APPROVED

CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015
6:00 P.M. – WORK SESSION
7:00 P.M. – REGULAR SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 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. AGENDA APPROVAL –

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

Mayor Edmonds requested Resolution No. 2015-206 be moved from the end of Section XIV to the beginning of Section XIV, Resolution/Motions/Discussions.

Council Member Robb moved, supported by Council Member Vogt to move Resolution No. 2015-206 from the end of Section XIV to the beginning of Section XIV, Resolution/Motions/Discussions.

Council Member Murdock moved, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson to move Resolution No. 2015-206 from Section XIV to the beginning of Section XI, Minutes.

Council Member Robb withdrew his original motion.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the agenda was approved as amended. Council Member Robb opposed the motion.

VI. WORK SESSION: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Capital Improvement Plan

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat, and City Planner Bonnie Wessler, provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). **(See Website).** After there is an approved plan, Mayor Edmonds asked if there is a formal process to make changes. Ms. Ernat responded no, this plan is similar to the Master Plan and is meant to be a guide.

Council Member Murdock added that while Council is expected to provide input into the plan, it was just received it tonight. Ms. Ernat replied the plan needed to be reviewed by the Planning Commission, who met the previous night, before it was brought to Council. She added staff would like feedback on the process; if it is understandable, and if it meets Council's needs. She added if there are no questions, the draft will be brought back to Council for approval.

Council Member Robb stated he does not understand Council's role in the CIP, and asked why Council is not prioritizing projects. He asked why this was not completed during goal setting. Ms. Ernat responded that ideally, this could be accomplished through goal setting. She added that what is developed during goal setting should translate to the CIP; however, some items in the CIP Council does not need to address, such as the fire station roof, or the website. Mr. Robb stated those are items that should be discussed if they are priorities of the department heads. Ms. Ernat agreed, but it should be carried out throughout the year. Mr. Robb stated the CIP should be changed so that Council sets priorities. Ms. Ernat responded she had no objection to that amendment.

Council Member Murdock stated that ultimately, regardless of what the CIP may state, the budget dictates what can be accomplished. Ms. Ernat replied the CIP lists projects that would cost around $3 million combined, which is not feasible. She stated the goal is to recognize projects before emerge.

Mayor Edmonds stated when performing the Capital Improvement Plan, a short narrative would be useful. Ms. Ernat responded that would be included in the project identification form. Mayor Edmonds asked if that will be provided just for the next fiscal year. Ms. Ernat responded that it will be reviewed every year; however, streets and the Motor Pool would be provided separately due to the size of the document.

Mayor Edmonds asked how Ms. Ernat would like Council to provide input to the content of the CIP. Ms. Ernat responded it is not required at this time because this fiscal year has already been budgeted.

City Manager Lange stated there is no use in arguing over what projects get done and in what wards the projects are located. He said the CIP is essential for the City to be deemed redevelopment ready. He added that moving forward, the entire budget will be analyzed very carefully and there will also be a five-year capital plan. He stated the capital plan will determine what the city will be able to afford. He said the plan will be more driven by revenue and priority and his goal is to bring the City to a place that it will not be required to spend a great deal on capital projects.

Council Member Anne Brown stated she appreciates that staff is looking into capital improvements and presenting a tangible plan that can be used by future Councils. She asked as partnerships are developed regarding the parks system will that be included into the CIP. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson thanked Ms. Ernat and staff for preparing the plan and looking to possible projects into the future, and that the City is coming to a place to prepare plans such as this.

Mayor Edmonds requested that background of projects be provided to Council before the finalization of the plan in order to allow Council time to digest what the projects are. Ms. Ernat responded, as Council Member Robb stated, this process will begin with goal setting and continue through the process.

Property Disposition Policy – Economic Development Director Beth Ernat

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat provided an overview on the Property Disposition Policy. **(See Website)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the property owner who gained the property would pay the regular tax rate for the acquired parcel. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated Detroit was pushing this program, and asked if it was successful. Ms. Ernat responded she is uncertain about Detroit, but she can say that this program has been very successful in Saginaw. Council Member Murdock stated Flint also used side-lotting. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Mayor Edmonds stated she has attended many workshops about this topic, and that Lansing, and Ingham County also use side-lotting, where it has been successful, as well as across the country.

Council Member Vogt agreed the program is successful in getting rid of the land, but his concern is what happens in five to fifteen years when that land that might have been developed and now it is a side-lot. Ms. Ernat responded when the land value increases, property owners can make the decision to sell the land. She explained Flint has required property owners to maintain ownership of the land for five years, but recently reduced that to one in order for the land to go through one tax cycle, and thereafter, the land may be sold. She added the goal is for the land to return to the tax roll, with hopes that eventually it will be redeveloped. Mayor Edmonds said a small vacant lot will produce $600-$700 a year. Ms. Ernat agreed.

Council Member Vogt stated if property owners are allowed to split lots, it makes it more difficult to sell, and in turn, makes it more difficult to be redeveloped. Ms. Ernat responded it may impede a future sale, but as a lot increases in size, it increases its value. Mr. Vogt stated this should be considered on an individual basis, and if there are two adjacent vacant lots, they should not be included in this program. Ms. Ernat responded she would not recommend adjacent properties as side lots. Mr. Vogt said he is curious to see how other communities handle side-lotting. Ms. Ernat responded Genesee County considers side-lots as 50 ft. or less, and they do not abut a corner lot or a vacant lot. She added the properties that should be considered for side-lotting should be small enough that they would improve a neighbor's lot size more easily than being sold for development.

Council Member Anne Brown asked how many people this program will impact. Ms. Ernat responded she has maps that illustrate how many properties that will be affected and she will provide those to Council.

Council Member Robb asked that Ms. Ernat create a spreadsheet of all properties this program will involve and include the value of the adjacent properties. He added he has a feeling that many properties that would be affected have home values around $35,000 that and drafting a policy on vacant lots doesn't make sense.

Council Member Murdock stated part of the issue is not collecting taxes, but to stabilize the neighborhood. Mr. Robb agreed, but the argument is why it does not make sense to redevelop these lots, because the upside is so low.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if a neighboring property is not interested in a vacant lot, would it be open to other individuals. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative, adding that part two of this program would be the market push of these properties. She recommended to place an RFP for a residential realtor, and said she has been approached by more than one interested realtor. She explained the realtor would market all City owned properties, and list all properties that are not side-lotted. She said each property would have realtor signs, and additional marketing would be used to sell the properties at the value of the land, and the realtor would receive $500 for each sale.

Mayor Edmonds asked if a chart could be provided for lots that are buildable or unbuildable. Ms. Ernat stated she would not recommend listing a property as unbuildable, and cautioned if a property is listed as unbuildable on any document that is available by FOIA, essentially that property will be viewed as unbuildable. She added most things are buildable, rather by variance, or a zoning change.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if a three-year requirement for a property owner to live at the property would be long enough. Ms. Ernat responded she is open to changing it, but it might be difficult to lock someone to a property for a longer time. Council Member Murdock stated the homestead condition should be maintained forever. Ms. Ernat agreed with Council Member Murdock.

Council Member Vogt stated the realtor should evaluate each property and ensure whether or not it should be sold for a higher price. He added in the listing, and in the contract, it should be explicit that the property owner must maintain the property to all legal standards. Ms. Ernat agreed with Council Member Vogt.

Council Member Murdock asked what the building requirements would be for an empty lot. Ms. Ernat responded that it is at Council's discretion to set a time limit. Mr. Murdock stated if in-fill is the goal, then that should be part of the agreement. Ms. Ernat responded that purpose one is to get the property on the tax roll and purpose two is to create additional livable options. Council Member Murdock stated there have been too many circumstances that the City has sold property to individuals that made promises to build-up property and were unable to keep those promises. Ms. Ernat responded, if that is a goal of Council then the City would make a requirement of 18 months. She added any revenue created by this program would be used to maintain the properties that the City still owns.

Mayor Edmonds stated there has been a push by multiple units of governments for land banks with a renewed discussion of priorities of housing markets, and pushing that strategy. She asked that Council be provided with the average price of lot maintenance. She added that snow removal for City owned properties has not been adequate and needs to be discussed in a working session. She said she would also like to examine leasing land. Ms. Ernat stated leasing land should be the very last option. Mayor Edmonds stated there are some properties in Ward 1 that have gardens on lots and are maintaining the lots, but paying for increased taxes is not something that is feasible for these individuals. Ms. Ernat stated the goal is to provide the property cheap enough so that it only adds around $13 a month to their tax bill. She added if the land were leased, it would cost roughly the same, if not more, as far as insurance is concerned, and the City needs to determine the risk it is willing to take.

Council Member Robb stated the City needs to develop a process for accepting property. Ms. Ernat stated the City can develop a policy to reject properties, but then they will fall into the control of the County, and the County becomes a tax exempt property owner. Mr. Robb stated if we accept the property, the City becomes a tax exempt property owner. He added if the City becomes the owner, the responsibility of maintenance falls to the City. Council Member Murdock stated the County has not historically been responsible for maintaining its properties either. Mr. Robb stated he is not suggesting they are, but if it is Council's goal to not own property, the City needs to not own property. Ms. Ernat stated the City is hitting the mark that it will not be receiving five properties a year, however, there are some properties that have the likelihood of falling into the City's hands. Mayor Edmonds asked how many properties the City can reject. Ms. Ernat responded there is a state statute that would need to be researched by the attorney's office.

Council Member Robb stated the policy should be independent of any single point in time. Ms. Ernat responded her recommendation is to at least maintain ownership of properties for a small amount of time; it would allow the City to choose the disposition of the property. Mr. Robb replied, as the Mayor stated, the City does a terrible job maintaining the properties that it owns. He said if the City is going to own property, staff must get better at maintaining City properties. Ms. Ernat responded the first step to achieving that goal is to have the funding necessary to maintain properties, which can be raised through this program.

Council Member Murdock asked if the realtors understand they will only make $500 per sale. Ms. Ernat responded she has not discussed the specifics, but there was a discussion that this would not be a typical 6% sale. Mr. Robb stated there is a difference between 6% commission and $500. Ms. Ernat responded that commercial property is being proposed at $1,000 per acre. Mr. Robb asked how hard a realtor will work to sell a property for $1,000. Ms. Ernat responded that they would be surprised what municipal contracts motivate. Council Member Robb stated he agrees with Council Member Murdock that the goal is neighborhood stabilization, and if that is the goal, the City should just give the property away. Ms. Ernat responded she also agreed, but it would be useful for the City to create funding to maintain the properties it owns. Mr. Robb stated his concern is staff time that has been contributing to the development of this policy versus what the City will gain, and added it seems like a losing system for the City. Ms. Ernat replied that this is possible, but in her experience, this system has been very successful.

Mayor Edmonds asked for a further assessment of properties, including the assessed value, or the state equalized value (SEV), the current taxes, and a brief description of acreage. Ms. Ernat responded that this could be done, but that it gets into the minutia of sale, and asked if Council wishes to be directing and driving each sale. Mayor Edmonds responded that her goal is to understand the range and make sure the policy being passed is appropriate to the scale. Ms. Ernat responded the first seven listed properties have a true cash value of less than $80,000.

Council Member Murdock stated a standard policy will not be able to be used for commercial properties. He stated that 326 Michigan Ave has a billboard lease which could confuse things. Ms. Ernat responded that while it does confuse things, the property does not have a driveway on Michigan Ave which confuses the process further. She said if the City were to purchase an easement from a neighboring property and add a curb-cut, it increase the value of the property substantially. Mr. Murdock stated the former Boys and Girls Club may cause an issue.   Mr. Murdock stated the property that will be most troublesome is on Railroad St., adding that this property has an easement that runs along the river. He asked if that property will be included in this program. Ms. Ernat responded it is her plan to market that property.

Mr. Lange stated the City has accepted two properties near Parkridge Center. He added that Mr. Barfield purchased the property and donated it to the City. He said the City demolished the property and is maintaining it to some degree, adding that Mr. Barfield would like to purchase another property near Parkridge Center and extend the property. He said he wanted to inform Council of this possibility and that it will be moving forward in the future.

Ms. Ernat asked if Council feels comfortable with side-lotting. Council responded in the affirmative. She stated for the residential market push she will need to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a realtor, and asked if there is interest by Council to list City owned residential properties for a year's time and reevaluate the program at that point. Council responded in the affirmative. Ms. Ernat asked if Council would like to work with a realtor to list City-owned commercial property. She proposed that the City pay for the marketing materials, and supplement encouragement to sell the parcels, and review them individually.

Council Member Robb stated he understands the reasoning to not say a property is unbuildable, but the property at 333 Superior Rd. is about as unbuildable as a property can be. Ms. Ernat stated that property has about an acre out of five that can be developed. Ms. Ernat added there has been some interest in the Farm Bureau property. Mr. Robb asked if those that were interested have any idea of the condition of the property. Ms. Ernat responded two individuals she spoke with absolutely understood; she is not certain that the others did. She stated she is not certain there is a strong lead, but there is relative interest and some interesting ideas for the property. Council Member Murdock added the last individual that showed interest when the property was rezoned had interesting ideas as well.

Ms. Ernat asked if Council feels empowered to hire realtors and put these properties to the private market. Mayor Edmonds responded she is interested in looking into alternatives in more depth, but that does not preclude the first priority, which is to give opportunities to neighbors, homesteaders, etc. Mayor Edmonds stated Washtenaw County is behind the times in vacant lot usage, and she has spoken to many residents who wish to use vacant lots and there is not a clear policy in place.

Ms. Ernat stated she will bring an Ordinance for adoption to Council; the program will last a year for a trial period. She added she will return with tax information and lot size information.

VII. <u>INTRODUCTIONS</u> –

Mayor Edmonds introduced the following individuals: Jeff Castro, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, Marcus McNamara, OHM, Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, and Community Development Director Beth Ernat.

VIII. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u> –

1. Recognition of City of Ypsilanti Park Friends Groups

   Mayor Edmonds welcomed members of the audience that have worked to improve the conditions of the park system in Ypsilanti.

   Council Member Anne Brown thanked all those that support Ypsilanti's park system. She especially thanked Mr. Dotson, from a disc golf organization, for all his work on Ypsi Pride Day.

   Mayor Edmonds stated ten years ago, the City had to cut its Park and Recreation program, yet Ypsilanti is still able to continue its work through resident volunteers. She stated that is one of the things she is most proud about this community.

   Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she conveys to the Michigan Municipal League how Ypsilanti's citizen groups continuously step forward to help the community. Ms. Richardson stated she consistently boasts the Rutherford Pool redevelopment saying the cost was $1,000,000 and only $300,000 was received from a governmental agency, and the rest was raised by the public. She stated she is especially thankful for the work done at Parkridge and thanked Mark Harris for the work he does there. She thanked the Huron Valley Association of Social Workers, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for stepping up and work with the community youth.

Mayor Edmonds recognized the following individuals: Anthony Williams, Linda Horne, Monica Prince, Andrea, Mark Harris, Eric Moore, Giovanti, and Gabe Dotson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson recommended that the City award these individuals with a certificate of appreciation. Mayor Edmonds added that she would like each Council Member to sign the bottom of the certificate.

Mayor Edmonds recognized the Friends of Peninsular Park and the Ypsilanti Running Company, a new downtown business, adopted Frog Island park, and the Little League that is instrumental in the maintenance of the fields.

~~2. Property Disposition Policy – Economic Development Director Beth Ernat~~ **(Moved and heard during Section VI, Working Session)**

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Gabe Dotson, 36502 Dowling St, Livonia, thanked Council for allowing his group to adopt Water Works Park and stated his group is looking to improve both safety and wayfinding in the park. He said his group uses a few websites revolving around disc golf that provide information about public perception of individual courses. This information is forwarded to the group who can add enhancements to the park. He stated Water Works Park is a beautiful piece of property right on the River. He added he hopes that this partnership continues into the future.

2. Dave Heikkinen, 133 W. Michigan Ave business owner, stated on Wednesday, September 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. a vigil will be held for the 84 public servants, including 25 police officers who died by gunshot. He added that 58 firefighters have died this year, and the two reporters who were recently murdered. He invited Council to attend and if Council would like to say a few words they are more than welcome. He stated a lot has not been said about these deaths by government officials, and something should be done.

X. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

- Thanked all those who spoke.

- Asked Mr. Dotson to connect with Linda Horne the chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, to help connect him through the appropriate channels.

XI. MINUTES –

Resolution No. 2015-197, approving minutes of August 18, 2015.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of August 18, 2015 be approved.

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

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

1. Resolution No. 2015-206, approving engineering services contract with OHM for design and review services for fiscal year 2015-2016.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti desires OHM Engineering to provide multiple engineering design and review services over and beyond the current site plan review services provided; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti desires to enter into a contract for engineering services for multiple projects within the current budget year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti desires to have Its Mayor and City Clerk enter in to a contract with OHM Engineering in an amount not to exceed $150,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council directs the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an engineering services contract with OHM Engineering for design and review services for fiscal year 2015/2016 and is subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat stated there are projects that require engineering services, and the City does not employee a staff engineer. However, after 25 years of OHM working with the City she feels they is the staff engineer. She stated this resolution would authorize the City to create a personal service contract with OHM that would not exceed a certain amount.

Council Member Robb stated change orders are not brought to Council; resolutions state the City Manager has the authority to sign change orders, which Ms. Ernat clarified is up to $25,000. Mr. Robb stated Council's inability to approve a project in a timely fashion has never negatively affected a project. City Manager responded there were numerous times OHM would work on a design for a project that was waiting for Council approval. Council Member Robb asked if OHM performs work without a contract. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative. Mr. Robb stated OHM is not allowed to perform work without a contract. Mr. Lange replied OHM does so at their risk. Mr. Robb stated that the resolution should be denied. If OHM is creating designs without a contract at their risk, then there is no consequence to the City. Mr. Robb asked if OHM requested this contract. Ms. Ernat responded that they did not - that she is requesting this contract.

Council Member Robb asked if a resolution can change an ordinance. City Attorney John Barr responded it depends on the resolution, and Council can contract by resolution. Mr. Robb stated the issue is, if all the projects listed will be billed to a separate account number it circumvents the ordinance requiring Council approval for all projects over $25,000. Mr. Barr responded that this is not necessarily true. This contract would be for the purchase of professional services, which is a common way the City handles professional services. Mayor Edmonds added both planning and legal services are handled in the same manner. Mr. Barr replied in the affirmative. Mr. Robb stated the attorney contract was approved by Council, and Council approves each contract over $25,000. Ms. Ernat responded projects will be billed the same as in the past, and essentially this will function in the same manner.

Mayor Pro-Rem Richardson stated this resolution sounds like something Council should have done a long time ago.

Mr. Lange stated sub-contracts for projects were making it difficult to coordinate; this will help to make the process smoother. He stated he appreciates engineers that provide good engineering, but also add insight on how to improve certain projects, and he finds that with OHM.

Council Member Murdock stated that in the past, the City had a contract with OHM similar to the attorney's. He said he is not certain when the City stopped following that practice. Ms. Ernat added that when the budget was decreased, contract was eliminated. Ms. Ernat said having a professional services contract provides the City latitude by not having to spell out everything in a contract. She stated she does not believe this contract will create abuse, and other than the attorney's office, OHM has the longest institutional memory in the City. Ms. Ernat stated when other engineers are used, it creates complications and this will be the most beneficial moving forward. Mayor Edmonds agreed and a single contract will help streamline the process as much as possible to future developers.

Ms. Ernat stated this will not change the site plan review policy.

Mr. Barr asked that "subject to the approval of the City Attorney" be added at the end of the resolution.

Council Member Anne Brown thanked Ms. Ernat for preparing this resolution, and bringing it to Council. She thinks this is a great idea.

Council Member Murdock stated if, when the road plan is developed, will there be another contract. Ms. Ernat responded in the negative. Mr. Murdock stated the City usually has a contract with OHM for construction of "X" street, and this will eliminate that practice. Ms. Ernat responded as long as the streets are listed in what will be presented to Council, it will not require additional approval. However, if there is a major project it will come before Council. Mr. Murdock stated if a series of streets are listed for repair in a similar situation as last year Council will have no input. Ms. Ernat replied that is not what she is saying. Mr. Lange added those projects will need to go out for bid, this contract will only cover the designs.

Marcus McNamara, OHM, stated basically what Ms. Ernat is asking is a procedural change and OHM will continue to function in the same manner. He said if this is approved staff will decide what projects to fund through this contract, and what projects will come before Council. He added the only function that will change is OHM will not be back before Council for each project.

Mayor Edmonds stated she does not see this as OHM and staff making decisions without the consent of Council. She sees this as a contract being in place when Council decides to move forward with projects that require engineering. Mr. Robb stated if Council does not approve a project how would staff know how to move forward. Ms. Ernat responded these are all projects that have been approved within the budget, or specific items staff has worked on with Council, so nothing is subverting Council.

Mayor Edmonds asked that staff provide a monthly report along with the Council Information Letter. Ms. Ernat responded she would be happy to provide that to Council.

Mr. Robb asked what the checks and balances are to avoid staff selecting projects. Mr. McNamara responded a work session would provide staff direction on what projects are important to Council. Mr. Robb stated his concern is if the process is being streamlined by removing Council from the process. Ms. Ernat responded Council is only being removed from the process of the contract. Mr. Robb stated the contract is what keeps the integrity of the process, and asked what is to stop staff from changing projects Council has set. Ms. Ernat stated that is a public process that will be decided during a Council Meeting. She stated staff is seeking a professional service contract. Mr. Robb stated Council did not pass a resolution approving the construction of Prospect. Ms. Ernat responded that is between the City Manager and Council. Mr. Robb stated he is being told there is a public process but there are no checks and balances in place for this scenario.

Mayor Edmonds stated during the budget process Council approves capital projects.

Ms. Ernat stated the only thing she is asking for is to use OHM for engineering design services. Mr. Robb stated in this scenario, Council does not approve contracts anymore. Ms. Ernat stated this is only a contract for engineering design on projects. Mr. Robb stated this is an omnibus contract that has no specific projects attached to it. Ms. Ernat responded typically a municipality employs an engineer, and since Ypsilanti doesn't, and staff is asking to create that arm through this contract.

Council Member Murdock stated he would feel a lot more comfortable if the contract was provided to Council. Ms. Ernat responded she would not prepare a contract if she feels it is controversial. Mr. Murdock stated as he said before, the City used to contract with OHM. Mr. McNamara stated OHM has a continuing service agreement with the City that sets hourly rates, and this contract would be more internal to the City. Mr. McNamara stated he is indifferent to the passage of this resolution because OHM will still provide the same service.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated this seems as if it is similar to the contract with the attorney's office.

Council Member Anne Brown called to question, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson.

On a roll call, the vote to Call to Question was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-206 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 2 (Robb, Murdock) ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

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

Ordinance No. 1256

1. An ordinance to amend Ypsilanti City Code Chapter 102 "Traffic and Vehicles," Article III "Stopping, Standing and Parking, "Division 2, By Amending Division 2 To Be Titled "Parking Violations Bureau and Enforcement," and to Amend Division 2 To Create A Parking Violations Bureau, to set forth Rules and Procedures for the Parking Violations Bureau, and to have Fees set by Resolution of City Council.

   A. Resolution No. 2015-198, determination

   RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

   That an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND YPSILANTI CITY CODE CHAPTER 102 "TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES," ARTICLE III "STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING, "DIVISION 2, BY AMENDING

DIVISION 2 TO BE TITLED "PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU AND ENFORCEMENT," AND TO AMEND DIVISION 2 TO CREATE A PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, TO SET FORTH RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, AND TO HAVE FEES SET BY RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL" be approved on first reading.

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

City Manager Lange stated this ordinance is the product of the task force headed by City Clerk McMullan and assembled for parking enforcement. He asked that this be approved on First Reading and any comments or questions will be answered before the Second Reading.

Mayor Edmonds asked what the difference is between the original ordinance and the replacement provided. City Attorney John Barr responded it is the same except the second includes fines and fees. Mr. Barr stated in order to house a parking bureau in the City, the Ordinance needed to be amended.

Council Member Murdock asked how the City has been collecting parking revenue. Mr. Barr replied at one time, the City hired a firm for collection and currently the court has been collecting parking revenue. Mr. Barr stated this will allow the City to form its own parking bureau maintaining revenue collected for the City. Mr. Murdock stated that is what was done years ago. Mr. Barr replied he is not certain the parking enforcement was handled in this manner. Mr. Barr said at one time, the Treasury collected parking revenues, however, there was not a legal framework. Mr. Barr stated an outside company was hired to act as a collection agency. Mr. Lange added that was Duncan Solutions which worked will until recently when parking enforcement went to the court system.

Mr. Lange stated collections will be handled on a sliding scale, for which, staff will be providing details to Council. Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification on the sliding scale. Mr. Lange responded Duncan Solutions would take a flat 40% of the revenue and the new system has a sliding scale based on the amount of time the ticket is outstanding. Mr. Lange stated this will increase the revenue stream from parking enforcement without needing to write more tickets.

B. Open Public Hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015-199, close public hearing.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing on AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND YPSILANTI CITY CODE CHAPTER 102 "TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES," ARTICLE III "STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING, "DIVISION 2, BY AMENDING DIVISION 2 TO BE TITLED "PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU AND ENFORCEMENT," AND TO AMEND DIVISION 2 TO CREATE A PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, TO SET FORTH RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, AND TO HAVE FEES SET BY RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL be officially closed.

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

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

Council Member Robb stated Section D of the ordinance states a citation may be filed with the district court, and asked for clarification of that statement. Mr. Barr responded the Parking Bureau does not have the same powers as the court and if it is not settled by the bureau, it may go to district court for final disposition. Mr. Robb stated when the City was using Duncan Solution, tickets never went to the court. Mr. Barr stated the proposed ordinance follows the Ann Arbor model that has a magistrate, and kept everything in-house, and if a remedy could not be handled in-house, it was sent to the court. Mr. Robb asked when a ticket would not be able to be handled in house. Mr. Barr responded the magistrate does not have some of the powers held by the court, and if the magistrate's decision is not accepted, it would go to district court. Mayor Edmonds asked for an example of a case that is sent to the court. Mr. Barr responded if a person parks in a handicapped zone and receives a ticket and they contest that ticket, the Parking Bureau would have the ability to adjudicate that decision. If the bureau finds the individual at fault and the individual was not satisfied with the judgment, they would have the ability to take it to district court.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the City would be required to hire a new staff person. Mr. Barr replied he does not believe so.

Council Member Murdock stated if they want to contest the ticket in court, they have that ability. Mr. Barr stated if this system is implemented, the person would pay the ticket and contest it at the City. Mr. Murdock stated ultimately, if the individual wanted to contest the ticket, they would need to go to court. Mr. Barr responded that would be if they don't agree with the magistrate's decision. Mr. Murdock stated once this process is established, an individual will need to be appointed to act as magistrate for the Parking Bureau. Mr. Barr stated the City does not need to have a magistrate, but a body that will make these decisions.

Council Member Anne Brown asked what the process is for requesting relief. Mr. Barr stated new rules regarding tickets allow a person who does not admit guilt, but is willing to pay it if there is relief granted.

Mayor Edmonds stated a situation that would warrant the Parking Bureau ruling in the favor of the individual would be if they parked in a handicapped spot but was unaware due to snow coverage.

Council Member Robb asked if a person could ask for financial relief. Mr. Barr replied in the affirmative. Mr. Robb asked if it is state law to include that clause in the ordinance. Mr. Barr responded he would follow-up with Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack. Mr. Robb stated he does not like creating a policy that people can ask for financial relief.

Council Member Anne Brown asked what Council Member Robb's concern is regarding request for relief. Mr. Robb stated when you drive a car there are certain responsibilities you accept, and one is that you will park legally, and when you add a clause that allows people to request relief, everyone will make that request. Council Member Murdock stated if an individual wished to contest the ticket in court they could request the judge grant them hardship relief. Mr. Robb responded yes, but that is up to the court rather than the City.

Council Member Robb stated when this was first presented to Council, it said all parking enforcement was to be handled in house, and this ordinance mentions the district court. Mr. Barr stated the City will not send anything to district court, but an individual might. Mr. Robb stated that the individual has the ability to contest the ticket. Mr. Robb stated hypothetically if he has six outstanding tickets the city can request the secretary of state not to renew his plates. Mr. Robb stated when Duncan Solutions was handling collections, the City was unable to follow that practice, and under this system, the City will know what tickets were paid. He asked if there needs to be language in the ordinance that includes that clause. Mr. Barr responded that is under state law, and would not be required.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-198 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

XIII. <u>CONSENT AGENDA</u> – Resolution No. 2015-200

1. Resolution No. 2015-203, approving Ordinance No. 1253, an ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 to decrease the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer service bills within the City of Ypsilanti by adding a surcharge of 63% (a 2% decrease) to each water and sewage bill for billings to be deposited in a restricted debt retirement and capital improvements fund. ***(Second Reading)***

   RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

   THAT Ordinance No. 1253, to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 to decrease the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer service bills within the City of Ypsilanti by adding a surcharge of 63% (a 2% decrease) to each water and sewage bill for billings to be deposited in a restricted debt retirement and capital improvements fund, be approved on Second and Final Reading.

2. Resolution No. 2015-204, approving Ordinance No. 1254, an ordinance to rezone 908 N. Congress from Core Neighborhood Mid to Adaptive Reuse Planned Unit Development. *(Little Bird Café)* ***(Second Reading)***

   RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

   THAT an Ordinance to rezone 908 N. Congress from Core Neighborhood Mid to Adaptive Reuse Planned Unit Development be approved on Second and Final Reading.

3. Resolution No. 2015-205, approving Ordinance No. 1255, an ordinance to rezone several properties along Towner Road from Neighborhood Corridor (NC) to Health and Human Services (HHS). ***(Second Reading)***

   RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

   THAT an Ordinance to rezone several properties along Towner Road from Neighborhood Corridor (NC) to Health and Human Services (HHS) be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-200 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. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS -

1. Resolution No. 2015-201, approving Ordinance No. 1251, an ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase water rates by 8% within the City of Ypsilanti. ***(Second Reading)***

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That Ordinance 1251, to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase water rates within the City of Ypsilanti, be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-201 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

2. Resolution No. 2015-202, approving Ordinance No. 1252, an ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-455(a) of the Code of Ordinances to increase sewage disposal service rates by 4% within the City of Ypsilanti. ***(Second Reading)***

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT Ordinance No. 1252, to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-455(a) of the Code of Ordinances to increase sewage disposal service rates by 4% within the City of Ypsilanti, be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-202 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

3. ~~Resolution No. 2015-206, approving engineering services contract with OHM for design and review services for fiscal year 2015-2016.~~ **(Moved and Heard before Section XI., Minutes)**

XV. <u>LIASON REPORTS</u> –

A. SEMCOG Update – Nothing to report
B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Nothing to report
C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance – No meeting
D. Urban County – Mayor Edmonds stated during the last meeting there was discussion regarding Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements. She stated small market housing vouchers were discussed that would allow for examination of smaller markets. Received an update from Washtenaw Zero project, which is the OCED effort to end chronic and veteran homelessness by 2016. She added in 2017, the concentration will fall on youth and family homelessness. She stated the strategy is for those involved with housing to meet and coordinate their efforts, which has been effective.

   Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the discussion included the County's blueprint to end homelessness. Mayor Edmonds responded the County's blueprint has not been discussed, and said that she will bring that up during the next meeting. Ms. Richardson stated at the County Blueprint was supposed to be a five year plan, but not much has been mentioned about it since Bob Guenzel left. Mayor Edmonds stated she believes that initiative began the Washtenaw Area Housing Coalition. Mayor Edmonds asked Council if it would like a brief presentation on the topic. Council responded in the affirmative.

E. Freight House – Nothing to report

   Council Member Anne Brown stated she received a call from a contractor who informed her that a fee is required to access the online designs for the project. City Planner Bonnie Wessler responded the Planning Department puts its plans on E-Arc Document Solutions, and stated she is uncertain how the public accesses those documents. Ms. Wessler added staff will provide those documents to the public upon request. Ms. Anne Brown asked if contractors need to see Ms. Wessler for bid documents. Ms. Wessler responded the bid is closed and has been for some time.

   Ms. Ernat added staff has sent out a round of questions to all bidders regarding low income and minority subcontractors, and staff is awaiting response from the bidding companies. Ms. Ernat added she plans to present a bid for approval during the September 15th Council Meeting.

F. Parks and Recreation – Stated the meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8th. Council Member Anne Brown stated during the last meeting she informed Council that the Huron River Watershed Council was awarded a grant for Peninsular Park. Ms. Anne Brown stated the Council will meet with the Park and Recreation Commission to discuss concept designs in terms of landscape, signage, and small repairs.

G. Millennial Mayors Conference – Stated a celebration was held to commemorate the ending of the Millennial Mayors Conference, and the beginning of the MMC 2.0. Ms. Nicole Brown said she is uncertain of the actual launch of the MMC 2.0 because the details are yet to be solidified.

   Mayor Edmonds asked if that will be a part of the Metro Matters transition. Ms. Nicole Brown responded in the affirmative.

H. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – No meetings held in August.
I. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – No meeting held.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there was an update regarding the DTE Taskforce. Council Member Vogt responded nothing has occurred recently. Mr. Vogt stated during his last report he informed Council a brief was submitted, and pending decision on that, they are trying to reach an agreement on a resolution. Mr. Vogt stated the resolution is not proceeding as quickly as he had hoped.

Council Member Murdock stated the Public Service Commission is still trying to remove the public streets from the larger package, but it has not yet been successful. Mr. Murdock added sometime in October, the Public Service Commission should provide a report.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the City's lobbyist should be involved in negotiations. Council Member Vogt replied the commission is already lobbying for the City and other members of the coalition. Council Member Murdock stated the City's lobbyist also represents DTE, however, he was informed by the lobbyist that the DTE issue is something that the City would want to be represented by an individual with technical expertise.

XVI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Richardson

- Stated she received complaints regarding the road closure of Washington St. for the farmer's market. She stated some of the businesses are being hindered by the street closing, particularly the Beer Cooler. She said the Beer Cooler complained that there is a hot dog and BBQ vendor which are products they sell and it is affecting their business, and that they should be allowed to sell their products outside. She asked if it would be possible to move the stands on Washington into the property.

  Mayor Edmonds stated the parking lot is totally full, and the stands operating on the street would not be able to be moved.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated years ago, the farmer's market operated in the South Huron parking lot, and the businesses in the area need to be considered. Mayor Edmonds stated the market speaks with the business owners before and during the market and their feeling of the market changes week to week.

- Stated there is a vacant lot next to the Community Church of God on Jefferson St. and the Church has been fined for yard waste, and asked if that had been taken care of.

  Mr. Lange responded he will follow-up to check how that was progressing.

- Asked Council to mark their calendar for November 15, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Washtenaw Regional Organizational Coalition (WROC) will be having their second annual community meeting. She said WROC is an organization that selects issues it can have an effect on, one recent issue is "Ban the Box" to remove the felony check box off of applications. She said another issue was in response to the Ann Arbor Public School System trying to charge $100 for seventh hour classes. She said the coalition also took on the University of Michigan bus system that was habitually late and causing Ypsilanti citizens to miss health appointments. She said this year, the issues WROC will be facing is approaching the Lincoln School District to form a similar program to the Ypsilanti Community Schools Restorative Justice Program, regional transportation, and the school to prison pipeline.

Murdock

- Stated the detour signs at Cross and Grove have not been removed.

- Stated during the Urban Core meeting for transportation, Michael Folik, Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), there was a discussion of the train stop in Depot Town. He added there was also a discussion about the Michigan Ave. corridor and how those communities should be approached to speak about the train. He added several meetings have been scheduled from communities on the Michigan Ave. corridor Detroit to Ypsilanti.

Robb

- Asked for an update on the Quatro property.

  Mr. Lange responded he has spoken with the Ordinance Enforcement Officer and the Building Department Manager, and was informed that a discussion was held with the property owner who said the issue would be fixed. Mr. Lange added the problem was never solved and the owner was cited.

- Asked that all department heads go through the fee schedule and make a note of what fees are being collected and what fees are not being collected.

- Asked for an update on the See. Click. Fix software.

  Assistant to the City Manager, Ericka Savage, responded her first meeting will be Thursday, September 3rd. Ms. Savage stated the contract began on September 1, 2015. Mr. Robb asked if the system is operational. Ms. Savage responded that it was not. Mr. Robb asked if the City has already paid the company. Ms. Savage responded we had until September 1st. Mr. Robb stated it is now September 1st, so the City is starting to pay the contract. Ms. Savage replied that is correct and the first meeting will be held September 3rd. Mayor Edmonds asked when the estimated time of implementation of the software is. Ms. Savage replied she does not feel that it should take long to implement because there is already a system in place - it simply needs to be transferred. Mayor Edmonds requested an update after Ms. Savages meeting.

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Carlos Franklin, owner of the Black Stone Cultural Center in the downtown, and his wife, are holding an event entitled "Fight for your Life" on October 10th to support SafeHouse.

- Stated Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Stumbo asked for an update about the former Idle Hour Pub and Big Boy, which came up during a neighborhood watch meeting.

  Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked Mayor Edmonds to ask Supervisor Stumbo about the vacant gas station on Hewitt and Washtenaw. Council Member Robb listed the Burger King on East Michigan Ave, and said there are many other vacant buildings in the Township. Council Member Anne Brown asked about the tanks that would be in the ground at the gas station. Mayor Edmonds responded she will follow-up with Supervisor Stumbo regarding those properties, adding to feel free to send other items for her to discuss with Supervisor Stumbo.

- Stated at the Housing Equity workgroup, the idea of examining other vacant commercial property ordinances arose. She said the Township is now looking into a Commercial Industrial Ordinance, and that may be the way they are going to begin addressing vacant property. She stated she would like to look into these ordinances to see what tools they are using and if they could be applied in the City. She added it might be useful to have a small group of staff to compare and contrast what each community is doing.

  Council Member Murdock stated the Township's vacant building ordinance is based on the City's. Mayor Edmonds responded the Township has updated that ordinance. Mr. Murdock stated there are some things the Township does that the City should examine, and possibly other strategies.

- Stated the Convention and Visitor's Bureau issue was supposed to be on Wednesday, September 2nd Board of Commissioner Meeting Agenda, but it is not.

- Said the working session has been scheduled for September 14th and a working group developed in concert with the Human Relations Commission. The working session will focus on the Black Lives Matter initiative and police and community relations. She stated there was a two hour discussion during the August 24th Human Relations Commission meeting about the topic. Mayor Edmonds proposed nominating three Council Members to be a part the four member Human Relations Commission work group. She said the work session is scheduled for September 14th regarding the Ypsilanti Police Department policies who will act as an information gathering initiative for that work group.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved, supported by Council Member Anne Brown to nominate three Council Members to be a part of a work group in concert with the Human Relations Commission.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the nomination of three Council Members to a work group was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

Mayor Edmonds asked Council if there anyone was interested in a nomination to the work group. Council Member Robb stated the work group should be comprised of a Council Member of each Ward. Mr. Robb stated since Council Member Murdock expressed disdain, he would be willing to represent Ward 3. Mayor Edmonds responded the work group does not necessarily need to be formed in that manner. Council Member Robb responded that is the most appropriate way to form the work group and has been the process in the past. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson added that is the most equitable way to create the work group. Mr. Robb added creating the work group in that manner allows the whole City to be represented.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if Council Member Vogt is interested in serving on the work group. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated due to the subject matter it would be best if Council Member Anne Brown would represent Ward 2 on the work group.

Mayor Edmonds stated she feels that it makes sense that each Ward be represented on the work group. She added the Human Relations Commission Chair is going to sit on the work group, adding that depending on the will of Council she would sit on the committee. Council responded they would not mind if Mayor Edmonds was a member of the work group.

Mayor Edmonds asked if either Council Member Vogt or Council Member Nicole Brown would like to be a part of the work group. Council Member Vogt responded he does not feel strongly about being a part of the work group, but he would if another Council Member would prefer not to. Council Member Anne Brown responded she and Mr. Vogt could split the duties of the work group. Council Member Nicole Brown stated she does not feel strongly about being a member of the work group, however she is interested. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded she would gladly step aside if Council Member Nicole Brown would like to be a part of the work group. Ms. Nicole Brown stated she would be a part of the work group.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked City Attorney John Barr if more than three Council Members could be present. Mr. Barr responded there can be if there are not deliberations, he said to be on the safe side; the meeting should just be noticed. Council Member Murdock stated that more than three Council Members could be on the work group.

Mayor Edmonds stated Council Member Anne Brown, Council Member Nicole Brown, and Council Member Robb will be members of the work group, and if the meeting is noticed she would be present. Council Member Robb stated if the meeting is noticed, why not just make the entire Council the committee. Mayor Edmonds responded she would rather have a smaller group as the core group. Mr. Robb responded four members of Council constitute more than 50% and that is not a small group.

— Mayor Edmonds asked if Council had any input on priorities that the Police Department should address during the September 14th meeting. She stated in speaking with Police Chief DeGiusti, he said there are some things that are not realistic to procure in that amount of time such as collecting data from a broader data set requiring more in-depth analysis, but questions regarding in place policies are realistic.

Council Member Murdock requested the presentation include an update on the cross-jurisdictional efforts on specific issues. Mayor Edmonds stated the HRC has been invited to be members of the audience for the September 14th work session. Council Member Vogt requested that the presentation not cover things that are blatantly obvious. Mr. Vogt stated the presentation only needs to cover things that are controversial, or significant. Council Member Robb stated certain policies should be discussed. Mr. Vogt stated those policies could be given to Council before the meeting. Mr. Robb responded they should be provided to Council prior to the meeting. Mr. Murdock requested information on detention policies, use of force, anti-profiling, and training issues. Mr. Robb stated there should be specifics about training officers receive.

Council Member Robb stated the fact that the Chief needs to go into the system and look up data signifies the Police Department does not use data in everyday policing. Mr. Robb stated there should be a conversation regarding that. Mr. Robb asked what the policy is on all forfeiture. Mr. Robb stated the City and the County started a "crack down" on recent criminal activity and he would like to define the "crack down" and the results.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson echoed Council Member Robbs sentiments about police training, not only tactical but sensitivity. Ms. Richardson stated she is very interested in community policing, which the City has used and it was successful. Ms. Richardson stated the policy ended and it wasn't simply because of a decrease in the amount of officers. Ms. Richardson stated the last couple of Police Chiefs have not been in favor of the tactic, and it is time to bring that practice back. Council Member Anne Brown agreed with Ms. Richardson regarding community policing.

Mayor Edmonds agreed that community policing is a strategy that should be examined, and asked what information, in terms of a report, would be useful for the September 14th work session. Council Member Vogt stated the report can include what can done to implement community policing. Council Member Murdock suggested the report can include what the department is currently doing and what they have done in the past. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated "coffee with a cop" is not having the effect that was intended. Council Member Nicole Brown stated she would like to know how much time officers are present in the community.

Council Member Murdock stated the issue is not simply the training of an officer, it is about changing the culture. Mr. Murdock stated he would like that to be included in the report as well as tactics on de-escalation.

Council Member Anne Brown stated her office has been working with police officers to provide a list of questions officers could ask veterans to provide and evidence if that individual is in distress. She said the same type of tactic could be used for youths. Ms. Anne Brown stated she would like to hear more about the heroin epidemic in Washtenaw County and police response.

Mayor Edmonds stated there are four police agencies operating inside Ypsilanti: the Ypsilanti Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, EMU Police Department, and Michigan State Police. She asked if she should invite representatives from any of those agencies. Council responded in the negative.

Council Member Robb requested that Council be provided with the paper copy of police policies immediately so that Council has adequate time to read and digest the information.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if a policy is legislative or if it is administrative that it be included in the report.

Mayor Edmonds stated the Ypsilanti Community Schools Superintendent asked for community presence for the next round of school openings which occur on Tuesday, September 8th.

Council Member Murdock stated the Police Department has done some exceptional work, and this process is not trying to take away from all that they accomplish.

Council Member Anne Brown stated Chief DeGiusti attended the presentation held at Dawn Farms regarding Narcan, and the hope is that hospitals and police agencies will maintain a supply of that drug. She added the leading cause of deaths in Washtenaw County is heroin overdose, and there have been 62 deaths so far this year.

XVIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Stated the Fire Department performs the emergency rescue in Ypsilanti and he will follow-up with the Chief regarding Narcan.

- Stated he was awarded a seat on the Urban Core Advisory Board.

- Stated there was discussion about the commuter rail by the Regional Transit Authority, and the City's position is if the RTA wants the vote of Washtenaw County a commuter rail as a part of the RTA, and there was agreement from representation from Ann Arbor. He stated the corridor includes the two Washtenaw County representatives, Wayne County's two representatives, and the City of Detroit so Oakland and Macomb Counties should not be able to control the vote.

- Said the County Road Commission will be holding a vote on the .5 mil for roads, tomorrow, September 2nd.

  Council Member Murdock stated the vote is only if there will be a public hearing.

- Said safety and cost overhead are two of the major concerns for City buildings. He stated the boiler in City Hall is in poor condition, and the City has been involved in litigation with Johnson Controls and thanks to the attorney's office, Firefighter John Roe, and DPS Director Stan Kirton, Johnson Controls is going to tear down the boiler, and rebuild all at their cost.

- Said negotiations are underway with DTE regarding what the City will receive for the easements it provided to the company. Mr. Lange commended the attorney's office for their work on the negotiations.

- Informed Council that two interns were hired in the City Manager's office.

- Explained that the health insurance presentation will try to explain how the insurance works and how costs can fluctuate. He added another broker was brought in to create competition.

- Stated the health insurance rates were submitted to the City and normally the City receives them in November.

- Said around 200 property owners were informed that sidewalks in front of their property needed to be repaired, and around 50 permits have been issued by the DPS for sidewalk repairs. He said the remaining properties have not been properly noticed, nor have the sidewalks been particularly well marked. He added the City will not issue any more citations for sidewalks until a program, separated by area, has been formed.

  Mayor Edmonds asked if a date has been set for the Sidewalk Review Board to meet. Mr. Barr responded he has the names of the members and has prepared some of the material and will be setting up orientation in a week, or two. Mr. Lange added property owners that dispute the citation have the ability to meet with the board and appeal. He stated if the property owner does not agree with the board's decision, they may file an appeal with the court. Ms. Savage stated the information regarding the Sidewalk Review Board is now on the website.

— Stated he and the Ordinance Officer have spoken to the Family Dollar, and the trash pick-up has improved. He said the grass is still not being mowed but the City is mowing and billing the property.

Council Member Murdock asked if Family Dollar has ever mowed the grass. Mr. Lange responded that they have not. Council Member Robb asked if Water Street will have a grass median the entire stretch. Mr. Lange stated it went through site plan approval. Mr. Robb stated if Water Street is to mimic downtown, and downtown does not have grass. Mr. Robb stated as a result, every building owner on that stretch will be required to mow 22 feet of grass. Mayor Edmonds stated there is grass on multiple sides of the building, not just the front edge. Mr. Robb stated the median in front of the building is the most visible, and asked if there will be a median for the entire stretch. Ms. Ernat responded on Michigan Ave. and on River St. there will be a grass median, because it is already exists. Ms. Ernat stated the interior streets are planned with sidewalk hardscape. Ms. Ernat said the primary reason for grass on those sides is due to the floodplain, which will also require rain gardens to mitigate the new construction.

Council Member Murdock stated the Planning Commission required grass medians, and asked how the City enforces that. Ms. Ernat responded the City makes it uncomfortable for the violator since the City has the ability to cite them each day. Mr. Murdock stated the grass was high and it looked terrible, but it wasn't ten inches.

Ms. Ernat informed Council the property will be sold to a management company, which is typical of Commercial Development. Ms. Ernat explained once the property is sold she feels comfortable that the new owners will be more responsive to the City. Ms. Ernat stated currently the property is owned by the development company and typically not into property maintenance. Mayor Edmonds suggested finding out the owners' name and publishing it in the paper. Council Member Murdock stated Family Dollar is the development company. Ms. Ernat responded no, it is owned by 990 LLC.

Council Member Robb stated this is a controversial property, but when the grass is six inches high there is no violation, and that is what is going to happen if that entire stretch is grass. Ms. Ernat responded everyone has neighborly reached out to try and solve the problem. Ms. Ernat added the property is on an MDOT right-of-way and most meet FEMA standards to bring in development. Mr. Robb stated there is not grass west of South River. Ms. Ernat responded correct, and there will not be more.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated her understanding is that Water Street was planned to continue the feel of the downtown, and there is not grass on the median in the downtown. Council Member Robb stated there is not grass on the next block in front of the Bomber restaurant. Ms. Ernat responded she will look into the matter.

Mr. Lange stated Council approved the site plan. Mayor Edmonds responded Council approved the setback of the street, but the median could have been other material.

— Ms. Savage stated tree removal information is now on the website.

XIX. COMMUNICATIONS –

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated when Council decided to have work sessions it was agreed to have one a month, and there are four scheduled in September. Mayor Edmonds responded that would be her hope as well, since there were several topics that Council Members were eager to address. Council Member Robb stated Council never voted on anything, and sometimes there is a lot of work that requires Council's attention. Council Member Murdock stated there have been attempts to schedule some of these work sessions for several months, but an agreement could not be reached. Mayor Edmonds stated she would like to only have one starting in October, unless there is a pressing matter.

Council Member Anne Brown asked Mr. Barr to discuss the intragroup relations dialogue training. Mr. Barr explained the City Clerk has been working on scheduling a date, and it was decided to bring an outside presenter to facilitate the training. Mr. Barr stated he has suggested several names to Clerk McMullan, and he believes that she has selected Peter Letsman, from Troy, to perform the training. Mr. Barr stated the training will include a syllabus and schedule and the idea is to learn how to accomplish things in an easier manner.

- Monday, September 14th Work Session (7:00 p.m.) - YPD policies and related items
- September 15th Work Session (6:00-7:00 p.m.) - Health Care
- September 29th Work Session (7:00 -8:30 p.m.) – Roads
- October 27th Council Intragroup Relations Dialogue/Training (6:00-10:00 p.m.) at Marriott Eagle Crest Golf Conference Center and Dining Room

XX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Dawn Mcowski, stated she is having an issue with her son and the violence that is occurring in Ypsilanti. She stated he recently was accosted at a gas station on Harriet, and she said he was also approached by a man who pulled a gun on him who told him if he catches him on the south side again he would kill him. She asked what she can do to help her son.

2. Nathan Phillips, 509 N. Washington St., stated he will be bringing documents to Council regarding an incident when he was struck with a beer can and when he was arrested for stealing a lawnmower. He said most recently he had an issue with Les Heddle of the Heritage Festival who called the Native American community a derogatory term. He added he was denied his religious freedom after he was provided a permit to have a prayer and the Heritage Festival did not allow it due to what was said by Les Heddle. He said when Mr. Heddle said those derogatory remarks, he spoke about the last two years, the person who was in charge of the Native American Encampment used an expletive to describe that person. Mr. Phillips said the person in-charge of the Native American Encampment for the past two years was his wife who passed away recently. He said he is very upset with the festival this year, and the festival could have simply said he did not have the funds for a permit. Mr. Phillips stated he was sorry for Ms. McKowski and what her son is going through, and he understands he also lived on the south side and has a son who is 18 years old. He said he understands the police have a difficult job and he wishes them the best. He said he feels that the Heritage Festival has run its course and he does not believe it should continue.

3. