



Approved

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
Tuesday, January 20, 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 –

Mayor asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Edmonds introduced the following individuals; DPS Director Stan Kirton, Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack, Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, and former Mayor Cheryl Farmer.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member A. Brown motioned, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson to remove Resolutions No. 2014-014 and 2014-015 from Section XI, Consent Agenda, and reassign to Section XII, Resolutions/Motions/Discussions.

Mayor Edmonds motioned to move Resolution No. 2015-016 to Section XI, Consent Agenda.

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2015-010, recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., changed our Nation forever through his leadership, service, and clarity of vision; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King devoted his life to strengthening the content of the American character and called on our Nation to live up to its founding principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Through his determination, spirit, and resolve, Dr. King helped lift souls and lead one of the greatest movements for equality and freedom in history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti wishes to honor the lasting legacy of this great American, remember the ideals for which he fought, and recommit ourselves to ensuring that our country's promise extends to all Americans across the great land; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 1983, Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor Dr. King on the third Monday of January every year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as we observe Dr. King's birthday, the City of Ypsilanti encourages all Americans to honor Dr. King by living out his teachings as we continue to work for the day when the dignity and humanity of every person is respected and to celebrate his memory by performing acts of kindness through service to others.

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

Council Member Vogt stated Dr. King was a great hero and sees him as one of the two greatest individuals in recent history. Mr. Vogt added he is very pleased that Council is passing this resolution.

City Manager Lange stated he attended the EMU celebration of Dr. King and that it was an amazing event.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she appreciated the observance EMU has for Dr. King and that the university includes Ypsilanti and its residents.

Mayor Edmonds stated it was a great honor being a part of that process and hearing experiences of individuals who were apart of the Civil Rights Movement.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-010 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. Housing Affordability and Equity Assessment

Mary Jo Callen and Brett Winter provided a presentation regarding Housing Affordability and Equity Assessment. (See Website)

Council Member A. Brown asked if Ms. Callen was asking Council to adopt the assessment as a framework.

Ms. Callen replied yes.

Council Member A. Brown asked when Ms. Callen is expecting Council to vote on the assessment.

Ms. Callen responded it is up to Council, but it is her hope that in the next one to two meetings Council will adopt the assessment.

Council Member A. Brown asked if Superior Township would be included in the regional group.

Ms. Callen replied to date this applies to only four communities, but there are parts of Superior Township that would fall into the parameters of the assessment. Ms. Callen added it is her hope that the regional group be inclusive.

Mayor Edmonds stated that the Urban County Commission does include Superior Township and many other municipalities in the County.

Council Member Murdock stated he has a concern that the report does not take external forces into consideration. Mr. Murdock stated there are individuals who are purchasing single family homes in the City. Mr. Murdock stated the majority of rentals are occupied by individuals with ties to the university and are 95% occupied. Mr. Murdock stated housing issues are tied to income and ability to acquire employment and if that is addressed housing issues would be solved as a result. Mr. Murdock stated the focus should be on education and job creation.

Ms. Callen stated her organization agrees that this is not just about housing. Ms. Callen stated she wants Council to think about a few things; look at housing and what can be done about affordability, and what tactics would be effective in Ypsilanti. Ms. Callen stated it is not her organization's intention to ship in 4,100 people and ship out 4,100 people. This is a strategy of diversity and opportunity and so the goal is to make the population mix more robust. Ms. Callen stated gentrification is not as much of a problem as it seems, but it still must be kept in mind.

Council Member A. Brown asked beyond paying for the study what resources has the County dedicated.

Ms. Callen answered the County paid for the majority of the study through a Housing and Urban Development grant and staffed the study.

City Manager Lange stated two things stuck out to him; the media response to the Eastside of the County opposed to the Westside is negative, which is an issue when housing is involved. The other issue is public safety, which has been increased both in staffing levels as well as regional cooperation through the Eastern Washtenaw County Safety Alliance.

Ms. Callen stated she does not disagree.

Council Member A. Brown asked if any staff has visited the communities listed in the report.

Ms. Callen responded the communities have not been visited, but individuals from the community have been spoken to regarding listed strategies.

