



Approved

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
REGULAR/BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 –

Mayor Edmonds introduced the following individuals: Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, General Account II Rheagan Basabica, Former Mayor Cheryl Farmer, Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy, Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack, United Way Executive Director Pam Smith, and United Way Volunteer Services Coordinator Amanda Real.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member Vogt moved, supported by Council Member Nicole Brown to approve the agenda.

City Clerk McMullan stated the resolution to approve Board and Commission appointments should be changed to Resolution No. 2015-103.

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

National Day of Action Proclamation – Mayor Edmonds

Mayor Edmonds awarded a proclamation to the United Way. She stated the United Way has become a central place for non-profits throughout the County for volunteerism.

Red Box Presentation – Police Chief Tony DeGuisti

Police Chief DeGuisti provided a presentation regarding the “Red Box”, a drug collection box located in the lobby of the Police Department. He stated the box was awarded to the department through a grant provided by CVS Pharmacy, and the partnership for drug-free kids. He stated it provides a venue for citizens to dispose of their unwanted medications. He stated the Red Box can be used for illegal substances with no questions asked.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Audrey Jackson, 61 N. Huron, stated an incident took place three weeks ago while in consultation with a client. She stated an individual forced himself into her office, and she asked him to leave several times, and threatened to call the police. She stated the individual refused to leave her office, and told her that she had no business writing down his license plate information because he had the right to smoke marijuana because he is no longer on probation. She stated the individual began to call her a number of racial slurs. She stated she wanted City Council to be aware that these acts still happen in the 21st Century, and should not be taken lightly.
2. Cheryl Farmer, 214 N. Huron, stated Water Street holds the key to tax revenues for future City Councils to budget. She stated the acquisition and assembly took a great deal of effort from many people. She continued that the projects objective was to clear blight from riverfront property for development, and once developed improve the tax base of Ypsilanti. She stated in order to diversify the housing stock in Ypsilanti more market rate housing must be built, and housing more suitable for home ownership. She added that this conclusion was reached by a previous Council more than ten years ago, and recently confirmed by a study performed at the direction of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. She also stated the original Water Streets Flats proposal was zero percent market rate. She stated Water Street Flats is back on the table as Riverwalk Commons, and asked Council what percent of the development is to be market rate. She stated there is little undeveloped land in Ypsilanti, adding that it is imperative that it is at least 80% of Water Street be market rate.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

- Mayor Edmonds stated that it appears Chief DeGiusti has already addressed the concerns of Ms. Jackson, and thanked her for bringing them to the attention of Council. She asked Chief DeGiusti to keep Council informed.
- She attended an Ypsilanti Township meeting to see how they operate public meetings

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked Ms. Jackson the location of 61 N. Huron, to which, Ms. Jackson responded it is next to the Corner Health Center. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson added that she was sorry that happened to her, and that it is indicative of what is resurfacing across the nation.

X. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2015-112, approving the minutes of May 7, 2015.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI

That the Minutes of May 7, 2015 be approved.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Anne Brown

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

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

XI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2015-103, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT, the following individuals be appointed to the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions as indicated below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Anthony Bedogne (reappointment) 717 Stanley Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Planning Commission	5/1/2018
Cheryl Zuellig (reappointment) 702 Collegewood Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Planning Commission	5/1/2018

OFFERED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

City Council Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2015

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the terms of the Planning Commission are staggered, to which, City Clerk McMullan responded in the affirmative.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-103 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

XIV. BUDGET SESSION CONTINUATION -

Marilou Uy, Fiscal Services Director:

