APPROVED

CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson motioned, supported by Council Member N. Brown to excuse the absence of Council Member Robb.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the absence was excused.

III. INVOCATION –

Mayor Edmonds asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Edmonds introduced the following individuals; Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, Assistant City Attorneys Dan Duchene and Jesse O'Jack, former Mayor Cheryl Farmer, Emmanuel Jones from Metor Youth, former Council Member Michael Bodary, former Council Member Ricky Jefferson, Non-Motorized Chair Bob Krzewinski, Human Relations Commissioner Sue Melke, Downtown Development Authority Director Tim Colbeck, and YCUA Representative Jeff Castro.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

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

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

City Attorney Barr stated Council Member Murdock asked him if the Depot Town TIF renewal would need to be an ordinance. Mr. Barr asked Downtown Development

Authority Director Tim Colbeck if this item could be removed from the agenda and brought back as an ordinance, at the April 7th Council Meeting.

DDA Director Colbeck responded he is unsure if the item needs to be an ordinance.

Mr. Barr stated it should be an ordinance and asked to have it removed from the agenda and added that the public meeting can still be held. 2015

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

Trail Town Presentation - Connie Rizzolo Brown

Elizabeth Riggs, Huron River Watershed Council and River Run Manager provided an overview of River Run mission. **(See Website)**

Connie Rizzolo Brown, Designer/Architect/Planner, provided a presentation on "Trail Town" presentation. **(See Website)**

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Jim Mongensen, 330 Chidester St Apt #718, stated there is public comment to increase public transit on Sunday. Also, he requested that the Building Department while doing inspections at Chidester Place ask questions about water leaks resulting in mold.
2. Sigrid Melvin, 41 W. Michigan Ave, asked for help at the Town Center building as for mold and damage caused by the recent fire. Asked if the repairs to the apartment damaged by the fire would require a building permit. Requested the City Council Members representing the Town Center come speak with tenants.
3. Bob Krsewinski, Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Chair, stated every fall the Committee set priorities; one priority is to request the City reduce speeds. Also, the Non-motorized committee created a sub-committee to research best practices around the country on how vehicle speeds can be reduced. He stated the Non-motorized Committee strongly supports the resolution regarding speed humps on tonight's agenda.
4. Will Thompson, 330 Chidester Apt #717, stated he is submitting documents regarding mold at Chidester. Mr. Thompson informed Council a forum will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chidester Community Room regarding mold issues at Chidester.
5. Ricky Jefferson, 113 Devonshire, Ypsilanti Township, asked for an update of the use of minority contractors used for City projects and stated he will be representing minority contractors in the Community.
6. Brian Foley, 424 Ainsworth Circle, stated the Ypsilanti Housing Commission was opening bids for a maintenance electrician. After several attempts to gain information about who the bid was awarded he was told the maintenance contract was rolled into the remodel contract. He said he brought this to Reverend Jefferson's attention as well as members of Council. Mr. Foley stated he asked Ypsilanti Housing Commission Director Zach Fosler who was awarded the contract and Mr. Fosler did not know. Mr. Foley then asked Mr. Fosler who was performing the maintenance work for the City and Mr. Fosler responded the Ypsilanti Housing Commission's electricians were. Mr. Foley added he was contacted and told he was awarded the bid.
7. Michelle Barney, 330 Chidester Apt #406, stated there is an issue of mold at Chidester Place and would like to submit the testing report. Ms. Barney stated

the test costs $400 and most people living at Chidester cannot afford this test. Ms. Barney stated this matter was reported to management, who performed their own test and found nothing of great issue, but Mr. Thompson's apartment was provided remediation.

8. Leslie Taton, 330 Chidester, stated she is in the process of joining the Ypsilanti Tenants Rights Group. She stated she understands there is a mold problem, but her concern is the lack of heat in her apartment. She stated she has complained to management and nothing has been done.
9. John Harrington, 209 N. Huron, stated he is a representative of the Towner House Foundation, and wants to announce to City Council that the Foundation has purchased the Towner House. He stated the Foundation is working with Eastern Michigan University to bring the structure to usable order and will be a part of the home tour on June.
10. Sue Melke, 330 Chidester Apt 409, stated she has an issue with enforcement of the snow ordinance. Ms. Melke stated there has not been much done to rectify the issue and it makes it very difficult to maneuver through the City.

IX. **REMARKS BY THE MAYOR** –

- Thanked all who spoke and provided information from Chidester. Mayor Edmonds stated she hopes that during the inspections this problem will be resolved.

- Stated she appreciated Mr. Jefferson and minority contracts for doing a service to the City in trying to keep City funds local.

- Thanked Mr. Harrington for his service regarding the Towner House.

- Stated she and Ms. Melke correspond regularly regarding issues of snow and are workong to understand how City staff can continue to improve snow maintenance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson thanked Mr. Jefferson and stated that she and Council Member A. Brown have been working very diligently to maintain an open communication with Mr. Fosler.

