APPROVED

CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
Tuesday, March 3, 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 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 –

The Mayor introduced the following individuals; City Planner Bonnie Wessler, Assistant City Attorney Dan Duchene, Bob Krzewinski, Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, Downtown Association of Ypsilanti (DAY) President Dave Heikkinen, and DPS Director Stan Kirton.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member N. Brown motioned, Council Member A. Brown supported, to approve the agenda.

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

Washington Street Light Conversion – City Manager Lange and DPS Director Kirton

DPS Director Stan Kirton introduced Lance Alley, DTE Account Manager of Community Lighting and provided a presentation on the Street Light Conversion on Washington St. in the Downtown. **(See website for presentation)**

City Manager Lange stated the lights on Washington Street are now obsolete.

Mr. Kirton agreed and explained the current lights are 250 watt mercury vapor which are no longer manufactured.

Council Member Murdock asked why Cobra Head Street Lights are being recommended.

Mr. Kirton replied that the Cobra Heads have existed for quite some time and it was decided to convert them into LEDs.

Council Member Murdock asked if the lights are mainly for pedestrians why use Cobra Heads.

Lance Alley, DTE Account Manager, responded the Cobra Head lights will light the street.

Council Member Murdock stated a portion of the street will be lit by the pedestrian lights and did not see a purpose of installing the Cobra Head Street Lights.

Mr. Kirton stated that is an option, but it is typical to light the entire roadway.

Council Member Murdock stated he would rather have the trees than have the Cobra Head Street Lights.

Mr. Kirton answered it is not his intention to trim the trees down completely, just enough to allow the light to pass through the branches.

Mayor Edmonds asked how tall the lighted bollards are.

Mr. Kirton replied they range up to 42 inches high, but they do come in various sizes and shapes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked why the proposed lights are so low.

Mr. Kirton responded those lights would be for pedestrian traffic.

Mayor Edmonds stated one of the Downtown Development Authority Board Members Brienne Wilcock lives downtown and works at Illuminart she might be someone who could assist in strategy development for lighting on this block.

Mr. Kirton stated the options are; install the DTE suggested lights and trim the trees, the DTE proposed lights with the suggested lighted bollards, lighted bollards only, or the use conversion kits on the current lights.

Council Member Robb stated this is an opportunity to convert all lights to the green poles to match the rest of Downtown. Mr. Robb added Mr. Murdock made a valid point that if 14 lights are installed, is it necessary to install the Cobra Head Street Lights.

Mr. Kirton stated that is the suggestion of DTE.

Council Member Robb stated in order to keep the downtown uniform the lights currently in place should be removed.

Mayor Edmonds asked if a photometric plan has been completed.

Mr. Alley responded he isn't certain a photometric plan was completed for this project.

Mr. Kirton stated the purpose of the light determines how much light is needed.

Mr. Alley stated in terms of the roadway, the four Cobra Heads is adequate, but Mr. Kirton is discussing pedestrian lighting.

Council Member Robb stated a business owner would need to complete a photometric study before installing lights and the City follow the same standard.

Mr. Kirton stated the City could perform the study, but he is not sure if a study could be done with the current pedestrian lights.

Mr. Alley stated DTE would not be able to perform the study.

Mr. Lange stated feedback he has heard from citizens is that they would prefer the lighting be changed making it uniform to the rest of the Downtown.

Council Member Murdock asked if the City replaces the poles as Mr. Robb suggested, would the new lights be placed in the locations of the current lights.

Mr. Kirton replied that scenario is possible.

Mr. Alley stated the new lights would not necessarily go in the same place.

Council Member Murdock stated the location would not matter, and once the others are removed they can be capped.

Mayor Edmonds stated it would be helpful to see a photometric plan to understand and make good judgment. Mayor Edmonds asked that a table be included reflecting the cost.

Mr. Kirton stated he is not asking for a decision from Council he just wanted feedback on the current proposed options.