Mayor Edmonds stated Ypsilanti's role is "placemaking" and growing diversity which is different from other communities in the region.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Sigrid Melvin, 41 W. Michigan, stated years ago when she moved into the Town Center she contacted city management with an issue that effected rental units in Ypsilanti. Ms. Melvin stated there are issues in the Town Center that have been occurring for years and little has been done to resolve the problem. Ms. Melvin stated MSHDA and HUD approved a rent increase at the Town Center and asked what affordable rent is.
2. Cheryl Farmer, 214 N. Huron, stated she appreciates the County acknowledges that if Ann Arbor wants more affordable housing they should build it not rely on Ypsilanti. If Ypsilanti continues to provide affordable housing for the County it will be a detriment to both Ypsilanti and the County. The study stated the City needs 1,383 additional market rate housing but the City is mostly built out. Dr. Farmer stated to use this opportunity wisely and partner with the County and surrounding governmental agencies to help to solve this issue. Dr. Farmer thanked Council for the LED streetlights.
3. Ralph Thompson, 330 Chidester St., informed Council that his pet cockatiel died as a result of mold present at Chidester Place. There has been remediation process occurring to rectify the problem but the company has done the bare minimum and will not share results of the test. Mr. Thompson asked the City to run a full investigation of the mold levels at Chidester including any deaths in the past few years that may have been a result of mold exposure. Mr. Thompson stated if Chidester's maintenance records are examined for any complaints that the vent system is making them ill.

Council Member Vogt asked what the health standard for spore count is.

Mr. Thompson responded 4,000 is the highest level allowed for spore count and his apartment's level was 18,800, way above toxic levels.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

- Stated she appreciates all the comments made and has been in contact with Mr. Thompson and Council will work to find the best remedy for his situation.

X. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2015-011, approving the minutes of January 6, January 8, and January 13, 2015

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of January 6, January 8, and January 13, 2015 be approved.

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

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

XI. CONSENT AGENDA -

Resolution No. 2015-012

1. Resolution No. 2015-013, approving Ordinance No. 1239, 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"). **(Second Reading)**

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 Second and Final Reading.

2. Resolution No. 2015-016, retaining "Basic" as the City's Flexible Spending Account (FSA) provider.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, City Council of the City of Ypsilanti deems it to be in the best interest of its employees to continue to offer its Cafeteria Plan under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges and does hereby declare the intention of Basic to continue the Flexible Spending Account, but reserves the right to terminate or amend the Plan at any time with Basic; and

RESOLVED, that the Human Resources Department of the City of Ypsilanti will make this benefit known to all City employees and provide them with contact information to enroll in this supplemental benefit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council authorizes the Human Resources Department to retain Basic to provide the Flexible Spending Account to City employees for the calendar year of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

- 2.—Resolution No. 2015-014, to amend the City Charter to provide that the Mayor and Council Members are to maintain their qualifications for office continuously throughout their term.
(Moved and Heard under Section XII, Resolutions/Motions/Discussions)
- 3.—Resolution No. 2015-015, to amend the City Charter to allow members of City Council to serve on City boards and commissions when permitted by law.
(Moved and Heard under Section XII, Resolutions/Motions/Discussions)

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-012 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. 2015-016, retaining “Basic” as the City’s Flexible Spending Account (FSA) provider.~~

(Moved and Heard under Section XI, Consent Agenda)

1. Resolution No. 2015-014, to amend the City Charter to provide that the Mayor and Council Members are to maintain their qualifications for office continuously throughout their term.

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

WHEREAS, Section 21(1) of the Home Rule City Act (HRCA), MCL 117.21(1), authorizes a city council to adopt a resolution proposing to amend the city charter by a three-fifths vote of its members-elect, and the resolution proposing to amend the city charter must set forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment to be submitted to the city voters for approval at a regular or special election, and;

WHEREAS, The resolution must set forth the ballot language for the proposed charter amendment—with each proposal being limited to a single subject, and if the subject of a proposal includes more than one related proposition, each proposition shall be separately stated as a ballot proposal to afford an opportunity for a separate vote of the city voters for or against each proposition, and

WHEREAS, Section 21(2) of the HRCA, MCL 117.21(2), requires that the ballot language for the submission to the city voters of each proposed amendment shall be limited to 100 words, exclusive of caption, shall be a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the amendment, and shall not create prejudice for or against the proposed amendment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article II, Section 2.02(c) of the Ypsilanti City Charter shall be amended as follows:

***Qualifications.* The Mayor and Council Members must be qualified electors in the City and the ward from which they seek to be elected at least 30 days prior to the filing deadline for the office and must maintain such status continuously throughout the term of office.**

The current charter section(s) being altered by this amendment provides as follows:

***Qualifications.* The Mayor and Council Members shall be qualified electors in the City and the ward from which they seek to be elected at least 30 days prior to the filing deadline for the office.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ballot language for the proposed amendment shall be as follows:

Shall Article II, Section 2.02(c) of the Ypsilanti City Charter be amended to provide that the Mayor and

Councilmembers are to maintain their status as qualified electors continuously through their term of office?