Mayor Edmonds stated she has a connection with Latino Contractors in the area and she will pass that information to Mr. Jefferson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked City Manager Lange to instruct inspectors to be mindful of mold during inspections and hold the inspections earlier. Ms. Richardson asked if Chidester connected to MSHDA they should be involved as soon as possible.

Council Member Vogt stated he agrees with Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson that the inspection should be moved forward because this is a health issue.

Mayor Edmonds stated Southeastern Legal Services in Ann Arbor provides free legal services and may be helpful to those having issue.

X. **MINUTES** –

Resolution No. 2015-060, approving the minutes of March 3, 2015.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of March 3, 2015 be approved.

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

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

XI. <u>PUBLIC HEARINGS</u> –

1. Public hearing on the adoption, amendment and restatement of the Depot Town Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan.

   A. Resolution No. 2015-061, determination
   (First Reading – April 7, 2015)

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Depot Town DDA was established in 1984 and the district was expanded in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the current Depot Town TIF and Development Plan was implemented in 2000 and has an expiration date of December 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti DDA Board has approved an Amended and Restated Depot Town Tax Increment Finance (TIF) & Development Plan as prepared and submitted by Beckett & Raeder that will extend the plan through December 2040.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approves the adoption of the Amended and Restated Depot Town TIF and Development Plan as submitted.

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

Downtown Development Authority Director Tim Colbeck provided a presentation regarding the Depot Town TIF and Redevelopment Plan. **(See Website)**

Council Member A. Brown asked how much was the total budget of the Downtown Development Authority.

DDA Director Colbeck responded the DDA total budget is $340,000.

Council Member A. Brown asked if there is a reason why a 25 year extension is being proposed opposed to the 15 year extension.

Mr. Colbeck responded based on the community input and suggested projects a 25 year extension seemed reasonable.

Council Member A. Brown asked how proposed state legislation might affect TIFs.

Mr. Colbeck replied proposed legislation would curtail the TIF districts revenue raising ability however, at the moment that legislation is dead.

Mayor Edmonds asked if legislation is passed in the future will the TIF be able to run its course or would it expire.

Mr. Colbeck responded the proposed legislation would allow a TIF to run its life cycle.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the DDA would capture revenue from the downtown.

Mr. Colbeck responded yes, the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority consists of four districts, the downtown TIF does not expire until 2024.

Mayor Edmonds stated that Mr. Colbeck has provided the DDA Board graphs that illustrate revenue versus expenditures, and asked that he share those with Council.

Mr. Colbeck stated he would make those available to Council.

Mayor Edmonds stated this process has gone through a number of revisions and has been completed to align with other City plans.

B. Open public hearing

1. Sue Melke, 330 Chidester #409, stated in the Depot Town TIF plan there is little talk about sidewalks.

Mr. Colbeck stated there is money set aside for general improvements and infrastructure support.

Ms. Melke replied sidewalks should be specifically listed as a priority. Ms. Melke asked why the façade improvement grant does not include American with Disability Act compliant entrances.

Mr. Colbeck replied ADA compliant entrances would qualify for a façade improvement grant, but project decisions are made by private owners.

Ms. Melke asked if ADA entrances could be a requirement of the grant.

Mr. Colbeck responded it is hard to make it a requirement because it is private property, but it can be encouraged.

2. Michelle Barney, 330 Chidester apt #406, stated the issue is that handicapped people are not included in these plans.

C. Resolution No. 2015-062, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing for the adoption, amendment and restated Depot Town Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan 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.

Mayor Edmonds asked City Attorney John Barr if this item needs to be tabled.

City Attorney Barr responded this item was moved to the April 7, 2015 meeting during agenda approval and it would not be necessary to table it.

Council Member Murdock stated this item has already been motioned and it would need to be tabled.

Mr. Barr replied it can be tabled if Council prefers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated since this item was removed Council is not able to discuss the matter.

City Attorney Barr stated that would be his ruling, but if Council wishes to table the item it could.

Mayor Edmonds stated the DDA Board Members representing Depot Town are bar and restaurant owners and were not able to be present. And in response to Ms. Barney's comments, page two of the City's Master Plan is to maintain Depot Town as a place for pedestrians, and notes the importance of that in this plan.

Council Member Murdock stated Tax Increment Financing was never intended that to go on indefinitely and eventually that revenue should return to the City. The properties within the Depot Town TIF district have been paying the same amount of taxes to the City as it did 25 years ago which puts a burden on the rest of the City. He said that if the TIF is extended 25 more years it increase that burden. The point of TIFs is to do a project to increase the taxable value and this might be an opportunity to look at TIF revenue and how it fits into the City's overall financial picture. Other municipalities have dealt with this issue and there are strategies that the City should examine.

Mr. Colbeck responded there are a number of tasks that the DDA provides that if not done by the DDA the City would need to provide those services, such as the downtown pedestrian trashcans. Mr. Colbeck stated the DDA pays the City $20,000 a year to empty the pedestrian trashcans. The DDA is also paying for half the salary of the DDA district police officer, the plantings each spring, and holiday lighting. Mr. Colbeck stated it is not a situation of the DDA simply taking City revenue 74% of the funds captured.

Council Member A. Brown asked what the trend is for DDAs across the country regarding TIFs.

Mr. Colbeck responded Michigan is one of the few states that use TIFs.

Council Member A. Brown stated so there is not much change nationwide.

Mr. Colbeck replied nationwide most DDAs have some funding coming from local municipalities, but most funds are raised through other sources.

City Manager Lange stated he would like to see more money allocated for maintenance.

Mr. Colbeck stated a large percentage of the DDA budget is for maintenance items.

2. Public hearing regarding an offer to purchase city-owned property (Ballard Street – Parcel ID: 11-11-40-464-999) known as "Gap Parcel".

   A. Resolution No. 2015-063, determination

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

WHEREAS a certain parcel of land is located in the City of Ypsilanti, commonly known as "the Gap Parcel," being parcel number 11-11-40-464-999 and legally described as:

> **" GAP " PARCEL CREATED 2008 YPC 52W-64 COM AT SE COR LOT 45 STUCK'S ADDITION, TH WEST 41.25 FT TO A POB, TH SOUTH 33 FT, TH WEST 1.75 FT, TH NORTH 16.5 FT, TH WEST 61.5 FT, TH NORTH 16.75 FT, TH EAST 61.5 FT, TH SOUTH 0.25 FT, TH EAST 1.75 FT TO THE POB.**

WHEREAS it is believed that the City may be the owner of said parcel through an errant survey; and

WHEREAS there are no structures or improvements located on said parcel; and

WHEREAS Craig and Alicia Ceccarelli, a married couple, own a parcel of land that lies adjacent to said "Gap Parcel"; and

WHEREAS the Ceccarellis have delivered an Offer to Purchase the "Gap Parcel" from the City for $500 and have deposited $50 of this amount with the City Attorney; and

WHEREAS the City is interested in conveying whatever interest it may have in the "Gap Parcel" in order that it be privately owned and taxable:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute and accept the attached Offer to Purchase Real Estate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and City Attorney are authorized to complete the sale with the Ceccarellis and the City Manager is authorized to sign any and all documents to close and complete the transaction.

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

Assistant City Attorney Dan Duchene stated the parcel is located on Ballard Street just north of Michigan Avenue.

Council Member Murdock asked what parcel this land would be going to.

Mr. Duchene responded it is going to the parcel in front of it closer to the street.

Council Member Vogt asked how the land is being used presently.

Mr. Duchene replied to his knowledge it is not being used.

Council Member Vogt stated that the parcel to the north may be using it for parking.

Alicia Ceccarellis stated there is currently no parking on that parcel.

Council Member Vogt asked what the access would be other than through Ms. Ceccarellis residence.

Ms. Ceccarellis replied probably none, but the land could be used by the tenants for a garden.

Council Member Vogt asked if Ms. Ceccarellis has parking on her property.

Ms. Ceccarellis responded her property does not have parking and to use the gap parcel as parking a neighbor would need to provide permission for use of their driveway.

Council Member Vogt asked if the parcel is wanted for greenery.

Ms. Ceccarellis replied yes.

City Manager Lange stated the sale of this property is supported by the goals set forth in the Master Plan.

Council Member Murdock asked how long has the City known about this matter.

Mr. Duchene answered since 2008.

Council Member Murdock asked if the City has many of these parcels.

City Planner Bonnie Wessler responded the City has around four that are about that size.

B. Open public hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015-064, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing on the parcel of land located in the City of Ypsilanti, parcel number 11-11-40-464-999, commonly known as "the Gap Parcel", be officially closed.

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

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-063 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

XII. <u>CONSENT AGENDA -</u>

Resolution No. 2015-065

1. Resolution No. 2015-066, approving Ordinance No. 1243 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. ***(Second Reading)***

   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 Second and Final Reading.

2. Resolution No. 2015-067, approving the DDA participation in the Michigan Main Street Program.

   RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

   WHEREAS the Ypsilanti DDA has been an Associate Level member of the Michigan Main Street Program since 2008; and

   WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti DDA are required to sign an annual program agreement with the Michigan Main Street Program to maintain its membership; and

   WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti DDA Board has approved its continued participation in the Michigan Main Street Program for 2015 at its September 18, 2014 meeting.

   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approves the 2015 Michigan Main Street Program Agreement.

3. Resolution No. 2015-068, authorizing the use of receiving boards for city elections.

   A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Receiving Boards of Election Inspectors help increase efficiency and accuracy while processing election results and materials as they are returned to the City Clerk's office on election night; and

WHEREAS, City Council has the authority to provide for the use of Receiving Boards of Election Inspectors and the City Election Commission has the authority to appoint members to such Boards prior to each election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council provides that one or more Receiving Boards of Election Inspectors be appointed for the May 5, 2015 election.

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-065 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

XIII. <u>RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS</u> –

1. Resolution No. 2015-069, approving contract with Ypsilanti Communities Utilities Authority (YCUA) and authorizing notice for the issuance of Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) bonds for water main improvements on Michigan Avenue.

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZING NOTICE

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council (the "Governing Body") of the City of Ypsilanti, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan (the "City"), held on the 17th day of March, 2015, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to acquire and construct certain water system improvements, consisting of the replacement of existing water main on Michigan Avenue between Prospect Street and Park Street, including all necessary appurtenances and attachments thereto (the "Project"), to serve the City; and

WHEREAS, a contract (the "Contract") has been prepared between the City and the Ypsilanti Community Utilities

Authority (the "Authority") whereby the Authority will issue its bonds (the "Bonds") on behalf of the City to provide for the financing of costs of the Project; and
WHEREAS, this Governing Body has carefully reviewed the Contract and finds that it provides the best means for accomplishing the Project and for providing the needed services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. **The Contract is hereby approved and the Mayor and the City Clerk of the City are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Contract for and on behalf of the City; provided, however, that Contract shall not become effective until the expiration of forty-five (45) days after the publication of the attached notice as a display advertisement of at least ¼ page in size in the *Ypsilanti Courier*, a newspaper of general circulation within the City, which manner of publication is deemed by the Governing Body to be the most effective manner of informing the taxpayers and electors of the City of the details of the proposed Contract and the rights of referendum thereunder.**

2. **The City Clerk is directed to publish the attached notice in the newspaper above designated as soon as possible after the adoption hereof.**

3. **All resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution be, and the same hereby are repealed.**

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

Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority Director Jeff Castro stated the project consists of replacing 1,100 ft. of an 8 inch water main on Michigan Ave. from Prospect St. to Park St. He said the existing water main was installed in the 1930's and has been experiencing problems in recent years. The total cost of the project is estimated at $390,000 and is eligible for funding through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund which is administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Council Member Murdock stated the intention is to use City Division YCUA funds to make payments however; it does not state that in the contract and asked if that should be mentioned.

Pat McGow, Miller and Canfield, responded the financing through the YCUA is provided full faith and credit through its contract and has the ability to use any funds available to pay it.

Council Member Murdock stated the schedule listed is dated from 2012 to 2013, and asked when the project is expected to be completed.

Mr. Castro responded the Department of Environmental Quality order of approval will be on June 3, 2015.

Mayor Edmonds asked when the work will be completed.

Mr. Castro responded YCUA hopes the work will be completed in 2015.

Council Member Murdock stated MDOT is planning to resurface Michigan Ave. in 2017 which will not coordinate with this project.

Mr. Castro replied correct.

Council Member Murdock stated the MDOT project will consist of Michigan, Huron, Hamilton, and Washtenaw and asked if this will be considered by YCUA.

Mr. Castro answered yes, there is a description of possible water mains and YCUA will be in contact with the City through that process.

Mr. McGow stated the schedule of projects such as these are at the mercy of the State.

Council Member Murdock asked how this will coordinate with the construction that will occur on Prospect St.

City Planner Wessler replied OHM is aware of this project and will be coordinating with YCUA.

Mayor Edmonds asked how long will this project take.

Mr. Castro replied the project could take a month.

Mayor Edmonds asked will this have an effect on the access to Riverside Park, especially during festival season.

Mr. Castro responded the project will consist of directional drilling which will cause less disruption to roads.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if this project will coincide with road construction.

Mr. Castro replied yes.

City Manager Lange stated when construction occurs on streets the water lines are replaced.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-069 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

2. Resolution No. 2015-070, approving Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Southeast Michigan Lighting Coalition for participation in a rate hike case brought by Detroit Edison Company with the Public Service Commission and authorizing payment.

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that: In accordance with Council Resolution 2015-031, dated February 3, 2015, the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Southeast Michigan Street Lighting Coalition is approved and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign for the City of Ypsilanti, and

Further, that the attached invoice for dues for membership in the Coalition in the amount of $2,500 is approved for payment ($2,200 from resolution 2015-031 and $300 from this resolution).

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

Council Member Murdock stated he attended a meeting with coalition members, potential members, and representatives and it appears that the rate increase DTE is asking for is huge and the streetlight conversion is a very small aspect and may be removed.

Mayor Edmonds asked who the members of the coalition are.

Council Member Murdock responded Ann Arbor, Harper Woods, and around 15 to 20 other municipalities. He said he would email the full list to Council.

City Manager stated he is engaged in negotiations with DTE and there is a possibility that Ypsilanti could be grandfathered into the previous cost.