Mr. Tucker asked if there is a standard for how many lights are necessary on a street.

Mr. Kirton stated if it is a roadway street lights need to be included, but as far as pedestrian lighting he is not sure of how much lighting is standard.

Mr. Alley stated there is no standard in place for pedestrian lighting.

Council Member Murdock asked if the funding for this project would come out of the street light assessment.

Mr. Kirton stated that is yet to be determined.

Mr. Lange stated the City proposed about $24,000 for the assessment, but there were a couple of other lights that would not be as expensive, one on Hewitt and one on Oakwood.

Council Member Murdock stated the Council Information Letter (CIL) included material on street lighting and asked if the light on Leforge were still going to be paid for by Eastern Michigan University.

Mr. Lange responded he will look into that, but there is an advantage in Eastern not helping the City with lighting on Leforge.

Mr. Kirton stated the proposal in the CIL was Green Rd off of Leforge.

Mayor Edmonds asked why Mr. Lange said it was in the City's advantage to not have Eastern install streetlights on Leforge.

Mr. Lange answered the statute required that if the amount of the assessment not used was above 5% than the City would have to rebate property owners for the assessment.

Mayor Edmonds said the issue with the lights on Washington St. is that they no longer work.

Mr. Kirton stated there was a short in the decorative poles, which has been repaired but the mercury vapor bulbs are no longer manufactured.

Mr. Lange stated the City is trying to get ahead of the situation while the bulbs are still working.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Dave Heikkinen, business owner 133 W. Michigan, stated he has spoken with both City Manager Lange and DPS Director Kirton regarding the Washington St. lights, and he is in favor of Council Member Robb's suggestion of uniformity in the Downtown. Mr. Heikkinen said there are two issues with that street; one being safety, as it is close to the bus depot and the other is that Washington St. is identified as an event street in the Master Plan, and should be well lit. Mr. Heikkinen said that the lights that are installed will need outlets for holiday lights. Also, the poles on Michigan Ave. are in need of repair.
2. Lee Tooson, 107 Middle, stated he attended the Brotherhood Banquet where Mayor Edmonds told him she sang the Negro National Anthem before school in St. Louis, which he found very interesting. Mr. Tooson stated installing stop signs at Ferris and Middle for safety is not asking too much, and if a petition, or demonstration is required so be it. Mr. Tooson stated there is a non-discrimination ordinance which was violated regarding Firefighter Williams, and if something is not done then Council is a part of that discrimination.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

- Stated she gave the welcoming remarks at the Brotherhood Banquet and that she sang Lift My Voice at the beginning of every assembly in high school.

X. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2015-048 approving the minutes of February 17, 2015.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of February 17, 2015 be approved.

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

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

XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS –

1. Public hearing on Huron/Whittaker/I-94 non-motorized crossing.

   A. Resolution No. 2015-049, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti City Council has identified a non-motorized crossing as a priority in numerous planning documents including the Shape Ypsi Master Plan, the City Non-Motorized Transportation Plan the City's Parks and Recreation Plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti has previously worked with Ypsilanti Township, MDOT, Road Commission and other partners on concepts for a non-motorized crossing in 2005; and

WHEREAS, funding from the HUD sustainability grant provided for revisiting and updating concepts for a non-motorized concept, gaining public input from the community, and working with MDOT on a constructible, preferred concept; and

WHEREAS, the I-94 non-motorized crossing Steering Committee has identified a preferred option of a shared use path on the west side of the Huron bridge over I-94; based on community feedback, recommendation from the project consulting team, cost implications affecting the likelihood of implementation, and involvement of MDOT; and

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti City Council previously approved the non-motorized crossing concept.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council reaffirm the west side shared use path as the locally preferred alternative; and

MAY IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council supports an MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to finance the locally preferred alternative non-motorized crossing.