Yes _____ No _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed amendment (MCL 117.22) and transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed ballot language for the proposed amendment (MCL 117.21).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Ypsilanti at a special election to be held in the City on May 5, 2015, and the City Clerk is directed to give notice of the election and notice of registration in a manner prescribed by law and to do all things and to provide all supplies necessary to submit the Charter amendment to a vote of the electors as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed charter amendment shall be published in full, together with the existing charter provision amended as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed charter amendment must be posted, in full, in a conspicuous place in each polling location.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member N. Brown

Council Member Murdock stated the issue of maintaining residency while an individual sits on Council has come up many times over the years. The current stipulation only requires a candidate be a registered elector 30 days prior to the qualifying deadline. After the election the candidate could move out of Ypsilanti. Mr. Murdock cited former Council Member Jefferson moving to the township before his term expired.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-014 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. 2015-015, to amend the City Charter to allow members of City Council to serve on City boards and commissions when permitted by law.

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

WHEREAS, Section 21(1) of the Home Rule City Act (HRCA), MCL 117.21(1), authorizes a city council to adopt a resolution proposing to amend the city charter by a three-fifths vote of its members-elect, and

the resolution proposing to amend the city charter must set forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment to be submitted to the city voters for approval at a regular or special election, and;

WHEREAS, The resolution must set forth the ballot language for the proposed charter amendment—with each proposal being limited to a single subject, and if the subject of a proposal includes more than one related proposition, each proposition shall be separately stated as a ballot proposal to afford an opportunity for a separate vote of the city voters for or against each proposition, and

WHEREAS, Section 21(2) of the HRCA, MCL 117.21(2), requires that the ballot language for the submission to the city voters of each proposed amendment shall be limited to 100 words, exclusive of caption, shall be a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the amendment, and shall not create prejudice for or against the proposed amendment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the second paragraph of Article IX, Section 9.03 of the Ypsilanti City Charter shall be amended as follows:

All members of the City boards and commissions established under this Charter, by statute or otherwise, shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council. Council Members may be appointed to serve on a board or commission when permitted by law. Whenever any statute or law requires that the appointment of members of a board or a commission established under this Charter, by statute or otherwise, be by the chief executive or administrative officer of the City, such chief executive or administrative officer, for the purposes of such appointment, shall be deemed to be the Mayor, and an appointment in such cases shall be subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council.

The current charter section(s) being altered by this amendment provides as follows:

All members of the City boards and commissions established under this Charter, by statute or otherwise, shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council. Council Members may be appointed by the Council to serve on a board or commission only when the service is required by State law. Whenever any statute or law requires that the appointment of members of a board or a commission established under this Charter, by statute or otherwise, be by the chief executive or administrative officer of the City, such chief executive or administrative officer, for the purposes of such appointment, shall be deemed to be the Mayor, and an appointment in such cases shall be subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ballot language for the proposed amendment shall be as follows:

Shall the second paragraph of Article IX, Section 9.03 of the Ypsilanti City Charter be amended to allow members of City Council to serve on City boards and commissions when permitted by law?

Yes ____ No ____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed amendment (MCL 117.22) and transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan for approval of the proposed ballot language for the proposed amendment (MCL 117.21).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Ypsilanti at a special election to be held in the City on May 5, 2015, and the City Clerk is directed to give notice of the election and notice of registration in a manner prescribed by law and to do all things and to provide all supplies necessary to submit the Charter amendment to a vote of the electors as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed charter amendment shall be published in full, together with the existing charter provision amended as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed charter amendment must be posted, in full, in a conspicuous place in each polling location.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Robb

Council Member Murdock stated before the 1994 Charter was adopted this prohibition was not included. The Charter Commission formed a few years ago discussed this item at length and it was defeated by a 5 to 4 vote. Council voted to add this item as a part of the charter provisions approved during the November Election. However, it did not receive the required two-thirds vote and was defeated. Mr. Murdock stated the Planning Commission asked that Council make this change in order to allow a Council Member sit on the Commission. This amendment does not make it mandatory and is at the Mayor's discretion. Mr. Murdock added many municipalities employee this rule and it has proven to be beneficial. Mr. Murdock concluded that Council Members can provide expertise to Commissions and that is why he supports the amendment.

