are located in the DDA districts.

Council Member Robb agreed with Mayor Edmonds.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated Puffer Red's has been looked over, when Jennifer Goulet, the former DDA Director, selected an anchor business in the downtown to Puffer Red's was looked over. Ms. Richardson stated Puffer Red's has clientele coming from all over the Midwest and agreed with Council Member A. Brown that Puffer Red's should be recognized.

Mayor Edmonds stated several years ago she participated in a forum that focused on what residents wanted in a downtown business and a Puffer Red's representative came in to discuss their time in Ypsilanti's Downtown. Mayor Edmonds stated she is developing a business ambassador team that understands City processes that could assist incoming businesses. Mayor Edmonds added a new strategic plan adopted by the DDA will take DDA activities in a new direction.

XV. <u>COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR</u> –

- Informed that there is a bidders meeting tomorrow January 7, 2015 for subcontractors for Ypsilanti Housing Commission projects with hopes to hire more locally.

Council Member A. Brown asked if this item will be discussed during goal setting for 2015.

Mayor Edmonds responded that Housing Commission projects are financed by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds and bound by those restrictions.

Council Member A. Brown stated the restriction is that they must be Section 3 certified which means hiring locally so Council can create a stipulation that the majority of created jobs must go to Washtenaw County residents.

Mayor Edmonds responded that is an issue that can be discussed with the County's Office of Community and Economic Development as they have become experts on local procurement policies.

Council Member A. Brown stated during the bidding process for the Freight House she hopes that the same stipulation will be applied.

Council Member Murdock stated over the years Council has tried to create a system involving local preference and issues would arise. Mr. Murdock stated he definitely supports further examining this issue.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she would like to see the City begin to focus more on community benefits.

Council Member Murdock stated community benefits need to be linked to a specific project and cannot be a broad policy.

- Asked for an update on Barbara Hale's issue brought to Council at the December 16 meeting regarding parking in the alley at Olive and Forest.

- Stated she is interested in hearing an update on the strategy on snow removal enforcement.

- Stated City Hall is going through some cosmetic upgrades including carpeting and refurbishing of the floor in the lobby and Council Chambers. Staff is currently researching artwork to be displayed as a part of 1st Fridays to bring citizens to City Hall.

- Stated at the next meeting several nominations will be brought to Council for Boards and Commissions as well as having a broader call for all areas with opportunity to serve. Mayor Edmonds added the process to apply to serve on a Board or Commission is being updated and will be available on the website.

- Stated she served a proclamation to the Rotary and was asked to become a Rotarian. Mayor Edmonds stated she met the President of Rotary International, Gary Huang, from Taiwan who moved to the US in the 1970's to attend EMU.

- Asked Council to read the Shape Ypsi Master Plan before the goal settings in order to use it for a guide to the meeting on January 8, 2014.

- SEMCOG will be present at both goal setting meeting to assist in the process and will be providing the service pro bono.

- Asked Council to review the budget as there will be a presentation from both City Manager Lange and Fiscal Services Director Uy.

- Departments will be providing an overview of department goals.

- Asked Council to be prepared at the goal settings meeting to ask department heads questions to better understand a topic.

- Asked staff to put a sign on City Halls door stating that the goal setting meeting will be located at SPARK East, 215 E. Michigan Ave.

XVI. <u>COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER</u> –

- Stated the Downtown DTE Substation has reliability issues of an urgent nature. City staff has been meeting with DTE to address this issue and the meetings have been positive, but it is very serious. Tomorrow power poles will be strung from the downtown substation across Riverside Park to a transformer at Norris St. which should be completed on Saturday. As a part of that, three trees will be removed. DTE will have a permanent solution complete by May.

  Council Member Murdock stated as a permanent solution DTE should approve Ypsilanti to install a solar array and be removed from the grid.

City Manager Lange responded there is another round of possibilities and the new bridge plays a part in the solution and the City will begin the bidding process for that project. Mr. Lange stated that time and money are two of the biggest issues facing the problem.

Mayor Edmonds asked Mr. Lange if he has discussed the City wide power outage that occurred recently with DTE.

Mr. Lange replied DTE described it as an anomaly and does not think it had anything to do with the issues facing the substation.

- As a part of the transition plan the City is advertising three positions; Planner I, Planner II, and an Economic Developer. In the interim the City has been working with consultants.