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

Nick Sapkiewicz, Transportation Planner with Washtenaw Area Transportation Study, provided Council with a presentation regarding non-motorized transportation. **(See website for presentation)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked Mr. Sapkiewicz if he has driven on Huron during rush hour and, at that time it is very congested at that time.

Mr. Sapkiewicz replied he has been on that stretch of road at that time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she travels that way regularly, and traffic is always bad during that time.

Mr. Sapkiewic asked if the Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson has had to wait at the light at Huron and I-94.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson replied yes, she has had to wait through several lights at times.

Mr. Sapkiewicz stated MDOT will be performing a more in-depth analysis, but the current data states that there will not be a significant impact by adding a non-motorized crossing in the current right-of-way.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated there is a need for a non-motorized crossing, but traffic can be heavy at times at Huron and I-94.

Mayor Edmonds stated as the bus system increases in that area hopefully traffic will decrease.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the initial assessment was completed before public transit was increased.

Mr. Sapkiewicz stated yes it was.

Mayor Edmonds asked what political entity is responsible for clearing the snow on the overpass for pedestrians.

Mr. Sapkiewicz replied that is an ongoing discussion and MDOT does not feel they are responsible for snow removal on pedestrian paths. Ypsilanti Township does not clear its non-motorized paths, so it may not be cleared during winter months.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there will be a fence, or wall, on the edge of the bridge over I-94 along the non-motorized path.

Mr. Sapkiewicz stated he believes a cement barrier is already present at the site.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the barrier is waist high.

Mr. Sapkiewicz replied correct.

Mayor Edmonds stated that a waist high barrier can still be dangerous if a cyclist needs to swerve they may fall over the barrier.

Mr. Sapkiewicz replied those details will be hashed out as MDOT engineers formulate the project further, this process is an initial push to get MDOT involved and throughout this process MDOT has had both motorist and pedestrian safety in mind.

Mr. Lange stated originally the plan was to have the non-motorized lane in the center and now the lane is proposed on the side of the road. He asked how wide the non-motorist path will be and if it will be strong enough to carrier a single axle truck.

Mr. Sapkiewicz responded the path is planned for the current right-of-way and vehicles are traveling on that section presently. Mr. Sapkiewicz stated the plan for the center non-motorized path ran into issue because the north bound and south bound bridges are separate, which presented a significate challenge.

Mr. Lange stated there is not a plan to extend the width of the bridge.

Mr. Sapkiewicz responded MDOT does not have plans to extend the width of the bridge.

Mr. Lange stated it is critical that a truck be able to drive along the path for it to be maintained. Also, a fence would need to be placed along the edge of the path due to safety concerns.

Mr. Sapkiewicz responded the funding that was available through a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant only carried through base level plans, and more details will be available as the project progresses.

Council Member Murdock asked if the City would be applying for the grant.

Mayor Edmonds answered potentially it would either be the City, or the Road Commission.

Council Member Murdock asked if MDOT would provide funding.

Mr. Sapkiewicz replied a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant does require a 20% match, however this project has been pitched to MDOT as an MDOT project and since the bridge is an MDOT facility hopefully MDOT will provide the 20% match. He added with TAP grants an overmatch of more than a 20% produces a successful application.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the 20% match could be a combination of the County, MDOT, and the Road Commission.

Mr. Sapkiewicz answered absolutely, but it is anticipated MDOT will fund the 20% match with hopes to increase the match with help from other partners.

B. Open public hearing

1. Cheryl Farmer, 214 N. Huron, stated she was proud of the tenacity of the City trying to get a dedicated non-motorized lane at this location. Ms. Farmer stated this is a dangerous stretch of road for pedestrians, and a lot of people travel to work along this road. Anything that can be done to make this road safer for pedestrian would be positive.
2. Bob Krzewinski, Non-Motorized Advisory Committee, stated he appreciates that Council is trying to get this accomplished. He stated winter maintenance needs to be more of a priority for non-motorized lanes.

C. Resolution No. 2015-050, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing on the Huron/Whittaker I-94 non-motorized crossing be officially closed.

