Approved

CITY OF YPSILANTI
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
Tuesday, June 9, 2015
7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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	(7:12)	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: Economic Development Director Beth Ernat, Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy, Accountant Generalist II Rheagan Basabica, DPS Director Stan Kirton, Planner Bonnie Wessler, Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Tim Colbeck, Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau CEO Debbie Lock-Daniels, and Melissa Milton-Pung and Tony Vanderworp, Washtenaw County Office of Economic Development.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member Anne Brown moved, supported by Council Member Nicole Brown to approve the Agenda.

Council Member Anne Brown moved Resolution No. 2015-127, "Speed Control Policy" before the budget ordinance.

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

- Wayfinding – Debbie Locke-Daniels, Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureau

Debbie Locke-Daniels, CVB CEO, introduced the presentation regarding the Ypsilanti Wayfinding program.

Melissa Milton-Pung and Tony VanDerworp, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development, provided a presentation regarding Wayfinding. **(See Website for presentation)**

Mayor Edmonds asked when will the bidding process begin for sign development.

Ms. Milton-Pung responded around three to four months.

Mayor Edmonds stated there is a local company that would be able to perform that work.

Mr. VanDerworp stated he is hoping to receive City approval and commitment to maintain the signs.

Mayor Edmonds stated Council would need to come back with a formal resolution.

Council Member Anne Brown asked about the color scheme that was chosen for the signs.

Mr. VanDerworp stated it is going to be consistent with both the CVB branding campaign and DOT sign standards.

Ms. Milton-Pung added it is understood that many of the signs will be located in Ypsilanti's Historic District, and the wayfinding project will be respectful of that process.

DPS Director Stan Kirton asked if the City would be responsible to maintain all 32 signs, including those on the state trunk line.

Mr. VanDerworp responded the City would be responsible to maintain the 13 directional signs and the 19 parking signs.

Mr. Kirton asked if the only signs the City would be responsible to maintain are those located within city limits.

Mr. VanDerworp responded it is being recommended that the City to also maintain the signs in the Township.

Mr. Kirton stated there is one employee in the Signs and Signals Department of the DPS, who also maintains the parking meters in the City.

Mr. VanDerworp stated it is understood that it is a great commitment by the City, and that is why the CVB and the Eastern Leaders Group (ELG) have offered to help pay for the wayfinding project.

Mayor Edmonds asked what the logic is for not asking the Township to maintain the signs in the Township, and the City to maintain the signs in the City.

Mr. VanDerworp responded the Township has not been approached at this time, but they may offer to maintain the signs located in the Township.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the City will be asked for a financial commitment.

Mr. VanDerworp replied it is being recommended that the CVG and ELG pay for the development of the signs.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the CVB and the ELG would be paying to have the signs installed.

Mr. VanDerworp replied yes.

Council Member Murdock asked that staff analyze what the maintenance of the signs entails, as a part of the resolution.

Mayor Edmonds stated giving the City the responsibility to maintain all signs, including the ones located in the Township, can create a difficult situation considering liability. She added it does not seem logical that the City be responsible to maintain the signs in the Township.

Ms. Locke-Daniels replied the committee will be presenting to the Township in the near future, and only three signs are located in the Township. She added the Township might be willing to maintain those three signs, or they might not want their three signs.

- DTE Tree-trimming Program – Beth Ernat, Economic Development Director

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat provided a presentation of the DTE Tree Trimming Program. **(See website)**

Mr. Kirton asked if the program includes City trees, or private trees.

Ms. Ernat replied both are included in the program.

Mr. Kirton stated there is an ordinance regarding City trees.

Ms. Ernat replied any tree protected by ordinance will not be removed but trimmed only.

Mr. Kirton stated the ordinance states only the City Manager must approved the removal of any live City tree, and that is also union work.

Ms. Ernat responded if that is the case, DTE will not be removing any City trees.

Mayor Edmonds stated there needs to be full clarity on what the ordinance states before the program begins.

Council Member Nicole Brown asked if this program will include trees in backyards near electrical lines.

Ms. Ernat replied the program will not include trees located in the rear of properties.

Mayor Edmonds asked if trees located in the rear of a property become an issue will they still be removed.

Ms. Ernat responded yes.

City Manager Lange stated before this program is posted to the public it should be clear on what exactly the program entails.

Mayor Edmonds asked how this program would be applied to commercial properties.

Ms. Ernat responded the only information she has is regarding residential trees, and she will need to follow-up with DTE.

Mr. Kirton stated he is fairly certain DTE has undertaken an initial round of tree removal in the City.

Ms. Ernat replied DTE has, but this will be the largest clearing event.

Mayor Edmonds asked how many trees will the City lose, and will it affect its "Tree City" status.

Ms. Ernat responded the amount of trees removed will not affect Ypsilanti's "Tree City" status.

Council Member Murdock stated DTE can be aggressive in its tree removal programs.