- Finance Department Revenues – Page 105
- Finance-General Accounting – Pages 115 & 116
- Assessing – Page 118
- Friends Groups (Senior Center, Nutrition Services & Parkridge Comm. Ctr., PCC Foundation, Recreation-Swimming Pool) – Pages 135 to 137
- Vacation & Sick – Page 137
- MTT and Chargebacks – Page 138
- Transfers and Contributions – Page 138
- General Obligation and Water Sewer Bonds
 - G.O. Bonds – Pages 177-182, 204 & 205, 208 & 209
 - W & S Bonds – Pages 183-186, 200-203, 206-207, 210-223
 - DDA 2004 A Bonds (473) – Pages 204 & 205
- Capital Improvement Fund (414) – Pages 192 to 197
- Economic Development Corporation (415) – Pages 198 & 199
- Public Transit Fund (588) – Pages 227 & 228
- Fire & Police Pension Fund (732) – Pages 238 to 241
- Retirees' Benefits Fund (736) – Pages 242 to 245
- Motorpool Replacement Schedule and Cash flow (641) – Pages 229 to 234
- Wrap up by City Manager Lange

Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy provided a budget presentation. **(See Website)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the millage was .2150 in Fiscal Year 2014-15 mills, and went up .5359 mills in Fiscal Year 2015-16. Ms. Uy replied the millage is .38091.

Council Member Murdock asked if the total millage for police and fire is 4.1 plus 3.3. Ms. Uy replied "yes."

Mayor Edmonds asked if there are opportunities to restructure the police and fire retiree benefits. Ms. Uy stated there are opportunities because only 51% have converted to Medicare. She added some retirees are not yet eligible to receive Medicare.

Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage stated all mandatory retirees have been converted to Medicare. She added everyone else was sent a letter asking if they wanted to convert to Medicare, but it was not successful.

Mayor Edmonds asked what retirees are mandatory, and what retirees are optional. Ms. Savage responded the retirees whose contract states they must have Medicare Parts A, and B. She stated if retirees do not sign up for Medicare parts A and B by the age of 65 there is a penalty. She added the City offered to share in the cost of the penalty, and only one accepted.

Mayor Edmonds asked what incentives are in place for the other 49% of retirees to convert to Medicare and Ms. Savage responded if the City were to pay the entire penalty. She stated City Manager Lange did an analysis of what the City could offer retirees to switch to Medicare without increasing the costs.

Council Member Murdock asked if the coverage is required by the contract. Ms. Savage replied for the 51% coverage is a requirement of the contract.

Council Member Murdock stated the City cannot change the coverage included in the contract for retirees. Ms. Savage responded that this is correct, and the City will continue to capture savings by requiring employees to take Medicare A and B as a part of their retirement contract.

Mayor Edmonds asked what the best practices are to convert retirees to Medicare, or live healthier lives. Ms. Savage responded that she is not aware of any, but staff will perform further research. She added there is clear language in retiree contracts for health plans making it difficult to change plans.

City Clerk Frances McMullan added the City can make changes for active employees. Ms. Savage stated active employees will all be required to take Medicare.

Council Member Murdock stated retirees that are not on Medicare have lower pensions, and might not have the ability to pay the penalty. Ms. Savage responded the City offered to pay the penalty if retirees paid the premium.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the retirees worked for the city, and were promised certain things in their contract. She stated it seems the City is now asking them to give up what was promised. She stated she understands the City needs to save money, but it must be considerate of individuals that worked for the City for 25 to 30 years.

Mayor Edmonds responded she agrees, and stated there are now more creative health plans focusing on wellness, which can reduce cost, and not reduce the level of care. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated this can be done with active employee's retirement benefits.

Ms. Savage stated staff has a list of retirees who did not accept Medicare. She stated retirees that are 65 to 70 have a very low penalty, but the attorney advised the City must ask all retirees not just those whose penalty would be low

Council Member Anne Brown asked if there would be any benefit in sending retirees another communication asking to switch to Medicare Advantage. Ms. Savage responded the other option would be for the City to take a stronger approach to convincing retirees to switch willingly.

Council Member Murdock asked what funds retirement benefits for non-police and fire. Ms. Uy responded those retirement benefits are funded by the General Fund, and Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS) administers the benefits.