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

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

Council Member Vogt stated one concern he has is not only a fence on the outside edge, but one on the inside edge as well, around four feet.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-049 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. Public hearing on Huron/Hamilton/Washtenaw proposed non-motorized improvements (Road Diet).

A. Resolution No. 2015-051, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti City Council has identified non-motorized transportation as a priority in numerous planning documents including the Shape Ypsi Master Plan, the City Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and the City's Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the excess capacity of Washtenaw, Huron, and Hamilton encourage driving at speeds that discourage the use of non-motorized transportation in those areas; and

WHEREAS, increased speeds on Washtenaw, Huron, and Hamilton increase the likelihood of vehicle crashes causing serious harm to those involved; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti has a strong interest in protecting the safety of all road users; and

WHEREAS, the proposed road diet will not have a negative impact upon vehicle traffic, and will increase non-motorized transportation options and parking options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the proposed lane reduction on Washtenaw, Hamilton, and Huron.

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

City Planner Bonnie Wessler provided a presentation regarding the Huron/Hamilton/Washtenaw Road Diet. **(See website for presentation)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if this project included on-street parking.

Ms. Wessler stated yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated Hamilton does not have a turn lane.

Ms. Wessler responded there is a left turn lane by the Key Bank parking lot and at Harriet.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the pedestrian crossing near Abe's Coney Island could be altered, moving it closer to the corner.

Ms. Wessler replied the reason that the crossing is away from the corner at that location is due to restrictions of the right-of-way, the turning radii of wheelchairs, and the placement of a utility pole.

Council Member A. Brown asked how far the bike lane would travel.

Ms. Wessler replied Ferris to Michigan Ave.

Council Member Murdock asked what will happen to the Cross and Huron intersection as a result of road diet.

Ms. Wessler replied it will still be challenging for all forms of travel. She added there is not a fantastic way to make it work well for vehicles and bicycles.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is a way that traffic turning left can be slowed down at that intersection.

Ms. Wessler stated there is an island in the middle that is not connected to the crosswalk and improving that is being discussed with MDOT, as well as signage.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if speed limits will be changed.

Ms. Wessler responded speed limits are set be Michigan State Police, resulting from an investigation of speeds traveled on a particular road. The road diet hopes to slow motorist's speed which would result in lower speed limits.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she does not believe the road diet will alter speed of vehicles travelling on that road.

Council Member A. Brown asked if there was discussion about a crosswalk at Hamilton at Ferris.

Ms. Wessler responded the City is working with MDOT on that matter.

Council Member Murdock stated this is similar to a plan proposed a few years ago and said the crossing at I-94, in terms of a reorientation, will increase connectivity and assist with high pedestrian traffic. Mr. Murdock asked if MDOT will be repairing curb cuts.

Ms. Wessler responded yes, MDOT will be repairing the ones in their right-of-way.

Council Member Murdock said all the curb cuts in the downtown need to be replaced.

Ms. Wessler replied MDOT will be repairing the curb cuts in their right-of-way.

Mayor Edmonds stated she agrees that crossings need to be a priority to avoid further injury.

B. Open public hearing

1. Cheryl Farmer, 214 Huron St., stated her block on Huron is between Washtenaw and Emmet and she has been gardening on the margin between the sidewalk and the street and is happy to put in grass as long as a parking lane is placed there. The parking would help businesses and institutions as well as help in slowing traffic.

C. Resolution No. 2015-052, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing on the Washtenaw/Huron/Hamilton proposed non-motorized improvements (Road Diet) be officially closed.

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

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

Council Member Vogt reassured Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson that road diets have a tremendous effect on slowing speed. Mr. Vogt stated he feels that it will have a very positive effect on the City, not only in increased safety but also in additional parking.