Ms. Ernat stated the removal is aggressive because they do not have the resources to perform another round next year.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the same contractor will be implementing the program in the Township at the same time as the City.

Ms. Ernat replied there will be multiple contractors, in multiple communities.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the process residents take if they wish to keep a tree is clear.

Ms. Ernat stated DTE would need to be contacted as soon as possible.

VIII. <u>AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION</u> –

1. Julie Santinga, 459 Douglas, stated she is here tonight to request the installation of speed bumps to protect neighborhood children. She said there have been a lot of issues on Douglas St., including the destruction of a neighbor's mailbox.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

None

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1. Resolution No.2015-127, approving speed control 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, in March 2015, and in June 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 Nicole Brown

City Planner Bonnie Wessler stated the updated policy incorporates the requested amendments from the original policy to include other traffic calming devices in the policy. She stated the policy was developed by examining neighboring communities' policies, and broadening them to include other traffic calming strategies. She stated when traffic calming methods are requested staff examines what type of street the request is for, what control methods are applicable, what the speed limit is, and how many motorists are speeding to decide what speed control devise would be most appropriate. She stated financing methods will also be decided on an individual basis. She stated if there is a clear safety issue Act 51 Funds could be used to install the device, and if the issue is more of a perception of danger a special assessment could be used through the approval of Council.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the Traffic Review Committee is the recommending body.

Ms. Wessler responded yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated in the past when requests were made for speed bumps, residents would be responsible for the cost.

Ms. Wessler responded in some situations that would be very appropriate.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there should be a policy in place that details the responsible party for costs of installation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson replied there should be a policy.

Ms. Wessler stated it would be difficult to make that recommendation at this time due to lack of requests, and the balancing of several variables that would need to be examined.

Council Member Murdock stated he prefers this policy over the original because the original ruled out a lot of streets. He stated it will be difficult for anyone to meet the criterion that is established by this policy. He suggested a pamphlet that lists all offered speed control methods be included in the City's policy.

City Manager Lange stated if residents are able to request speed bumps without a financial commitment the City would be writing a blank check.

Mayor Edmonds asked that an informational packet that describe each traffic calming method and the process of having one installed be prepared for residents.

Council Member Robb stated the policy is backwards when the City is determining if the application meets the requirements. He stated the City should have an assessment of what streets meet the requirements. He stated according to what Mr. Murdock stated no streets would meet the requirements for speed controls. He asked why speed controls would be included in the policy if no city streets meet the requirements.

Ms. Wessler responded many requests for speed controls on Hamilton, and most of Hamilton is not under local control. She stated the speed limit item could actually be removed because there is not a street under local control that is over 45 miles per hour, and traffic counts of less than 15,000 will account for 90% of the streets in the City.

Council Member Murdock stated there might be data alluding to streets like Congress or Cross that exceed the 15,000.

Ms. Wessler stated even at the 15,000 level it is possible that there is a traffic calming method that would be appropriate for that street.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is a communication that could be sent that describes traffic calming projects listed in the capital improvement plan.

Ms. Wessler responded the Capital Improvement Plan has not yet been adopted. She stated as a part of the budget packet OHM has included a Capital Improvement Plan for streets. She said an information packet could be prepared using that data.

Council Member Murdock asked when did OHM complete that plan.

Ms. Wessler responded she has not seen this year's version, and is unaware of the date.

City Manager Lange states staff has been tied up with the budget, but OHM will update this plan.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-127 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

X. <u>ORDINANCES - FIRST READING</u> –

Ordinance No. 1249

1. An ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and major Organizational Unit for FY 2014/15 and FY 2015/16.

A. Resolution No. 2015 – 122, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016", be approved on First Reading.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Anne Brown
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

City Manager Lange provided an update on the budget process.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the contribution from St. Joseph's Hospital for the Heritage Bridge is located in the report.

Mr. Lange responded it is located in the narrative. He added he recently spoke with Ken Dobson from EMU, and he feels very positive that EMU will provide the $25,000 match.

B. Open public hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015 - 123, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the public hearing on an Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for FY 2014/15 and 2015/16 be officially closed.

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

On a voice vote the motion carried.

Council Member Murdock asked what are the decision points for the operational budget.

Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy responded the decision points are listed on page 5 of the narrative.

Council Member Murdock asked if they are included in the budget.

Ms. Uy responded some are included and some are not.

> Council Member Murdock moved to amend the budget to increase the line item for election reimbursement and decrease the line item for contractual services.
>
> Council Member Robb supported the motion.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

> Council Member Robb moved to amend the budget to not award the new hires the 2% pay increase.
>
> Council Member Nicole Brown supported the motion.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Mayor Edmonds asked City Clerk McMullan what would be the impact of removing digitizing records from the budget.

City Clerk McMullan responded it will benefit the City in the future by reducing costs for record storage at iron Mountain. She added when departments were asked what could be cut from the budget this item was realistic, however, in the future digitizing would both help the department internally, and the public would be able to access certain City records.