Council Member Murdock stated the last actuarial report he saw is from 2008. Ms. Uy responded the actuarial report states the City retirement contribution is more than \$1 million. She stated the City is now using the pay-as-you-go method for retirement benefits.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the improvements in the Motorpool, and need for less maintenance, is a part of why the balance is decreasing. Ms. Uy responded the purchase of equipment is causing the balance to decrease.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is another fund for managing and maintaining equipment. Ms. Uy replied it is in the same fund.

Council Member Murdock stated the Motorpool is an internal service account which operates like a business. He stated every department that uses a vehicle is leasing it from the Motorpool. He stated the internal service account covers maintenance, operation, and insurance, and in addition, there is depreciation, or a replacement cost which is used to be a new vehicle. He stated this budget will decrease the Motorpool Fund from \$4.8 million to \$2.2 million. Ms. Uy responded there is a solution.

Mayor Edmonds asked when the Motorpool Fund will be replenished. Ms. Uy responded that will require a decision from Council.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the insurance will be removed from unused vehicles at the DPS yard. Ms. Uy responded "yes."

Council Member Robb stated there is not a Motorpool line item for each department, and all departments will be funded by the same fund. Ms. Uy responded there is a revenue line item for each department in the Motorpool.

Council Member Murdock asked what the expenses are for each department in the Motorpool. Ms. Uy replied there is a different department number but the account number is the same.

Mayor Edmonds asked the title of the line item. Ms. Uy stated this it is a recommendation, and not in the budget.

Council Member Robb stated if this budget is adopted, the deficit would be \$2 million. Ms. Uy stated if this budget is adopted an additional \$284,000 will need to be set aside.

Council Member Murdock asked that a revised budget be brought to Council that includes this recommendation, and it is time the City goes back to the original standard.

Ms. Uy responded there is not money in the General Fund, and funds cannot come from the Major and Local Street Fund to replenish the Motorpool. She added this fiscal year the Garbage Fund was able to contribute to the Motorpool Fund.

Council Member Murdock stated at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2013-14 the fund balance in the Motorpool was \$4.9 million, and if the budget is adopted as it is now, the Motorpool would be decreased to \$1.1 million at the end of Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Council Member Robb stated Council should have had this information from the beginning of the budget process.

Council Member Vogt asked for the definitions of non-spendable, committed, and unassigned. Ms. Uy responded non-spendable are funds that cannot be spent right away, such inventory, committed funds are funds that require Council approval such as the Water Street debt payment, and unassigned funds are any remaining funds.

Council Member Murdock asked if accumulated vacation time is included in the restricted fund balance. Ms. Uy stated that is under committed. She stated the restricted fund includes items that are allocated to certain projects.

Council Member Vogt stated this data suggests the City will be out of money by 2018.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the balance analysis is based on the submitted budget, and the City Manager assessment is the proposed strategies.

Council Member Robb stated the important thing to remember is the City Manager's plan does not begin until 2017.

Council Member Murdock asked staff to provide Council exactly what the City needs to fund the Motorpool, and include replacement costs. Ms. Uy asked at what level Council would like to maintain in the fund balance. Council Member Murdock responded the fund balance should equal the amount that has been accumulated for the replacement cost of the vehicles. He added if the City continues to use the Motorpool Fund without replenishing it; the City will not have funds to replace vehicles.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if there is a minimum fund balance. Ms. Uy responded that it is 10% of City expenses.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is a policy requiring a minimum fund balance for the Motorpool. Council Member Robb replied "no." Council Member Murdock stated the Motorpool is accounted for differently. Council Member Robb added the Motorpool should be at 100% of replacement cost. Council Member Murdock stated it should be at least at that level, but it should also have an additional 10% for other needed services. Ms. Uy stated staff will provide an analysis to Council.

Mayor Edmonds stated she would like to understand possible amendments, questions, or comments Council might have before First Reading of the budget.