Council Member A. Brown motioned, Council Member Vogt supported amending the resolution to add pedestrian safety as a priority.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the resolution was amended.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-051 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

XII. <u>ORDINANCES – FIRST READING</u> –

Ordinance No. 1243

1. An ordinance to amend Section 94-251 and Chapter 94, Article VIII, Division 2; repeal Chapter 94, Article VIII, Division 3; and add Chapter 94, Article X of the Ypsilanti City Code in order to provide a comprehensive, efficient, and clear procedure to vacate alleys, vacate streets, and close alleys within the City of Ypsilanti.

A. Resolution No. 2015-053, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance to amend Section 94-251 and Chapter 94, Article VIII, Division 2; repeal Chapter 94, Article VIII, Division 3; and add Chapter 94, Article X of the Ypsilanti City Code in order to provide a comprehensive, efficient, and clear procedure to vacate alleys, vacate streets, and close alleys within the City of Ypsilanti be approved at First Reading.

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

City Planner Bonnie Wessler stated this ordinance change is in response to difficulties in public noticing for alley vacations and closings. She explained the City has a checklist to make sure noticing is done properly, but it was felt that noticing requirements should be more uniform.

B. Open public hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015-054, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing on an ordinance to amend Section 94-251 and Chapter 94, Article VIII, Division 2; repeal Chapter 94, Article VIII, Division 3; and add Chapter 94, Article X of the Ypsilanti City Code in order to provide a comprehensive, efficient, and clear procedure to vacate alleys, vacate streets, and close alleys within the City of Ypsilanti be officially closed.

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

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-053 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. <u>RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS</u> –

1. Resolution No. 2015-055, adopting "Michigan Trail Town" designation.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

Whereas, the Huron River Watershed Council has developed the Huron River Water Trail along the Huron River; and

Whereas, the Huron River Watershed Council has designated the City of Ypsilanti as one of several "Michigan Trail Towns"; and

Whereas, a Michigan Trail Town is a destination along the Huron River Water Trail situated so users can venture off the trail to enjoy the scenery, services and heritage of a community and find amenities such as restaurants, shops and services, connecting the outdoors Water Trail with urban and rural communities; and

Whereas, the Council of the City of Ypsilanti finds it in the public interest to become a Michigan Trail Town for the recreational, social and economic benefits.

Now therefore, the Council of the City of Ypsilanti hereby accepts the designation of a Huron River Water Trail "Michigan Trail Town," and encourages city staff to engage in Michigan Trail Town programs and efforts.

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

Council Member A. Brown stated this resolution is in response to legislation passed in June in Lansing, and was developed by the Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Designation, Pure Michigan and Michigan Trails, and informed Council that she does have that legislation if Council would like to see it.

Mayor Edmonds said that this falls within the City's Master Plan and thanked Council Member A. Brown for her work on this resolution.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-055 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. 2015-056, authorizing City Attorney to sign Engagement Letter with law firm Morgan Lewis to represent city to file amicus briefs.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

City Council previously authorized joining an *amicus curiae* brief in the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the position that the Michigan Marriage Amendment, Article 1, Section 25 of the Michigan Constitution is unconstitutional,

NOW THEREFORE, permission is given for the City of Ypsilanti Attorney to enter into an engagement agreement with the Washington, DC law firm of Morgan Lewis to represent the city, at no charge, to join the *amicus curiae* brief in the appeal litigation.

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-056 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

3. Resolution No. 2015-057, approving the use of city hall as a First Friday's venue.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, First Fridays Ypsilanti is a self-guided monthly art walk hosted throughout downtown Ypsilanti at multiple venues; and

WHEREAS, Each month on the first Friday participating venues display the artwork of local artists, changing from time to time; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the First Fridays Ypsilanti is to invite community members into the downtown area to support local talent and businesses while having a fun time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLOVED that as a part of economic development efforts to stimulate community involvement and attract visitors to the city, City Council does hereby approve the use of city hall as a First Friday venue, allowing city hall to be open to the public during non-business hours on one Friday a month.