Council Member Vogt stated there are other benefits to this amendment as it would allow Boards and Commissions that have had vacancies for long periods of time to be filled. This also can be an opportunity to fill those vacancies on an interim basis. Mr. Vogt stated he does not see a negative to this, stating some have voiced opinion that it provides Council with too much power. Mr. Vogt stated Council is the governing body of Ypsilanti that was voted by the people to set policy.

Council Member A. Brown asked if there is any concern that a Council Member sitting on a Board or Commission will make recommendations to Council.

Council Member Robb stated he hopes all Boards and Commissions make recommendations to Council, otherwise they are useless.

Council Member A. Brown stated in terms of Council Members having influence over a Commission or Board's recommendation then as a Council Member voting on that recommendation.

Council Member Vogt stated if the recommendation is made it still needs to be voted on by Council as a body.

Mayor Edmonds stated she will oppose this proposed charter amendment on the basis that Council is a small body with a big job. Mayor Edmonds said there are many people in the community that are ready to serve and having a Council Member on a Board or Commission could be intimidating.

Council Member Robb asked Mayor Edmonds if the DDA is intimidated by her sitting on the Board.

Mayor Edmonds responded not particularly and stated that she sees Mr. Robb's point.

Council Member N. Brown stated the ability to serve in the interim would be useful during the process to fill that vacancy and would not choose a Council Member over a citizen who is eager to serve.

Council Member Murdock stated if the Mayor does not see fit to appoint a Council Member to a Board or Commission then a Council Member will not sit on a Board or Commission, but there could be other Mayors who feel differently.

Mayor Edmonds asked City Attorney Barr if a Council Member would be legally allowed to sit on a Board or Commission in the interim.

City Attorney Barr responded the way the law is currently structured if a Board Member or a Commissioner resigns the individual appointed to replace them would serve until the end of the initial term.

Council Member Vogt stated unless an arrangement is made between the Council Member who would fill the vacancy and the Mayor that when a replacement is found that Council Member resigns.

City Clerk McMullan stated appointments have been made to fulfill a remainder of a term and that individual also resigns before the term expires.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she spoke with the Michigan Municipal League and the person she spoke with was not a hard no, or a hard yes on the topic. Ms. Richardson stated the suggestion she received that Council Members be appointed as ex officio members, which is the current practice. Ms. Richardson stated it would depend on the individual Council Member and if the Committee could be swayed by that Council Member.

Council Member Vogt agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson and stated a Commission should make decisions based on merit, not because the idea began with a Council Member. Mr. Vogt added if Boards and Commissions have quality members they would not be influenced by a Council Member.

Council Member Robb stated Council is talking about a lot of hypothetical situations that are unrealistic. Council members have the ability to not pass resolutions brought by a Board or Commission. Mr. Robb added a Council Member has the power to influence policy from the table, this amendment is more about the process.

Council Member A. Brown asked if this amendment would replace the practice of a Council Member acting as Liaisons.

Mayor Edmonds responded a Liaison is an informal position decided on by a consensus of Council.

Council Member A. Brown stated the proposed amendment would be similar to the current practice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated a past Mayor appointed himself to the Housing Commission.

Council Member Robb stated that would have been allowed under the former charter.

Council Member Murdock asked that this item be called to question.

Council Member Vogt supported the call to question.

Mayor-Pro Tem Richardson asked if Council was ready to vote on the resolution itself.

Council Member Murdock stated if Council is ready to vote he would withdraw his motion.

Council Member Murdock withdrew the motion to call to question.