Council Member Murdock added the cost of sodium lights was cut in half because the LEDs may not have been the best decision, but the City made its decision based off available information.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-070 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

3. Resolution No. 2015-071, approving the purchase of one 2015 GMC Sierra 3500 HD 4WD dump truck with front plow attachment.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, a purchase proposal was received from Red Holman Pontiac - GMC, Westland, Michigan for the purchase of a 2015 GMC Sierra 3500HD 4WD Dump Truck with front plow attachment for use in the Department of Public Works- Streets Division for surface maintenance, winter surface maintenance and park maintenance activities for a total amount of $42,436.00; and

WHEREAS, the state purchase price of $42,436.00 is very favorable and in the best interest of the city to purchase this vehicle; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Ypsilanti City Council approves the purchase of one 2015 GMC Sierra 3500HD 4WD dump truck with front plow attachment.

FURTHER, that the $42,436.00 to purchase this vehicle be expended from the $42,000 budgeted in account 641-7-9320-987-10;

THAT the City Manager is authorized to sign the purchase proposal and any change orders, subject to approval by the City Attorney, to complete the purchase of this vehicle.

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

DPS Director Stan Kirton stated it is his intention to sell the current truck while it still has value and purchase a vehicle for future DPS tasks.

Council Member A. Brown asked from what dealership the truck will be purchased.

Mr. Kirton replied the truck will be purchased from Greg Holman a state purchase site.

Council Member A. Brown asked if the truck could be sold locally.

Mr. Kirton replied there is not a local state purchase site available.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is a site in the County that would purchase those types of vehicles.

Mr. Kirton responded the GMC works better for the work that will be performed with the truck and it was not available for purchase locally.

Council Member Murdock asked the status on alternative fuel for the DPS vehicles.

Mr. Kirton responded the City is still waiting Environmental Protection Agency certification for the specific motor for the plow trucks.

Council Member Murdock asked if that would be the LPG motor.

Mr. Kirton replied yes.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification on what the City is waiting for regarding the LPG motors.

Mr. Kirton replied the City recently purchased five vehicles and the City has converted the salt truck to an LPG motor. Mr. Kirton added the City needs certification from the EPA for conversions, or the warranty will not be honored.

Council Member Murdock stated at one time the City was in conversation with Eastern Michigan about converting to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) engines, but that fell through.

Mr. Kirton replied in the early 1990's Eastern Michigan University converted some of their vehicles and there was an issue with the CNG engines. The City and EMU have discussed installing an LPG refueling station in the DPS yard for both the City and the University to use.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-071 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

4. Resolution No. 2015-072, approving alley/street vacation updated fee schedule.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti adopts an annual fee schedule; and

WHEREAS, before Council tonight for second and final reading is a revision of Chapter 94 of the ordinance governing alley vacations and closures and street vacations; and

WHEREAS, staff has taken the opportunity to review the fees associated with the aforementioned actions; and

WHEREAS, staff proposes a $750 nonrefundable application fee for alley closures, with an additional $1000 to be paid into escrow for installation of a barrier, which amount shall be refundable should the closure request not be granted; and,

WHEREAS, staff proposes a $1500 nonrefundable application fee for alley or street vacations; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approves the amendment of the City fee schedule to take effect upon adoption of the revised alley vacation and closure ordinance.

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

City Planner Bonnie Wessler stated as a part of restructuring the alley vacations and street closing ordinances the City examined the cost structure around those items. These fees are based on noting costs as well as structure construction.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the suggested fees would be retroactive.

Ms. Wessler responded no.

Mayor Edmonds asked how the fee schedule would affect the City if it wishes an alley to be vacated, or closed.

Ms. Wessler replied there would be no fees associated as that would essentially be moving money from one pocket to another.

Mayor Edmonds stated there may be an issue if both the City and a private citizen wish to have the same alley vacated and the City should be prepared for that situation.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-072 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

5. Resolution No. 2015-073, approving Speed Control/Hump Policy.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti City Council requested staff develop a policy for managing citizen requests for speed control devices such as speed humps; and

WHEREAS, City Council has reviewed policy recommendations in November 2013, again on April 2014, and in March 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approves the attached speed control policy and process and implement it effective immediately.

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

Council Member Vogt motioned, supported by Council Member A. Brown, to extend the meeting till 11:00 p.m.

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

City Planner Bonnie Wessler stated this resolution is similar to a resolution brought before Council last year which provided engineering standards for traffic calming devices to be reviewed. This resolution would also lower previously established thresholds. She said this would provide citizens a process to have speed humps installed.

Mayor Edmonds asked if funds to be used for traffic calming should be earmarked as a part of the Capital Improvements Budget.

Ms. Wessler stated if there is a trend in which traffic calming requests become more common, staff would recommend Council budget for traffic calming devices.

Council Member A. Brown asked how the 10% increase was determined.

Ms. Wessler responded the police department would deploy a speed monitoring trailer.

Council Member A. Brown asked if that would be the first course of action after a request by a citizen.

Ms. Wessler responded yes.