Council Member Murdock stated he has strong concerns about the budget, and is surprised about the reported deficit. He stated it is the highest deficit the City has ever had, and the City has undertaken many changes to provide savings. He stated he is not certain of possible strategies, but he would like to decrease the deficit to \$1.3 million. Ms. Uy added the Water Street debt will increase in 2017. Council Member Murdock responded he was only referring to the current year's debt.

Council Member Robb stated \$600,000 needs to be removed from the proposed budget. Council Member Murdock added there might need to be a larger decrease, but the City might not be able to decrease that from the budget.

Council Member Vogt stated the City needs to maximize revenue from the streetlight assessment. He stated the streetlight assessment needs to be at 100%, and it should be kept simple and fair. He stated at 100%, the streetlight assessment will create \$200,000 in revenue which accounts for a half a year's deficit. He added that the City does not have any other choice, and eventually the City will need to propose tax revenue to pay the Water Street debt. He added that is the only option the City has left short of insolvency. Mayor Edmonds asked if Mr. Vogt was referring to an income tax capture by the City. Council Member Vogt responded an income tax increase will not pass, and it is a non-starter. He stated the tax would need to be a clear-cut Water Street debt millage.

Council Member Murdock responded that a tax proposal might be fantasy.

Council Member Vogt responded there is no way the City can cut \$1.3 million out of the budget on top of the cuts the City has already made. He stated with that in mind, citizens of this City would pass a millage increase for Water Street. Council Member Murdock stated if Council wants to add that proposal to a future ballot it should do it after the first road millage ends, and create a substitute millage. He stated if it is done the current tax rate will not change.

Mayor Edmonds asked when the road millage ends. Ms. Uy responded 2016.

Council Member Murdock stated there will need to be a vote, and it would have to be on a November ballot. Council Member Vogt asked what would be the ballot language. Council Member Murdock responded when the road millage ends replace it with a Water Street debt millage of 2.5 mills. Council Member Vogt asked if that would provide enough funds. Ms. Uy stated 2.5 mills would only provide \$600,000. Council Member Robb stated Mr. Murdock's suggestion would keep taxes neutral.

Council Member Murdock stated he hopes Water Street will create tax revenue in next several years, but the City needs to reserve three years of Water Street debt payments as part of the fund balance. He this will allow time for a development to produce revenue.

Mayor Pro-tem Richardson asked Ms. Uy what the City's fund balance would be if it implanted Mr. Murdock's suggestion. Ms. Uy responded she would provide that information to Council.

Council Member Robb stated the strategy would not be implemented until 2017 tax bill.

Council Member Murdock responded that the \$4 million would become restricted funds allocated for three years of the Water Street debt. Council Member Vogt stated he agrees with Mr. Murdock if the City is able to sell more Water Street property the proposed millage could be lower. He added during his legal career he has mostly worked on bankruptcies, and in those situations, individuals never make necessary cuts, or increase revenues early, and the City should not make that mistake.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated Council needs to do something to decrease the deficit. She stated City officials should collaborate with other municipalities to push the State to increase revenue sharing.

Council Member Anne Brown stated she agrees with Mr. Vogt, and some of what was said by Mr. Murdock. She stated the City has pressing obligations that it needs to prioritize, and asked how to begin the process deciding priority projects. Council Member Robb responded Council could prioritize projects during this meeting.

Council Member Murdock stated capital improvement projects are not included in the General Fund.

Council Member Anne Brown replied City Manager Lange told Council in order to move forward with those projects it would need to increase funding, which would come out of the General Fund.

Council Member Murdock responded Mr. Lange stated funds would not be coming out of the General Fund, but the Capital Improvement. He stated he does not know what the answer is, and stated his best guess is that three years of Water Street debt payments would take all of the unassigned fund balance. He stated that is the reality of the City, and if in Fiscal Year 2016-17 if changes are made that number will decrease.

Council Member Nicole Brown asked how Council decides on what cuts should be made. Council Member Murdock responded Council provides staff with a target number, and staff comes back to Council with several options to reach that number.