Council Member Vogt withdrew the support to the call to question.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-015 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

3. Resolution No. 2015-017, approving contract with DTS Contracting for Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Ypsilanti Senior Center Public Facility Improvement Project.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County administers CDBG funds received through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Communities Grant (CDBG) and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is a member of the Washtenaw County, Urban County Program and;

WHEREAS, the Urban County Program disperses Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to participating members; and

WHEREAS, the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Urban County CDBG Funding includes funds for Public Facility Improvement Projects, including funds for Ypsilanti Senior Center Kitchen Renovation and Electrical Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, a RFP (Request for Proposal) was issued on MITN (Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network) for this project and three bids were received; and

WHEREAS, DMC Consultants, Inc., Detroit, MI, submitted a bid in the amount of \$44,820.00; Cross Renovation, Inc., Garden City, MI submitted a bid of \$39,956.03; and DTS Contracting, Inc., Farmington Hills, MI submitted a bid in the amount of \$38,677.00; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends accepting the bid proposal submitted by DTS Contracting, Inc. for the amount of \$38,677.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council approves the proposal submitted by DTS Contracting in the amount of \$38,677.00; and

FURTHER, that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign this agreement, subject to approval by the City Attorney.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member N. Brown

DPS Director Stan Kirton stated he is seeking Council's approval of the Contract. Mr. Kirton stated eight companies were present for the pre-bid and the City received three bids total. Mr. Kirton added the City has wanted to make these renovations for three years and is happy to answer any questions Council may have.

Council Member A. Brown asked for clarification of the heading "Suppliers/Sub-contractor References", if those are the companies they will be using, or are they just references.

Mr. Kirton replied they are references.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the bid stipulated that sub-contractors be hired from this area.

Mr. Kirton responded the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and County's rules are fairly strict and companies are required to follow those parameters.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-017 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. LIASON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update – stated SEMCOG will have \$5million available through their Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) for bicycle facilities, shared use paths, streetscape improvements, environmental mitigation, and safe routes to school.

Mayor Edmonds asked if only municipalities are eligible for the grant, or are downtown development authorities, or other organizations.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson informed the Mayor that she will forward her the email for clarification.

Council Member Murdock asked City Manager Lange if the TAP grant was being pursued by the City for the Huron/Hamilton.

City Manager Lange responded he would need to clarify with City Planner Bonnie Wessler.

- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Nothing to report
- C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – Nothing to report
- D. Urban County – Nothing to report
- E. Freight House – Still assembling the bid package for the needed improvements and should be ready in February.

Mayor Edmonds added that the Freight House funding campaign, “Patronicity”, is now live.

Council Member Murdock stated checks should be made out to Friends of the Ypsi Freight House and dropped off at VC Web, 19 E. Cross.

- F. Parks and Recreation – Elections will be held in February. Also, Trail Town, which meets once a month, informed that the group has submitted an application to host the MSU Extension service conference here.
- G. Millennial Mayors Conference – The first meeting will be held in February.

Council Member Murdock asked if Ypsilanti’s representatives are up to date on Millennial Mayors.

Mayor Edmonds responded she will be making appointments at the next Council meeting.

- H. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – The DDA adopted the Depot Town TIF plan and will come before Council in February.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the Parks and Recreation plan was used when developing the TIF plan.

Mayor Edmonds responded it stayed fairly broad when discussing the parks.

- I. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – Nothing to report

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Robb

- Asked that Council packets be made available two Fridays before Tuesday meetings. This will provide Council time to review the material and ask questions of staff before the meeting.

- Stated he would like Council to discuss an issue facing the City after “Council Proposed Business”.

A Brown

- Asked when the information developed at the goal setting meeting will be available.
- Asked if Council will be moving forward with developing a youth commission.

Murdock

- Stated he is still waiting for the plan on how the City is going to handle snow removal and enforcement.
- Asked when the Pen Paper building will be secure.
- Stated at the DDA meeting last Thursday, former Mayor Cheryl Farmer gave a presentation of the condition of the Downtown, including sidewalks, trees, curbs, and other items needing maintenance. Mr. Murdock stated this is asset management and the City needs to do a better job and add preventative management.

Richardson

- Stated she would rather have work sessions similar to a closed session rather than during a Council Meeting.
- Stated she would like to have a work session as soon as possible regarding the report of housing affordability.
- Asked for a report regarding the gas leak at the former Visteon plant.