Council Member Murdock stated he feels a couple of characteristics of the resolution need to be changed. He said in a general sense this resolution revolves around speed humps and it should be more concerned with all traffic calming strategies. Mr. Murdock stated in the future streets should be designed in a way that maintains a 25 mph limit. He said traffic calming could also be included in the City's complete streets program. Mr. Murdock added he would like to remove the requirement that prohibits traffic calming devices on major streets which could benefit from traffic calming mechanisms.

Ms. Wessler replied this policy began with speed humps specifically over time it include more speed controls. Ms. Wessler asked if Council would allow staff to amend the policy to remove speed humps from consideration for major streets.

Council Member Murdock stated it is his intention to broaden the menu of possibilities for traffic calming methods.

Mayor Edmonds asked how major streets differ from local streets.

Ms. Wessler responded there is a specific list mostly determined by Act 51 funding and constitutes a use by the community as a whole and now just to those who live on that street.

Mayor Edmonds stated she interpreted this as a process for a citizen to obtain speed humps as well as other traffic calming tactics. She asked what staff would expect an average timeline to install traffic calming methods.

Ms. Wessler responded the process would take three months for administrative approval, and installation is responsive to both seasonal and budgetary variables.

Mayor Edmonds asked to clarify what temporary non-reoccurring events means, or at least define them further. Also, street trees may also be a solution and the City's tree plan should be examined to prioritize strategies that coincide with the traffic calming tactics.

Ms. Wessler responded that is a possibility however, evidence does not support that trees alone have an effect on speed reduction.

Mayor Edmonds stated that should be clarified further, and asked if there are any suggestions for traffic calming at Ferris and Middle other than a stop sign.

Council Member Murdock added something should be done to reduce speed at Ferris and Middle.

Ms. Wessler stated this policy is designed to address traffic calming methods although it could be amended to include stop signs.

Council Member Murdock motioned, supported by Council Member A. Brown, to postpone Resolution No. 2015-073 until the April 7, 2015 meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the vote on Resolution 2015-073 was postponed.

Mr. Lange stated because traffic control issue have the force of law behind it the matter becomes a legal issue.

6. Resolution No. 2015-074, changing the vote of Council Member Brown on Resolution No. 2015-015, approved January 20, 2015, to amend the City Charter to allow members of City Council to serve on Boards and Commissions when permitted by law.

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

WHEREAS Ypsilanti City Council previously considered and adopted Resolution No. 2015-015 at its meeting on January, 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS this resolution amended the City Charter to allow members of City Council to serve on boards and commissions when permitted by law; and

WHEREAS the Home Rule Cities Act requires that amendments to a City Charter be approved by three-fifths vote of City Council; and

WHEREAS Resolution No. 2015-015 was adopted by a 6-1 vote of City Council; and

WHEREAS Councilmember Anne Brown has requested that her "yes" vote on this resolution be changed to a "no" vote; and

WHEREAS Roberts Rules of Order provide that after the result of a vote is announced, a member my only change their vote "by a unanimous consent of the assembly;" and

WHEREAS Robert Rules of Order further provide that no debate is permitted on such a determination:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Councilmember Anne Brown is permitted to change her "yes" vote on Resolution No. 2015-015 to a "no" vote.

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

Assistant City Attorney Dan Duchene stated there is no debate allowed procedurally if there is any objection to the resolution the motion fails.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there are any points of order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson motioned to be added to this resolution changing her vote to no on Resolution No. 2015-015.

Mr. Barr stated Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson wishes to amend the resolution to include her name. He added the Charter Amendment must be approved by a super majority, and if Resolution No. 2015-074, with amendments, passes Resolution 2015-015 would fail.

Council Member Murdock asked if unanimous consent consisted of Council as a body, or only those in attendance.

Mr. Duchene responded a unanimous decision by those in attendance.

Council Member N. Brown asked the process of her changing her vote to no on Resolution 2015-015.

Council Member Murdock asked can Resolution 2015-015 be changed after the process of implementing it has already begun.

City Clerk McMullan stated she spoke with the Washtenaw County Election Bureau and if this Resolution passes the Charter Amendment would to be legally allowed on the ballot. She said she was advised that it is not possible at this point to remove the item from the ballot unless the City pays for reprograming for all 10 precincts, the cost for the reprinted ballots, and ballots that have already been printed. Ms. McMullan added that the City would not meet the state guideline of having ballots available for distribution by March 21, 2015.

Mr. Barr stated he spoke with the State Election Bureau and explained the situation of a Council Member changing their vote which initially would not alter the resolution, but the proposed amendment would change the effect this resolution would have. He said regarding Council Member Murdock's question he would need to investigate further to understand the legality.

Council Member A. Brown stated her intent to change her vote was not to change the ballot. Ms. Brown stated she had a change of heart in regards to Resolution 2015-015.

Mr. Barr stated without support the amendment to the Resolution fails.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson withdrew her motion to amend the resolution.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-074 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 4 NO: 2 (Murdock, Vogt) ABSENT: 1 (Robb) VOTE: Failed

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated her desire to change her vote was based off conversation she had with Board Members and Commissioners.