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

Mayor Edmonds stated this resolution was suggested to her by staff to welcome the community into City Hall to view artwork displayed on the first floor. She said that since First Fridays require the use of City property Council should pass a resolution authorizing the use of City Hall. Mayor Edmonds stated she will staff volunteers to work during First Fridays. The event will include information from the Downtown Development Authority and the City on how to open a business and other City services. Mayor Edmonds stated with the improvements already happening to City Hall it seems fitting to have community members submit artwork for display.

Council Member A. Brown asked where artwork would be displayed.

Mayor Edmonds replied mostly in the hallway on the first floor of City Hall.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if First Fridays will occur during office hours.

Mayor Edmonds responded the event would not be during office hours, possibly from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the event would require extra police protection.

Mayor Edmonds stated she does not think so, but there will be a liability release that each artist would need sign.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated her concern was not with the artists, but with individuals coming in and out of the building after hours.

Mayor Edmonds responded having been both a host for First Fridays as well as a participant she did not feel that it would be necessary.

Council Member A. Brown asked if Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson had a safety concern.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded yes.

Council Member Robb stated police officers are not present during Council Meetings and does not feel a police presence would be necessary during this event.

Council Member Murdock asked what staff, other than police, would be required.

Mayor Edmonds answered she would be present and would ask DDA Director Tim Colbeck if he would like to be a part of the event.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if Mayor Edmonds is taking responsibility for opening and closing City Hall for the event.

Mayor Edmonds responded yes, and she would ask Mr. Colbeck if he would volunteer.

Council Member Robb asked who would be curating the artwork.

Mayor Edmonds responded she and Clerk McMullan and any other interested party.

City Manager Lange asked if the artwork would be displayed on tripods.

Mayor Edmonds stated the art would be displayed on the walls and would be in place for several months.

Mr. Lange stated he is a fan of art but he is apprehensive about mounting it on the walls.

Mayor Edmonds replied it was already planned to hang art on the walls in City Hall, and this would simply take its place.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated this event is not permanent and the artwork will be eventually removed, and asked how the walls will be affected.

Mayor Edmonds stated it would result in several nail size holes that will service the entire event.

Council Member Robb asked if the City is responsible for framing the art.

Mayor Edmonds responded no.

Council Member Robb stated typically, in events such as these held in public spaces, art is a specific size.

Mayor Edmonds responded that has not been her experience.

Council Member Robb stated in public spaces, such as City Hall, that is the practice.

Council Member A. Brown asked Clerk McMullan if she was going to choose the placement of the artwork.

Clerk McMullan responded yes, and she will decide how the art will be hung on the walls.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked Clerk McMullan if this will be adding to her responsibilities.

Clerk McMullan stated it will not take up a large quantity of time, and if it is just the first floor it should be fine.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-057 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

4. Resolution No. 2015-058, adopting the 2015 Council goals.

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that the attached document entitled 2015 City Council Goals be approved and the goals stated therein are adopted as the official goals of the Ypsilanti City Council for 2015.

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

Council Member Robb asked why if the Memo was sent on February 16th Council did not receive it until the packet was delivered on the 27th.

Mayor Edmonds responded it was submitted to Clerk McMullan last week to be delivered as a part of the packet.

Council Member Robb stated he has been a part of nine goal settings while on Council, and feels that this was the worst. He said none of the goals were vetted by Council, and they are all listed as equal, which means that a wellness plan is equal to the development of Water Street. Also, marketing has been made a goal and that means budget should reflect that by hiring an individual to meet the demands of marketing the City.

City Manager Lange stated he isn't sure that an employee dedicated to marketing the City would need to be hired.

Council Member Robb responded then the City would not be working toward its goals, but the point is that none of the goals were vetted through Council. Mr. Robb stated Council never had the chance to go through these goals and properly discuss them. Mr. Robb stated these are not his goals for the City and he would not be able to support them.