  Council Member A. Brown stated the former position held by Teresa Gillotti was Director of Community and Economic Development and asked if the posted position will focus only on economic development.

  Mr. Lange responded yes, the previous position was too large and it was decided to be replaced with an Economic Developer and a Planner. The Economic Developer will head both the Planning and Building Departments and the Planning department will be a full department in order to be more efficient. Mr. Lange added that a consultant will perform the duties of an Economic Developer for the next 13 weeks.

  Council Member A. Brown asked if 13 weeks is the timeline for having the full-time position filled.

  Mr. Lange responded roughly 13 weeks the full-time positions hope to be filled by March.

- City staff is preparing for the goal setting meeting.

- The Water Street Flats/Lofts failed at the 4% and the Urban Core Round. Mr. Lange stated the City is still waiting to see if the 9% round is accepted and if there are other options available. The final decision if Herman Kittles is accepted at the 9% category will occur no later than April 1, 2015. Other possible solutions are quasi private funding in order to examine that possibility Council would need to approve an extension.

  Council Member A. Brown asked if the drop dead date for Herman Kittles is April 1, 2015.

  Mr. Lange responded all materials will need to be submitted by April 1, 2015 and results should be known by April 23, 2015.

  Council Member A. Brown asked if the 9% category is not accepted a quasi-private funding mechanism will be examined.

  Mr. Lange responded they will be occurring simultaneously.

  Council Member A. Brown asked if Herman Kittles has used quasi-private partners in other projects they have completed.

  Mr. Lange replied twice in the history of the company.

Council Member Murdock asked what the contingency plan is.

Mr. Lange responded the quasi-private partnership is the contingency plan.

Council Member Murdock asked if the Herman Kittles project fails what is Plan B.

Mr. Lange responded working with the State Legislature to try to acquire an infrastructure grant for Water Street.

Council Member Murdock stated an infrastructure grant does not pay down the debt.

– Stated he is very proud of the work that City Clerk McMullan and Firefighter Roe did on the renovations of City Hall. Mr. Lange stated that having a City Hall that is aesthetically pleasing assists in Economic Development by presenting a positive image of the City.

  Mayor Edmonds stated the City has almost completed the process to become certified as a Redevelopment Ready Community, a designation from MEDC. A press event is being planned that would coincide with First Fridays in April.

– Family Dollar is almost complete on Water Street.

– Parks and Recreation specific site on Water Street is very instrumental in the rest of the project and that location must be locked down in order to plan further development.

  Mayor Edmonds asked if Council would need to approve a purchase agreement if there is a change.

  Mr. Lange responded yes.

  Council Member Murdock stated the sewer lines have been there for years why is this becoming an issue now after four years of this process.

  Mr. Lange stated he understands, but he is just trying to make this project work because other developers are extremely interested in that area because of the Recreation Center.

– Very pleased that the City is saving over $250,000 in police and fire overtime six months into the year.

– Stated there needs to be a special closed session scheduled for pending litigation.

  City Attorney Barr asked if Council would consider a 7:30 a.m. morning meeting, or would an afternoon meeting be preferred.

– The Running Company, a new business in the downtown, has approached the City about holding a running event.

– Stated he has been in contact with Puffer Red's owner and have resolved several issues that he has had. Mr. Lange stated that the City has not forgotten Puffer Red's and is very appreciative to have them as an Ypsilanti business.

- Regarding the Adams Street construction federal funding is sometime decided on at the last minute so it is important to keep the plan in place to be ready for construction when the funding is approved.

- Stated he has spoken with Chief DeGiusti regarding the truck traffic and is working to resolve the issue.

- Stated he will receive an update on snow removal policy.

  Mayor Edmonds asked for a written update on the plan and the priorities of snow removal enforcement.

- Mr. Lange stated he will provide Council with the OHM report.

- Stated DPS Director Kirton has informed him that staff is working on securing the Peninsular Paper building.

- Stated EMU holds a tremendous event honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

- Stated staff is working to get the Rec Center on track and provide the infrastructure.

- Stated the Economic Development consultant and he are working on developing a second anchor for the Water Street project with hope to prompt more interest in housing development.

XVII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

XVIII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

XIX. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2015-008, 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: Council Member N. Brown

On a voice vote, the motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.