Council Member Anne Brown asked what the process would be for digitizing.

Ms. McMullan replied she would work with each department go through records to decide what documents are required to be kept in hard copy by the state record retention policy.

Council Member Anne Brown asked what the $10,000 would encompass for digitizing.

Ms. McMullan replied scanning, and other tasks required to digitize records. She added it is a rough estimate, and she is uncertain what each department has that could be digitized.

Council Member Robb stated the cost of digitizing does not come from labor. He asked what would be the estimated cost for removing boxes from Iron Mountain to digitize.

Ms. McMullan replied she has not completed a cost analysis, and the $10,000 is a rough estimate.

Council Member Robb asked how many boxes are currently being stored at Iron Mountain.

Ms. McMullan replied she is uncertain of the exact number, and stated Human Resources is the department responsible for Iron Mountain Storage.

Mayor Edmonds asked if digitizing would be performed internally, or would it be an outside company.

Ms. McMullan stated she has looked into contracting the task, but the City can look how best to maximize its money.

Ms. Uy added the City pays Iron Mountain $13,000 a year for storage.

Council Member Robb stated he likes the idea to digitize City records, but a plan needs to be in place before the funds are budgeted. He added the City needs to develop a policy for how the City creates documents, and how they are stored.

Mayor Edmonds asked if a firm that would provide this service would complete an assessment of the City records, including what is stored at Iron Mountain.

Ms. McMullan replied she is sure that she could get an estimate, but it will take time.

Council Member Robb stated the first thing that would need to be done is find out how many boxes are in storage at Iron Mountain.

City Attorney Barr added when digitizing the most recent records would be digitized first followed by the next most recent, and so on. He stated records would be digitized as far back as $10,000 would cover.

> Council Member Robb moved to amend the budget, and remove digitizing records.

Council Member Vogt supported the motion.

Mayor Edmonds asked how much staff is paying to retrieve boxes from Iron Mountain.

Ms. McMullan stated in her eight years with Ypsilanti she was only needed to retrieve one box, and stated she will follow-up with other departments to see what they spend yearly on box retrieval.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Council Member Murdock asked for an explanation of the line item for the Rutherford Pool. He stated he was under the impression that the pool would be given additional funds in the current budget cycle, and not in future budgets.

Mr. Lange responded he supports increase to the budget because the City did impose on the pool an increase in their minimum wage, and this would assist in their operational costs.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved to add $10,000 to the budget for the Rutherford Pool.

Council Member Vogt supported the motion.

Mayor Edmonds stated she will support this amendment because of the impact the “Friends” groups have on recreation in the City.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Council Member Vogt moved to impose a special assessment for street lights of $400,000.

The motion failed due to lack of support.

Council Member Vogt moved to impose a special assessment for street lights of $300,000.

Council Member Anne Brown supported the motion.

Mr. Lange stated the original assessment was $555,000 for two years, and was around $57 per parcel for each year.

Council Member Murdock stated when Council originally proposed the assessment it was $100 per parcel for both the capital and operational costs. He stated once the capital costs were paid, after two to three years, the amount would decrease to around $60.

Mr. Lange replied yes, and added now that the capital costs have been paid if the assessment was for $200,000 the cost per parcel would be around $40 to $50. He added if the assessment was passed for $300,000 the estimated cost would be $65 per parcel.

Council Member Vogt stated this proposal allows for a round number for the purpose of budgeting. He stated the exact number, exemptions and how exemptions would be decided is up for discussion. He stated exemptions could possibly be decided in terms of distance from the street light. He stated by setting this criteria residents that don't get a benefit would pay less than those that do benefit. He added this is the only area that Council has to increase revenue for the City, and it must be done for the City to be fiscally responsible.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the assessment of $300,000 is approved would the deficit be decreased by $300,000.

Mr. Lange replied yes.

Council Member Vogt stated the assessment would provide the City with more options, and it allows the City the ability to invest more funding into the re-financing of Water Street.

Council Member Robb stated when the original assessment was passed, in order to make it more equitable payments were to be calculated on the basis of lot size. He stated with that metric EMU would have been the largest contributor, but EMU ended up not contributing. He stated there is no fair way to impose this assessment, and if Council votes to do this the City would be challenged in court. He stated the amount of staff time it would take to implement the assessment, considering the other needs the City might have this is a no win situation.

Mayor Edmonds asked City Attorney Barr for the legal ramifications if the assessment was approved.

Mr. Barr replied anyone can sue and it is unclear how this would transpire.

Council Member Murdock stated the appeals process costs $100, and the original assessment was only two years so it made little financial sense. He stated if the assessment were to not have an end it becomes more likely that property owners would litigate.

Mr. Barr stated there could be a challenge.

Council Member Murdock stated he doesn't think the possibility of a lawsuit should detract Council from approving this. He stated the City Manager has stated that one of the issues with Ypsilanti is that the taxes are too high, and a special assessment applies more taxes, and he is not ready to do that.

Mr. Lange agreed with Mr. Robb that there is not a completely equitable way to distribute the assessment. He suggested rather than approving an indefinite assessment, approve a three to four year sunset clause, he added over a four year period that would raise $800,000.

Council Member Murdock stated if Council were to pass an assessment for street lighting it should be for all street lighting in the City. He added this is not the year to pass an assessment, and next year there will be many things Council will need to make a decision, including millage, and that will be the time to possibly add a street light assessment.

Council Member Robb stated approving this assessment will require a lot of thought. He stated when the initial assessment passed it converted street lights to LED at a charge of $57 per parcel for two years. He stated with this proposed amendment property owners would see no improvements, and that is not appropriate.

Mayor Edmonds stated Council Member Robb makes a good point, and if an assessment is passed possibly the funds could be earmarked for infrastructure on Water Street.

Council Member Vogt responded he understands the comments, and the emotion behind not wanting to pass this assessment, but the point is all funds are fungible. He stated what matters is if the City will have a lower deficit or not. He stated if Council does not agree with the amount it can be amended to a lower amount.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she remembers the outcry from residents after the assessment for the LED conversion. She stated the public was not in support of a Water Street millage, and this proposed amendment may be perceived by the public as another way to pay for Water Street.

Council Member Murdock stated the public outcry for the original street light assessment was for the operational cost, and once that was removed the public was more willing to support the conversion. He stated he is not advocating this, but a special assessment could be used to construct the underground electric grid on Water Street. He said that may decrease interest in development because of the increase in taxes.

Mayor Edmonds stated she is in support of tabling this item until Second Reading to allow time to further research.

Council Member Murdock responded that he would like to vote now rather than Second Reading.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

Council Member Nicole Brown	No	Council Member Robb	No
Council Member Murdock	No	Mayor Edmonds	Abstain
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	No	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Anne Brown	No		

VOTE:

YES: 1 NO: 5 (Nicole Brown, Anne Brown, Robb, Murdock, Richardson)
ABSENT: 0 ABSTENSION: 1 (Edmonds) VOTE: Failed

Council Member Murdock stated he has had brief discussions with individuals about designating the fund balance for Water Street debt payments. He stated in the past the City has done this to better reflect the reality of the City financial situation. He stated it takes three years for actual action on Water Street to create tax revenue. He stated the City should keep $3.2 million in reserves to help make those payments. He stated every year this would be reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate.

Council Member Murdock moved to restrict $3,211,428 for Water Street debt payment.

Mr. Lange stated the number he had thought is around $4 million to $4.5 million, so it would be very difficult to attempt 10%. He stated he would not recommend having a restricted fund balance of $4 million.

Council Member Murdock stated in the future when the City is at the bottom level of a fund balance, the City will either need to balance the budget, or use funds it is not prepared to allocate.

Mr. Lange stated $3.211 million is a rational restricted fund balance for the Water Street debt.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

Council Member Nicole Brown	No	Council Member Robb	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	No
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	No	Council Member Vogt	Yes
Council Member Anne Brown	No		

VOTE:

YES: 3 NO: 4 (Nicole Brown, Anne Brown, Edmonds, Richardson) ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Failed

Council Member Robb proposed adding $9,000 to fund #101-7-3720-818-00, Contractual Services, in ordinance enforcement increasing the line item to $64,000. He stated the software to track all action tickets is a built-in module that has many short comings. He stated See. Click. Fix. is a company that offers an amazing program that works with any website and includes a lot of information not included in the current system, such as closure statements. He stated there are about 10 or 12 jurisdictions that use this program in the state of Michigan. He stated the system costs $7,000 a year, and $2,000 for the mobile application for the first year. He stated this is an excellent tool to ensure quality of life in Ypsilanti.

Mayor Edmonds asked if this would be a substitute cost of the current software.

Council Member Robb responded it was part of the development cost of the City's current website which cost $30,000.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there was an annual operating cost.

Council Member Robb responded there is not an annual operating cost, but what we have is a free system that doesn't work.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the City's system would support this software.

Council Member Robb replied yes.

> Council Member Robb moved to amend the budget to add $9,000 to fund #101-7-3720-818-00, Contractual Services, in Ordinance Enforcement, increasing the line item to $64,000.
>
> Council Member Vogt supported the motion.

Mayor Edmonds agreed that the City's current system is a source of frustration, and hurts instead of helps the people of this City.

Council Member Nicole Brown stated she likes the idea of the public being able to post pictures, and the ability to have a conversation about what was done to rectify an issue reported to the Action Ticket Center, and she supports this amendment.

Council Member Murdock asked if the public has the ability to view each entry into the Ticket Center.

Council Member Robb replied yes, the system is very transparent. He added it also helps to prioritize issues because it will track the amount of complaints an issue receives.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there could be an issue with an individual that may be in dispute with a neighbor, and continuously puts in tickets against that neighbor.