Mayor Edmonds stated in her thinking the memo was information that Council already had, and did not think it was necessary to send the memo to Council. Mayor Edmonds apologized to Council and said in the future she will not make that mistake.

Council Member Robb responded the memo was not distributed to Council, and he takes it as Mayor Edmonds did not feel it was appropriate to distribute the goals to Council.

Mayor Edmonds stated she will make sure to not make this mistake in the future.

Council Member A. Brown stated an issue she had with the goal setting process was that staff had already identified goals before Council entered the process. She said in the future it would be more helpful to have the goal setting meeting earlier.

Mayor Edmonds stated staff goals should be based on Council goals.

Council Member A. Brown stated she was surprised that staff had completed their goals prior to goal setting and would now have to filter their goals through Council goals.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated when she first was elected to Council, both Council and staff together, established goals.

City Manager Lange stated staff will follow the directive of Council, but the process was extremely delayed.

Council Member Murdock stated he was not pleased with the process from the beginning. He said staff provided presentations regarding department goals, but Council was not given an opportunity to discuss those goals with staff. Mr. Murdock stated he will not be voting to approve the goals and he did not see a need for a facilitator.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said she liked the facilitator because it kept the meeting focused on things other than just budgetary issues.

Council Member N. Brown said she did not take issue with staff providing a presentation of department goals because their goals were a continuation from last year. Ms. Brown stated she was not pleased with the facilitation and thought it was too abstract. Ms. Brown added she is uncertain what the City is going to do to accomplish the developed goals.

Mayor Edmonds responded this is a top level vision that will be given to the City Manager who will decide the steps needed to achieve the goals.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson agreed that Council began the goal setting process late and usually by January Council would have been given the results. Ms. Richardson agreed staff goals were an extension of last year's goals, and although the facilitation was not the greatest she did appreciate that a facilitator was present.

Council Member N. Brown stated her issue was not that Council used a facilitator, but more the style of the facilitator.

Mayor Edmonds stated the goal setting process was delayed while the vacancy in Ward 2 was filled.

Council Member Vogt stated although there were some goals that could have been added these goals are very broad. He said he does not feel that goals not named are completely omitted. The point of the process was to discuss what Council wants to accomplish and he does not see any strong reason to not adopt the listed goals. Mr. Vogt added that he feels the City should be on a two year cycle for goal settings.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she agrees that some of the goals listed would benefit with more discussion and develop how the goals would be accomplished.

Mayor Edmonds responded the City Manager and staff will develop action plans on how to achieve goals and that information would be presented to Council in the Council Information Letters (CIL).

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson replied she prefers Council have input on how goals are accomplished.

Mayor Edmonds asked if Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson would like the City Manager to bring the action plans to Council for approval.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she would like to see it in reverse, having Council provide the City Manager and staff more specifics on how to accomplish the goals.

Council Member N. Brown stated that the Mayor is saying since that did not occur would you like the City Manager to bring his strategies to Council for approval.

Mayor Edmonds asked Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson if she would like to have more working sessions to develop the goals.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded she thinks that Council should provide staff more specific directions.

Mayor Edmonds stated when the City Manager brought strategies to Council there would be opportunity to either accept them, or not.

Council Member A. Brown said two of five identified goals are; the City prioritize Water Street properties, sales, and management and to promote the development of Water Street projects and that they are redundant. Ms. Brown stated it is Council's job to adopt goals for the City, and what would it say about Council if it is unable to give staff direction.

Mayor Edmonds asked Council Member A. Brown what would be her recommendation to get to that level.

Council Member A. Brown replied the City Manager should take the goals listed and develop strategies and come to Council with his recommendations. However, she does value what both Council Member Robb and Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said that Council did not have time to provide more input.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-058 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 1 (Robb) ABSTAINED: 1 (Murdock) ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

XIV. LIASON REPORTS –

A. SEMCOG Update – The General Assembly is coming up on March 26th at the Detroit Institute of Arts beginning at 3 p.m., business at 4 p.m., and dinner at 6 p.m. and the event is free.
B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Nothing to be report.
C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – No meeting.
D. Urban County – Discussion regarding congestion on northbound US-23 and pros and cons of lane widening and use of shoulders during peak traffic hours.