Mayor Edmonds stated in her experience, as an executive director of a non-profit, she submits a budget to her board of directors, and she and the board treasurer go through each line item. She stated she is given weighted columns, and asked to come back with recommendations to the board.

Ms. Uy stated three years of Water Street debt payment would require \$4.859 million.

Council Member Murdock stated it would require all unassigned funds be transferred to cover debt payments.

Ms. Uy stated the unassigned funds for Fiscal Year 2014-15 would decrease to \$1.197 million, and for Fiscal Year 2015-16 unassigned funds would decrease to \$960,000. She stated for Fiscal Year 2016-17 unassigned funds would have a deficit of \$334,000.

Council Member Robb stated the budget includes \$100,000 worth of merit and bonuses. He stated there is another \$32,000 included in the budget that staff requested, that should not be included. He stated the Police Department should not hire a 32nd officer, and the 3rd employee in the Planning Department should not be hired. He stated he sees the elimination of the Heritage Bridge and the HAWK crossing as possibilities. He added that Council has been pushing for the proposed Motorpool fund strategy for a long time, and he is thrilled that it has been proposed. He stated 70% of the budget is personnel, and the decision must be made if proposed positions must be filled. He stated last year the City Manager brought forward strategies of savings, and those strategies were not implemented. He stated now Council is being told those strategies will be implemented in 2017, because the City did not produce the revenue that was forecasted. He stated the City needs to make serious cuts, and Mr. Murdock is correct that there needs to be a decrease of \$600,000, and staff needs to provide options to make the necessary cuts.

Council Member Vogt stated he agrees with much of Mr. Robb said, however, if a streetlight assessment is passed it would begin December 15th.

Council Member Robb stated this plan does not state it will work on that in Fiscal Year 2015-2016; it says it will occur in 2017.

Council Member Vogt responded that is this plan, but he is referring to his own plan. Council Member Murdock stating the streetlight assessment could be done more quickly. Council Member Vogt stated the City has already done the planning as a part of the last streetlight assessment. Council Member Murdock responded the plan will need to be developed on how to deliver a fair system.

Council Member Vogt stated that is more of a tweak of the past plan. Council Member Murdock replied it is more than a tweak.

Mayor Edmonds stated she feels there is a consensus from Council to direct the City Manager to bring Council options to lower the deficit. She added the budget should include the proposed Motorpool Fund, and she wants to understand how each line item is related to the goals set by Council.

Council Member Anne Brown asked when staff will be returning to Council with an amended budget. Ms. Uy responded she has a list of the changes that were asked for by Council, but she will need time before she can resubmit the budget.

City Clerk McMullan stated staff expects there will be amendments during the June 2nd Council Meeting.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if Council will have received that before the June 2nd meeting and Ms. Uy responded "yes."

Council Member Robb stated the City needs to cut \$600,000 out of the budget, and he wants to see \$1.2 million worth of options. He added he wants realistic options, and as many as possible. Council Member Murdock responded the issue of cutting \$600,000 may not be realistic. Council Member Robb stated that is the discussion Council needs to have. Mayor Edmonds stated she would like to see amendments well in advance in order to understand what their effect would be on the budget, and the City. Council Member Robb replied if he brings his amendments early they will be sabotaged by the City Manager. Mayor Edmonds stated she would like a chance to look at amendments before the meeting.

Council Member Robb stated the First Reading of the Budget is when amendments are proposed.

Council Member Anne Brown asked Ms. McMullan if it is clear what she would like to see in the terms of the budget. Ms. McMullan responded in the affirmative that Council would like to see options that decrease the deficit by \$600,000.

Council Member Robb stated if a work session is held on May 26th it would be a day after a holiday, and would only allow staff three days to complete Council requests. He asked if it is held on Thursday, May 28th it would afford staff more time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if Thursday, May 28th will allow staff enough time to prepare for the meeting on June 2nd. Council Member Murdock stated it should because it already has been presented. Council Member Robb added at this point staff would only have to remove items.