Council Member Robb replied closing a ticket is based off of staff's ability to close that ticket, and stated there could be abuse of the system.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the system would require a login.

Council Member Robb stated a login could be created, but the individual could also complain anonymously. He added if an individual wants to submit a ticket anonymously that individual would still be able to get updates on the status of the ticket.

Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage stated the redesign of the website that is currently budgeted for $8,000, and the action ticket center was a focal point for the three quotes for website design. She stated the three companies did not include the transparency that See. Click. Fix.

provides, but the selected design will contain the comments in the report, the design does have the ability to upload pictures, and includes a mobile app.

Mayor Edmonds stated it makes sense that the company contracted to design the website would be best to design the website, and See. Click. Fix. would be best suited to handle the Action Ticket Center.

Ms. Savage responded See. Click. Fix. is an impressive program that provides the Code Enforcement Officer the ability to monitor tickets. She stated the City's current maintenance fees are $2,500 a year for the website.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the contracted website designer would be able to provide the same action ticket functions as See. Click. Fix.

Ms. Savage responded See. Click. Fix. is a more advanced version, but her proposed website is a onetime cost of $8,000.

Council Member Nicole Brown asked if the cost of the action ticket center could be removed from the $8,000 total of the website if Council approves the purchase of the See. Click. Fix. software.

Ms. Savage replied the price is all inclusive.

Council Member Nicole Brown asked if both the website design, and See. Click. Fix. are approved the City's website would include two action ticket centers.

Ms. Savage responded if the City purchases See. Click. Fix. it would use that software. She stated the website design is actually a website refresh which simply transfers the data from the current website to a new page, and fixes issues the current website is having. She added it would not change the cost.

Council Member Robb stated the City's website used to be horrible, and then the City switched to Artemis which improved some functions better, and others worse. He added he is not a big fan of website redesign because ultimately it is the same website.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked what Mr. Robb suggests the City do in place of the website redesign.

Council Member Robb responded he is not making a suggestion. He stated the website proposal has not come to Council, and Council is being told that the redesign is in the budget. He added he is not sure that Council will be given the proposals, and a resolution to approve funding for the redesign.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Mayor Edmonds asked that the proposals for the website redesign come before Council to ensure that the contracted company is an expert in user experience and navigation.

Ms. Savage responded that all three quotes were supplied to Council during the first budget session.

Council Member Robb stated his fear is that too much of fund allocation happens under the $25,000 threshold, and out of the purview of Council. He stated the money has been budgeted to complete the project, but the final decision should be Council's.

Ms. Savage stated she would prefer that the website and the City's branding occur at the same time, and staff could bring a mock homepage to Council.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if Debbie Locke-Daniels will be presenting the branding.

Ms. Savage responded yes, but she is not certain how much branding will be incorporated into the website.

Mayor Edmonds stated there are a lot of components involved in a website redesign.

Ms. Savage responded to perform a website redesign, it would cost much more than $8,000, and what the City has budgeted for is a website refresh; the website will still have the basic structure.

Council Member Vogt stated there were two vehicles budgeted in the Department of Public Services for environmental services a Ford Ranger; and a Ford Escape. He stated he was told that the budget would be amended to a vehicle less expensive than a Ford Escape.

Mr. Lange responded the City could purchase a less expensive vehicle, but it would not be a hybrid. He added it was an environmental issue.

Ms. Ernat stated the building department was able to locate a Ford C-MAX which the Building Department feels will fit its needs, and will test drive the vehicle in the near future. She stated the vehicle gets 45 miles per gallon in-town driving, and is only $200 more than the Focus.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification of the $43,000 for contractual services, account number 101-7-2651-818-00, for energy efficiency conservation.

Ms. Uy responded $43,000 is the amount that was amended during this meeting decreasing the line item to $3,000. She stated the $3,000 is allocated for the LED street light conversion for all City buildings.

Mr. Lange added $40,000 was originally allocated for the Freighthouse but it was already budgeted in another line item. He stated the remaining LED conversions are located at the Fire Station.

Mayor Edmonds asked if any City undertakings that could benefit from additional energy efficiency, and if so Council may not want to decrease that line item.

Mr. Lange responded no, not at this time. He added almost all City lights have been converted to LED.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there are any other renovations such as solar power or insulation that would be a benefit to energy efficiency.

Mr. Lange stated insulation was one of the issues Council had with the fire station roof which required it to be re-bid which increased the cost of that project. He added in order to save money the City needs to address the boiler at City Hall. He stated the Attorney's Office and Firefighter Roe have already been working on solving the problem.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there are funds allocated to replace the boiler.

Mr. Lange responded the boiler does not need to be replaced it is almost brand new, but there is money set aside for the boiler.

Council Member Anne Brown asked why the line-item for operating supplies went up $10,000, and if the $22,000 for a coin counter is an estimate, or an actual amount.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the operating supplies are associated with the new police officers.

Mr. Lange responded the coin counter was originally listed as $32,250, and was reduced to $22,000.

Ms. Uy stated the coin counter is for the police department to count the meter revenue, and she is uncertain if that is an estimate or an actual amount. She added she would have to follow-up with the police department for clarification of those line items.

Council Member Anne Brown moved to extend the meeting until 11:00 p.m.

Council Member Vogt supported the motion.

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

Council Member Murdock moved to approve allocate funds for improvements to Prospect Rd, Adams St., and Freighthouse.

Council Member Robb supported the motion.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

Council Member Murdock moved to postpone the Water Street Electric Grid until agreements can be made with the Eastern Washtenaw County Recreation Center and Riverwalk Commons.

Council Member Vogt asked if the Water Street Electric Grid was included in the budget.

Mr. Lange replied yes, $140,000 has been budgeted.

Council Member Murdock stated it was not included in the budget last week.

Mr. Lange added if Council votes for this it would need to increase the line item by $126,000.

Ms. Uy stated the total would be $124,043, and it would need to be moved from the Capital Improvement Fund into the General Fund.

Council Member Vogt stated he is not clear why the electric grid should be delayed. He asked what would be the benefit.

Council Member Murdock replied if the City waits until agreements are made the City will know what it will be receiving for the grid from the other partners, and how much the City will need to contribute.

Council Member Vogt asked if it was a negotiating tactic.

Council Member Murdock replied no, there are agreements with both entities that need to be amended to include the electric grid. He added he wants to make sure all the pieces are together before the funds are budgeted.

Council Member Anne Brown asked what the timeline for the electric grid is.

Mr. Lange responded the grid will not be installed for around a year. He stated staff has been working with both Herman Kittle and the County Recreation Commission to negotiate for the project.

Council Member Vogt asked if the grid is postponed will it interfere with negotiations.

Ms. Ernat responded if the City does not show its investment then there is little reason for the other entities to show any investment. She stated if City is not willing to commit to the project than no other partner will show any commitment. She stated Herman Kittle cannot commit to a purchase agreement until the Brownfield Plan is completed. She stated DTE will not do this work until there is a commitment from the City.

Council Member Vogt asked if the contributions from the other entities are verbal commitments.

Ms. Ernat replied yes, they are verbal commitments.

Council Member Vogt stated he does not see an advantage to delaying this, and stated the City should move forward with the grid.

Mayor Edmonds asked if after DTE has a full commitment it would take a year to build.

Mr. Lange replied yes.

Ms. Ernat added DTE wants a check in hand, and then a full payment before construction. She stated if the City does not budget funds it has no leverage to spark the project.

> Council Member Vogt moved to increase the line item for the Water Street electric grid by $124,000.
>
> Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson supported the motion.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

> Council Member Vogt moved to not support option two of the budget which would decrease non-motorized by $150,000, and drop the tail extension of the Border to Border Trail.
>
> Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson supported the motion.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the plan was to complete these projects in the future.

Mr. Lange responded $50,000 will be left in the account. He stated the City is stressing the Major Street Fund to provide the match for the Border to Border Trail.

Council Member Murdock stated he is unclear where this will lead. He stated the City should be concentrating on the projects that are most important to the Border to Border Trail to develop the Water Street property. He stated the Grove St. portion of that is minimal and would help connect the trail to Water Street. Mr. Murdock asked what the Border to Border Trail variation B is.

Mr. Lange responded variation B allows the City to connect the trail to the mid-block crossing. He stated that project would be covered by the TAP and DNR grant. He stated the tail of the trail could be added also for minimal cost. He added the problem is the City has a contract out with a 30 day extension to award the bridge and crossing bid, and it must inform the company if they will be awarded the contract or not.

Council Member Murdock stated he does not support the motion the way it is structured.

Council Member Vogt stated his next intention is to move to adopt option 3B with $150,000 cap.

Ms. Ernat stated last week she would have informed Council that the Heritage Bridge is not in the City's scope. However, after talking to the granting agencies and the County she learned that this is a onetime shot to complete all of the projects. She stated the tail option is something the City should pursue, but it does not have to be completed immediately. She encouraged Council to approve variation 3B, which is $150,000 expenditure that will leverage an $8 million project.

Council Member Robb asked if the $150,000 was generic or did it include the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) funds.

Council Member Vogt responded the $150,000 was his number based off of the $124,600 in variation 3B to allow for contingencies.

Mr. Lange stated the $150,000 includes $100,000 from the EDC and $24,600 from Major Streets Fund.

> Council Member Vogt amended his amendment to not support option 2 and add variation 3B.
>
> Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson accepted the amendment.

Council Member Murdock asked if Council adopts that scenario what would it take to add the tail on the trail.