E. Freight House – The "Patronicity" fundraising was successful with their grant match and bid documents should go out in a couple of weeks.
F. Parks and Recreation – Meet next week.
G. Millennial Mayors Conference – The first executive meeting will be in a couple of weeks to formulate the conference.
H. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – Nothing at this time.
I. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – Have not met since the last Council Meeting.

XIV. <u>COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS</u> –

<u>Richardson</u>

- The event held at Parkridge Center was successful and provided an in-depth history, especially of African American history, and suggested Council go and view artwork that is on display. Ms. Richardson stated the only piece of art that was not displayed was that of John Burton, which is yet to be completed.

  Council Member A. Brown stated the event was very well attended.

- Stated that the snow at bus stops and on the sidewalks is making it difficult for pedestrians to maneuver.

<u>Murdock</u>

- Suggested Council hold work sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

<u>A. Brown</u>

- Stated March is reading month and asked if anyone is interested in participating they should email her.

- Stated during the February 17th Council Meeting she suggested holding an information event regarding the May ballot proposal. She said that SEMCOG is neutral and is available to do the public information session.

- Several constituents have contacted her regarding the Water Street development and City Manager Lange will hold an information event in the beginning of April, and if other Council Members are interested the event could be held at City Hall.

- Asked if the City would only be allowed to submit one Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant application for a single item.

  City Planner Bonnie Wessler responded that she is not certain, but she would look into that possibility.

  City Manager Lange stated the City has TAP grants for the Border to Border Trail and another at the Water Tower but he is willing to apply for another grant.

  Council Member Murdock stated the two major grants helping to fund the Border to Border Trail are not TAP grants.

  City Manager Lange stated that a TAP grant helps to connect the Border to Border Trail.

- Asked City Attorney Barr the process for changing her vote on Resolution No. 2015-015 from a yes to a no.

City Attorney Barr responded he would have to look into that process.

Council Member Murdock stated the results would not be able to be changed because that item is already on the ballot.

Council Member A. Brown replied that she understands that, but she would still like to change her vote from a yes to a no.

- Stated she, Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson, and Council Member N. Brown attend the Michigan Municipal League (MML) training.

N. Brown

- Stated she really enjoyed the Brotherhood Banquet and was happy to see youth of the area still really involved.

Robb

- Stated he was told that he would be unable to receive the personal property tax information from Bay Logistics. Mr. Robb stated he is only asking for evidence that the dynamometers were included on Bay Logistics personal property taxes.

City Manager Lange responded the issue is that they could only go back a couple of years in tax records. Another issue is that claim was not itemized, making it difficult to get a solid answer.

City Attorney Barr replied he did follow-up with Mr. Robb question and stated there is a statute providing confidentiality for personal property tax filing. Mr. Barr explained that he spoke with the City Assessor who will be opening an investigation into the matter, but they can only go back two years.

Council Member Robb asked how it was possible for Forest Health to go back so many years but Bay Logistics is not.

Mr. Barr stated he will examine the statute of limitation and see if the two year limitation is accurate.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Stated she continues to bring up snow removal at bus stops and strategize how to resolve this problem in meetings with AAATA.

- Stated the Citizen’s Action Center on the website does not provide information on how a matter is resolved.

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Stated staff sent out a Council Information Letter (CIL) which contains more information as requested.

- Sent out a memo regarding the fleet reduction and the records are much more in-depth.

XVII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

XVIII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

None

XIX. CLOSED SESSION -

Closed Session to discuss City Manager evaluation - OMA 15.268, Section 8(a).

On a roll call, the vote to adjourn to Closed Session 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

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

XX. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2015-059, 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 10:39 p.m.