Ms. McMullan stated she would be on vacation next week. Mayor Edmonds stated she will not be available for either May 26th, or 28th. Assistant to the City Manager Savage stated Mr. Lange is open to any date conducive with Council's schedule.

Mayor Edmonds asked if a meeting needs to be held, or if this information is something that could just be provided to Council before the June 2nd meeting. Council Member Robb responded it will be much easier to have a discussion at a work session than a regular Council Meeting. Ms. McMullan asked what day Council would like to schedule the work session. Council Member Anne Brown responded Thursday, May 28th. Council Member Nicole Brown stated she would not be available. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked who would not be available on Thursday, May 28th. Ms. McMullan stated if only two Council Members are unable to attend there would still be a quorum. Council Member Vogt asked if Wednesday, May 27th, or Saturday, May 30th would work for Council. Ms. Savage suggested Monday, June 1st.

Council Member Robb stated Council could hold a work session during the June 2nd meeting. He stated the amendments would be suggested during the meeting as well as hold First Reading. He added that there could be another work session held between First and Second Reading.

Council Member Murdock stated Council needs to have all the information before June 2nd so the amendments can be made rationally. Council Member Robb stated there are amendments Council members want to make and amendments to reduce the deficit. He said amendments to reduce the deficit can be done during the work session. Mayor Edmonds stated she would be available after Tuesday, June 2nd.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she understands Mayor Edmonds has a busy schedule, but she accepted the job as a Council Member, and the responsibilities that go with it. She stated Mayor Edmonds might need to take a look at some of her commitments, and being available for Council meetings.

Council Member Murdock asked if any public hearings were published for the June 2nd meeting. He asked if City Council could hold its regular meeting on June 9th, and hold a work session on June 2nd. Ms. McMullan replied Council could do that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack if Council could reschedule a meeting. Council Member Murdock responded Council has that authority, but if a public hearing has already been publicized it presents a problem. Ms. McMullan stated a public hearing was already been published for the June 2nd meeting. Council Member Robb stated it can always be republished. Council Member Murdock asked if that is acceptable to Council. Council Member Robb responded "yes."

Ms. McMullan stated Council will hold a work session on June 2nd and a regular meeting, and First Reading of the Budget on June 9th.

Mayor Edmonds asked if it is alright to begin the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on June 2nd, due to Ypsilanti High School graduation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded she would rather begin the meeting at 6:00 p.m. if there is going to be a work session. Council Member Nicole Brown stated she committed to attend the beginning of Ypsilanti High School's graduation. Mayor Edmonds added she made the same commitment. Council Member Murdock asked if 7:00 p.m. would work. Council Member Nicole Brown responded yes.

Council Member Murdock moved, supported by Council Member Anne Brown to reschedule the regular Council Meeting for June 9, 2015, and hold a work session on June 2, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. McMullan stated she believes there is a public hearing scheduled for June 2nd.

Council Member Robb responded the Herman Kittle Planned Unit Development (PUD) is planned for June 2nd. Ms. McMullan replied that is correct. Council Member Robb stated that the PUD can be re-noticed.

Council Member Murdock suggested keeping the PUD on June 2nd, and just make it a regular meeting with a budget work session.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and regular Council meetings will be held on June 2nd and June 9th.

XV. LIASON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update – Next meeting on Friday, May 22nd.
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Next meeting is tomorrow, May 20th.
Council Member Murdock stated the State funding for roads runs out on May 31st.
- C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – No meeting
- D. Urban County – Meeting canceled and next meeting is scheduled in June. Mayor Edmonds stated Urban County is holding training for communities participating in Community Development Block Grants, and Economic Development Director Beth Ernat will be attending on behalf of the City.
- E. Freight House – Stated the Freight House sent out the bid schedule.
- F. Parks and Recreation – Stated there is a vacancy for commissioners in each Ward. Council Member Anne Brown stated she met with the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority who is partnering with the Friends of Carrie Mattingly Tot Lot to perform a clean-up, and park revitalization. She stated a Waterworks Park group was formed, and there were several groups that participated in each park for Ypsi Pride Day. She suggested Council take a look at the progress at each park. She added there will be interns hired for the Department of Public Service to work mostly on the park system.
- G. Millennial Mayors Conference – The meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss charter amendments. Council Member Nicole Brown stated she will not be able to be present, but Erica Mooney will represent Ypsilanti.
- H. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st.
- I. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – Stated the Meeting was Held Monday, May 18th, and was attended by the Director of Homeland Security for Michigan, Colonel