Mr. Lange responded the estimated cost for the mid-block crossing is $290,000 and the trail cost is $483,000 so the total cost is a little less than $800,000. He stated the TAP grant and the $300,000 equal to be $817,000. He stated the tail will be added as an alternate and if the bid covers it would be included, and if it doesn't the tail will be dropped out of the plan. He stated the priority is the mid-block crossing and the trail.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

Council Member Murdock stated $50,000 was left in the Local Street Fund to perform various project.

Mr. Lange responded yes, for traffic calming projects requested through citizen petition.

Council Member Murdock stated the Major Street Fund did not include any additional funding.

Mr. Lange replied no.

Council Member Murdock stated last year Council budgeted $50,000 in the current budget, and an additional $50,000 in the budget that is being proposed for non-motorized transportation projects. He stated since none of the funds were spent he suggested to roll the $50,000 into the Major Street Fund, increasing the line item to $100,000 for non-motorized projects.

> Council Member Murdock moved to allocate $100,000 from the Major Street Fund for non-motorized projects.
>
> Council Member Robb supported the motion.

Council Member Anne Brown asked how non-motorized projects prioritized.

Council Member Murdock stated the projects are listed in the plan, and the Non-Motorized Committee submits projects of priority to Council.

Ms. Ernat added there is not enough official support for non-motorized projects to prioritize. She stated if there are grant opportunities for certain projects, the Non-Motorized Committee will lobby for those projects. She stated all new street designs are complete streets, and will include non-motorized concerns. She said the major issue is with retrofits which the traffic control policy helps to remedy. She stated other priorities are submitted to the City by the Non-Motorized Committee.

Council Member Murdock stated there were three specific bike paths: W. Cross St. from Wallace to Mansfield, E. Forest between Norris and Prospect, and Miles. He stated another concern of the Non-Motorized Committee is sidewalk replacement with focus being at Candy Cane Park and Heffly Park. He stated the funding needs to be available to complete these projects.

Ms. Ernat replied Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds could be used for sidewalk replacement.

Council Member Anne Brown stated she does not see sidewalk replacement as a priority for parks when a stretch of Washtenaw needs sidewalks.

Mayor Edmonds stated the Urban County priority projects allocation focuses on completing sidewalks in Pittsfield Township and Ypsilanti Township on Washtenaw Ave. specifically, and including the City in the next round.

Ms. Ernat added that is a part of the ReImagine Washtenaw Plan, and said she will be able to provide an update next week. She added a mid-block crossing will be installed at Michigan and Cross which is being funded by EMU.

Council Member Murdock stated the sidewalk issues on Washtenaw Ave. at Huron St. is a much larger project than 500 feet of walk.

Ms. Ernat stated much of what is being requested by the Non-Motorized Committee will be provided through the completion of Border to Border Trail Projects.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2015-122 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

Council Member Vogt stated the budget does not reflect any expenditures or revenue related to parks.

Mr. Lange replied the City has been working to complete the tot lots for some time, and they are still in the budget.

Council Member Murdock stated those are not included in the budget.

Council Member Anne Brown responded the Parks and Recreation Commission is discussing creating a public-private partnership to raise funds to perform maintenance and upgrades. She stated hopefully with those partnerships in place the City will avoid finding itself in a situation that it is unable to mow the grass at City parks.

Council Member Murdock stated it was embarrassing to see on Facebook that individuals were cutting the grass on baseball diamonds with their hand mowers. He stated he understands there were issues with equipment but there should have been a contingency plan in place to not allow the City's park system to suffer when there are equipment issues.

Mr. Lange stated as soon as the budget is complete staff will begin formulating a plan to avoid this situation in the future.

Council Member Murdock asked if the City would be funding vehicle depreciation in the Motorpool.

Mr. Lange stated the City is unable to fund vehicle depreciation. He stated if the City does that there would not be a fund balance in the General Fund.

Council Member Murdock stated the Motorpool budget was decreased, and asked if the City will be performing conversions to alternative fuel.

Mr. Lange stated the City did not perform the conversions because of the price of gas, and staff will reanalyze that possibility. He added the City is not big enough to complete the conversion on its own, it will have to be a group effort with neighboring entities, and staff will bring the group suggestions to Council.

Council Member Murdock asked if the list of vehicles the City was set to purchase was reduced.

Mr. Lange responded after some vehicles were purchased staff realized it did not need as much as originally estimated.

Council Member Murdock moved to remove the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Depot Town Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan from the budget until it is approved by Council.

Council Member Vogt supported the motion.

Council Member Anne Brown stated if the budget is adopted would the TIF plan be an amendment to the budget.

City Attorney Barr suggested if Council adopts this budget without the DDA portion, that it be addressed later after the approval of the TIF plan.

Council Member Murdock stated Council could approve the budget at First Reading including the DDA TIF plan and remove it at Second Reading.

Mr. Barr responded correct.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-122 as amended was as follows:

	Council Member Nicole Brown	Absent	Council Member Robb	Yes
	Council Member Murdock	Yes	Mayor Edmonds	Yes
	Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes	Council Member Vogt	Yes
	Council Member Anne Brown	Yes		
VOTE:				

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

Council Member Anne Brown moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

Council Member Vogt supported the motion.