Council Member Robb stated the press followed up with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) who considers the case closed. Mr. Robb explained the filtration system stopped the plume from advancing.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Informed City Manager Lange about the poor condition of the stairs from Depot Town into Riverside Park.
- Nominations for Boards and Commissions will be made during the next Council Meeting. One appointment is Erica Mooney to the Millennial Mayors Conference, Krista Nordberg will be reappointed to the Human Relations Commission, Sally Lusk for the Huron River Watershed seat, and two new appointees Delois Wilson to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Dr. Teresa Saunders to the Human Relations Commission.
- Asked Council what date will work best for the final goal setting meeting.

City Manager Lange asked if it would be possible to have the meeting on February 5th to allow time to form a resolution for the next Council meeting.

Council decided to hold the final goal setting meeting on January 27th if that date is not possible then February 3rd.

Council Member Murdock stated City Attorney Barr sent Council the mission statement developed in the 80's which could possibly be used as the current statement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she spoke with Building Manager Frank Daniels who informed her that the State of Michigan does not have a law regarding mold. Ms. Richardson stated each resident must fill out a form to have the entire building tested for mold. Ms. Richardson stated starting April 6th there will be a certificate of compliance for each apartment.

Council Member A. Brown asked if there was any interaction with the public health department regarding mold.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded no.

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Staff has repaired a major safety issue on the second floor of City Hall.
- Staff continues to make repairs on all City buildings.
- Informed Council that the snow removal policy has been emailed to Council earlier this evening.
- OHM report of the road diet has been distributed to Council.
- DPS is working on the Pen Dam security issue and he will follow up immediately.
- The list of local contractors has been distributed to Council.
- The staff is looking to possibly add a running event.
- Stated police are still working on statistics needed for the traffic study.
- The Traffic Safety Committee has examined the crosswalk on Catherine at Chidester Place and stated that crossing signs would be useful at that location. However, they are waiting until the weather improves.
- The crossing at the Coop has not yet been reviewed by the Traffic Safety Committee.
- Stated the Thompson Block, Smith Furniture Building, and 16 N. Washington all have a report on them either by Planning Consultant Megan Mason-Minock or Building Manager Frank Daniels.
- Staff is attempting to balance the Motor Pool budget.
- Apologized that the snow plow trucks are late, but will be available on Monday, January 26th.

Council Member Murdock asked what happened to the smaller parking enforcement vehicles.

Mr. Lange responded to save money the lease was not renewed and used former cruisers as parking enforcement vehicles.

- Working on completion of the Border to Border Trail.
- The City has an enormous inventory of assets and how to maintain those assets.

- DPS has been working to become fully staffed.
- Cultural training for staff will be in held in February.
- Will be providing Council with an updated Economic Development Plan.
- Stated the Police and Fire pension return on investment is comparable to MERS.
- Stated the Building Department is years behind inspections, but staff is getting assistance from surrounding areas for a lower cost.

Council Member Murdock stated Council had no idea that the Building Department was that far behind on inspections.

Mr. Lange stated the Building Department asked for more help to solve the issue he advised the Department to move forward.

Council Member Murdock stated the OHM report recommended reassessing the timing of the lights at First and Ballard and that a reassessment should be done every five years. Mr. Murdock stated the City should follow this practice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the timing of lights at First should be of extreme importance due to left turn difficulty. Ms. Richardson stated she agrees with Council Member Murdock that she has not heard that inspections were so far behind and that it was kept hidden. Ms. Richardson asked to know the date that inspections began to fall behind.

City Manager Lange stated that the same issue is occurring in the Planning Department and staff.

XVII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Ralph Thompson, 330 Chidester, asked Council if they would like him to make the results of the test available to them. Mr. Thompson thanked Council for the time that they put in for the City of Ypsilanti.

XVIII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Asked Council to leave Friday, April 3rd open in their schedules for the first “First Friday” of the year and the ceremony for the Redevelopment Ready Community.

City Manager Lange stated April 3rd is Good Friday and asked Council to look at the renovations in the meeting room.

Council Member A. Brown asked if there is an update on housing for the Water Street development.

Mr. Lange responded the Attorney’s office is attempting to extend the terms and it will be on the next agenda.

Council Member A. Brown asked for an update on the Recreation Center.

Mr. Lange responded the project is moving along with the support from Representative Rutledge to assist with infrastructure.

Council Member Murdock stated the proposals have been received by the architects and are looking through designs.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2015-018, 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: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member N. Brown

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.