Council Member N. Brown added that she wanted to change her vote due to information she had gained after the initial vote.

XIV. LIASON REPORTS –

A. SEMCOG Update – General Assembly will be held next week Thursday, March 26th and will be held at the Detroit Institute of Art.

   Mayor Edmonds stated she attend the Core Services Taskforce meeting which provided information regarding transportation.

B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – The meeting is March 18th, which will focus on making amendments to the TIF plan regarding the MDOT US-23 interchange.

   Mayor Edmonds asked how the Adams St. project will be affected by funding.

   Council Member Murdock responded the WATS funding is frozen pending a transportation bill from the State Legislature.

C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – No Meeting
D. Urban County – No meeting
E. Freight House – Meeting will be held in the upcoming days to finalize bid documents.
F. Parks and Recreation – DIA "Inside Out" exhibit will be installed July 29th the First event will be coordinated with "First Fridays" in August. There may be a bike tour that will begin at Peninsular Park and end in Parkridge. A docent will be present at each site to discuss the art and the Park and Recreation Commission ask that Mayor Edmonds be at the meeting to speak.
G. Millennial Mayors Conference – The first Executive Committee meeting was held last Thursday, March 12. At the meeting roles and responsibilities of members were discussed.
H. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th and stated Council is always invited to attend.
I. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – No meeting

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Vogt

- Stated he, Council Member A. Brown, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson are co-sponsoring an information forum regarding State Proposal 1, the sales tax provision. The event will be held on Monday, March 23rd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Administration Building for Ypsilanti Community Schools. William Anderson from SEMCOG will be facilitating the event. This will be a non-partisan information presentation, which will include a question and answer period. The event is open to everyone, and asked Council to inform all those they think would be interested.

  Council Member A. Brown stated there will also be a representative from the Washtenaw County Road Commission.

- Said he had an inquiry from an individual interested in opening another Medical Marijuana facility, and is curious if the City has licenses available.

  City Planner Bonnie Wessler replied the City does not currently have available licenses.

N. Brown

- Stated she advises an organization at Eastern Michigan University and has been approached by several other organizations about opportunities for students to get involved in beautification projects in Ypsilanti. She asked who would be the contact person in the City for this activity.

  Mayor Edmonds stated there is an "Adopt a Block" program facilitated by the Downtown Development Authority and an "Adopt a Park" program which can be found on the City's website, or the Parks and Recreation Commission. Those interested could email herself or Council Member N. Brown and could be directed to the appropriate agency.

Murdock

- Stated he would like to place a resolution of support for the May Ballot Proposal on the April 7th meeting's agenda.

- Said on the next agenda he would like to place a resolution to complete a survey to determine the right-of-way on Oakwood St. North of Washtenaw.

A Brown

- Said Saturday, March 28th from 1-5:00p.m. the Ypsilanti Senior Center is hosting their Carnival. The cost of admission is $10.

- At a coffee hour sponsored by State Representative David Rutledge on Saturday, March 14th, Eastern Michigan University students asked if City Council could hold a meeting about students transitioning between student life and career. They are interested in information on rental housing and the possibility of adding something on the City's website.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

Nomination:

Zoning Board of Appeals
Eric Seymour (reappointment – alternate previously)
611 Pearl Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Expires: 5/1/2018

- Stated during the next Council Meeting on April 7th, National Mayor's Day, will include time for Recognition of National Service.

- Stated the April First Friday will feature art from local high school students.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked that nails not be used to hang art at City Hall.

  Mayor Edmonds replied the art will be framed and will have permanent locations on walls on the first floor of City Hall.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked that Clerk McMullan be present when the art is installed to provide instruction to minimize damage.

  City Clerk McMullan asked if First Fridays will be the first Friday of every month.

Mayor Edmonds replied yes.

Ms. McMullan suggested the City formulate an art policy.

Mayor Edmonds stated she has spoken with City Attorney Barr and he has shared some ideas with her.

Ms. McMullan stated Council as a body would need to approve such a policy.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked that a Council Committee be appointed to establish an art policy.

City Attorney Barr responded yes, a committee could be formed.

Ms. McMullan stated a policy needs to be in place that will dictate what is allowable art, rather than a single individual.

Council Member A. Brown asked if easels could be used rather than mounting the art to the wall itself.

Mayor Edmonds stated the idea is the art will be displayed the entire month.

Council Member A. Brown asked why an easel would not be sufficient to display art for the month.

Mayor Edmonds said she is not sure if there would be adequate room to display the artwork if easels were used.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson motioned to form a committee composed of one Council Member from each Ward to work with the Clerk to establish an art policy.

Council Member A. Brown asked to amend the motion to include only one Council Member.

Mayor Edmonds stated she is already organizing the First Friday's events.

Ms. McMullan stated City Attorney Barr has information regarding municipality art policy and Council could decide to adopt a policy from that information.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there was support for Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson's motion.

Council Member A. Brown stated her amendment would allow the Clerk and a Council Member to develop the policy.

Ms. McMullan stated she does not mind working with the City Attorney to develop the policy.

Mayor Edmonds stated she has been a part of the process and has spoken with several curators, and would be happy to be a part of the process in developing a policy.

Council Member N. Brown asked if it is possible for Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson to work with the Mayor, Clerk McMullan, and the City Attorney to develop the policy.

Ms. McMullan replied that would be fine.

- Stated she and City Manager Lange have been meeting with representatives from Rutherford Pool who presented their budget and obligation that Council has committed and what of that commitment has not yet been allocated.

  Council Member A. Brown asked if funds they are asking for have not been released.

  Mayor Edmonds responded that is her understanding.

  City Manager Lange stated the City identified funds available but they must be spent on a legitimate project. Mr. Lange said the City has reached a compromise and will follow-up with the pool representation.

  Mayor Edmonds stated there is a question whether or not the funds used to repair the parking lot were a part of the funds allocated to the pool.

  Council Member Murdock asked Mr. Lange to send Council an itemized list of Rutherford Pool's fund allocation.

  Mr. Lange responded yes.

- Stated she is very excited about the Ypsilanti Promise, which is starting to move forward forming an official organizational structure, will be forming the Ypsilanti College Alliance. Mayor Edmonds sees this as a game changer for Ypsilanti Community Schools and the Community. Mayor Edmonds stated she will be inviting the organization to present to Council in a couple of months.

- Stated Eric Seymour is being nominated to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Seymour had previously served on the ZBA as an alternate, and is now being nominated as a full Board Member.

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

- Stated the Border to Border Trail has gone back out for bid.

- Staff is currently working on the next fiscal year's budget.

- Said he will send a report on the DTE solar project in Ypsilanti to Council on March 18th.

- Stated he is also working with DTE on other issues.

- Stated that he loves the reading program staff is taking part in during the month of March.

- Mentioned the City will be super engaged in the coordination of all infrastructures on Water Street.

- Stated the City is working very hard to use minority contractors.

- Stated in two years the police department has not drawn a weapon to fire, even while under fire, which is a tremendous achievement.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked Mr. Lange when he sent that report.

  Mr. Lange responded he did not send a report he is just providing general information.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the New York City Police Department is going through retraining and asked how often Ypsilanti Police are trained.

  Mr. Lange replied he is uncertain, but will follow-up with the Police Department to provide Council with an answer.

- Stated the City was mandated to bid out Attorney Services for the City and stated Assistant to the City Manager Savage had taken the lead in that role.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the City already has that service provided by City Attorney Barr.

  Mr. Lange replied he understands that but the contract is almost expired.

- Stated there will be a press release tomorrow, March 18th that will introduce the new Director of Economic Development Elizabeth Ernat.

  Council Member Murdock asked what will happen with the individual currently contracted to provide economic development for the City.

  Mr. Lange replied there will be a transition period but he was not selected.

  Council Member Murdock asked if the consultant will be in place until April 9th, when Ms. Ernat begins at her position.

  Mr. Lange responded he will be with the City a month after Mr. Ernat begins during the transition period.

  Council Member Murdock asked what the progress is with the other position needing to be filled in the Planning Department.

  Mr. Lange stated that the City hired the Director of Economic Development first before filling the rest of the vacancies in the Department.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the Director of Economic Development will also head the Planning Department.

  Mr. Lange responded the Director of Economic Development will supervise both the Planning Department and the Building Department. The head of the

Planning Department will be the Planner II once hired and Building Manager Frank Daniels heads the Building Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if City Planner Bonnie Wessler is a permeant part-time employee.

Mr. Lange responded Ms. Wessler was the permeant part-time Planner I who was promoted to Interim Planner II, and now is applying for the full-time position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked what will happen to Ms. Wessler's part-time Planner I position.

Mr. Lange responded the part-time Planner I position no longer exists, it is now a full-time position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if Ms. Wessler would have to go through the interview process to maintain her position as Planner I.

Mr. Lange stated there are two positions left to fill the Planner II and Planner I.

Council Member A. Brown motioned, Council Member Vogt supported to extend the meeting until 11:15 p.m.

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

XVII. <u>AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION</u> –

1. Emmanuel Jones, 616 Plainview, stated Mentor Youth will begin a high school intervention program based in Ypsilanti focusing on personal development, academic development, and assisting finding summer jobs. Mentor Youth supports these initiatives through fundraising and on April 11th a bowling tournament at Lodge Lanes will be held from 2-4:30 p.m. Mr. Jones asked if Council and City Manager Lange would be willing to participate in the event which can be done through being on a team, or sponsoring a lane for others to bowl.

XVIII. <u>REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR</u> –

None

XIX. <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> -

- AAATA Financial Operating Reports and Ridership Data for January 2015
- March Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Report
- 2015 Taser Report

XX. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u> -

Resolution No. 2015-075, 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 Murdock
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member A. Brown

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:01 p.m.