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

Ordinance No. 1250

2. An ordinance entitled, "2015-2016 Tax Levy Ordinance".

A. Resolution No. 2015 – 124, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the proposed ordinance entitled "2015-2016 Tax Levy Ordinance", be approved on First Reading.

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

B. Open public hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015 - 125, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing on the proposed ordinance entitled "2015-2016 Tax Levy Ordinance", be officially closed.

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

On a voice vote the motion carried.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-124 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

XI. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2015-126, approving the minutes of May 19, 2015.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of May 19, 2015 be approved.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Anne Brown

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

XII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

~~1. Resolution No.2015-127, approving speed control policy.~~ **(Moved and heard before the budget ordinance)**

~~2. Resolution No. 2015-128, approving fee schedule.~~ **(Postponed until June 16th).**

Council Member Robb moved to postpone Resolution No. 2015-128, approving the fee schedule until the June 16th Council Meeting.

Council Member Anne Brown supported the motion.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Resolution No. 2015-128 was postponed.

3. Resolution No. 2015-129, authorizing the City Treasurer to levy and assess Special Assessments on the July 2015 tax roll.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That, the City Treasurer be authorized to levy and assess on the July 2015 tax roll the attached listing of unpaid bills totaling $92,627.36

OFFERED BY: Council Member Anne Brown
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

Council Member Murdock stated the Thompson Building is included in the tax roll, and asked how that will affect that property's Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) grant.

Ms. Ernat responded they will commence construction on the Thompson Block on Monday, June 15th, and will be submitting an engineer report that it is safe to perform work on that building.

Council Member Murdock asked if MIOSHA provided a report.

Ms. Ernat responded no, MIOSHA is still completing their investigation, but they have accepted the engineer report that it is safe.

Council Member Robb stated if property taxes are late it loses its OPRA. He stated this is not taxes but it is a fee.

Mr. Barr stated he will review the matter, and report back to Council.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-129 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

4. Resolution No. 2015-130, approving appointment of Ben Harrington to the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority.

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:

NAME	BOARD	TERM EXPIRATION
Ben Harrington (appointment) **811 Washtenaw Ave. #4** **Ypsilanti, MI 48197**	**YDDA**	**7/7/2019**

OFFERED BY: Council Member Anne Brown
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

Council Member Murdock asked who Mr. Harrington is replacing.

Mayor Edmonds replied Mr. Harrington would be filling the vacancy she left when she became Mayor. She added there was a recent resignation that will require another appointment.

Council Member Murdock stated Brienne Wilcock will not be reappointed.

Mayor Edmonds responded Ms. Wilcock is not seeking reappointment, but there are several interested residents to fill the vacancy.

Council Member Robb stated the DDA Board has had issues in the past of not being diverse, and it appears to be facing the same problem. He added the DDA Board should also include a mix of business and non-business owners, and property and non-property owner. He asked that nominations all be made at once in order to create a cohesive and diverse board.

Mayor Edmonds replied she has been working to fill vacancies as they become open, and has been trying to balance skills, diversity, and other classifications when selecting board members. She stated Mr. Harrington is an employee of SPARK, and has a strong connection to EMU.

Council Member Murdock asked if there will be additional appointments during the June 16th meeting.

Mayor Edmonds responded it is a possibility.

Council Member Anne Brown asked how many vacancies are remaining.

Mayor Edmonds responded there are two vacancies now, and another will become vacant in a few weeks.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-130 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nicole Brown) VOTE: Carried

XIV. LIASON REPORTS –

A. SEMCOG Update – General Assembly will be held next week at the Detroit Zoo.
B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Meeting will be held next week. He stated he will be attending the DTE consortium.
C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance - None
D. Urban County - None
E. Freight House - None
F. Parks and Recreation - None
G. Millennial Mayors Conference - None
H. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - None
I. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance - None

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

<u>Robb</u>

- Asked that the Clerk and City Manager submit their accomplishments to Council by the end of the month for distribution of their evaluations.

<u>Richardson</u>

- Stated when Council agreed to participate in the First Friday's event the agreement was based on there being no damage done to the walls in City Hall. She asked that the damages be repaired.

  Mayor Edmonds responded she will work with Clerk McMullan to repair the damages.

  Council Member Anne Brown asked how Council Committees are formed.

  Mr. Barr responded there have not been many Committees formed but Council decides if it wishes to form a special committee.

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

None

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

- Stated staff is moving forward with grants for Council approved projects.
- Staff is moving forward with the sign lease.
- Stated staff is working to close on the Recreation Center.
- Asked Council to schedule a special meeting to discuss the recreation center and for the sign.

XVII. <u>AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION</u> –

None

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

None

XIX. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2015-131, 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 Vogt

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.