Peter C. Munoz. Council Member Anne Brown stated Director Munoz was invited back to provide a full presentation.

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Vogt

- Asked for an update on a proposal for speed bumps on Douglas St. He stated the request has been pending for six months, and asked that staff move forward with the process.

Richardson

- Stated she toured the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) display, and stated it was a nice display.
- Stated there is a request for speed bumps on Ferris, and asked Council Member Nicole Brown if residents had spoken with her. Council Member Nicole Brown responded she was asked questions by residents. She spoke with Chief DeGiusti and City Manager Lange about the process. She stated from those conversations she was directed to have residents file a petition.

Mayor Edmonds stated she spoke with Economic Development Director Beth Ernat and City Planner Bonnie Wessler about traffic calming, and a policy is coming back for Second Reading on June 2nd. She asked the appropriate steps be posted on how to obtain speed bumps.

- Stated the grass, which was very long, was recently cut at Parkridge Park by a private group, and DPS was asked several times to cut it.

Council Member Anne Brown stated DPS Director Stan Kirton informed her that there is one employee who is performing all the cutting. She stated the grass at Waterworks Park went up to her knees, and the only parks that have been mowed are Candy Cane and Recreation. She added hiring the interns should help to alleviate that burden.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated one individual should be able to cut the grass in each park if they are cutting each day.

Council Member Murdock responded there are areas in the City other than parks that need to be mowed

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Stated she has asked organizations that represent the City to provide Council with a report once a quarter to include any pertinent information to the City. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the City already receives a report from the Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority. Mayor Edmonds replied the City receives a weekly report and what she is requesting is something more formal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked who the City's representative is for the RTA. Council Member Murdock responded that it is Alma Smith.

- She stated she and Clerk McMullan are continuing to create a more current Boards and Commissions list.

Jelani McGadney, 119 College Place, stated he is a Dingell staffer, and resident of Ypsilanti. He stated a federal grant for over \$100,000 has been released to the City of Ypsilanti. He stated he sent an email to Council containing information on the project.

Mayor Edmonds asked where Covia Renewables, a USDA Funding, is located. Mr. McGadney stated he is unaware of the location, and the first time he heard about it was today. Mayor Edmonds asked if they are located somewhere in Ypsilanti. Mr. McGadney replied that this work began with Congressman Dingell, and continued with Congresswoman Dingell. He added he will be providing more detailed information in the future.

Mayor Edmonds noted that an internet search stated the organization is located in Ann Arbor. Mr. McGadney responded from his understanding it will be relocating to Ypsilanti. Mayor Edmonds asked that Mr. McGadney follow-up with the company, and let her know. She added it is a green tech company which would be great for Ypsilanti. Council Member Murdock stated that he thinks they are connected to the University of Michigan.

Council Member Anne Brown stated the Offices of Congresswoman Dingell, Senator Debbie Stabenow, and State Representative David Rutledge all sent letters of support for Ypsilanti to be awarded a SAFER grant.

Mr. McGadney added that is something the Congresswoman's office will continue to do if asked by the City.

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

None

XVII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

XVIII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

Nomination:

Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Rois Saavides (reappointment)

1834 Collegewood

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Exp. 7/7/19

- Stated Mr. Saavides is a reappointment to the DDA, and will be on the June 2nd agenda for formal appointment.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2015-115, adjourning the City Council meeting.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or two (2) members of Council.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.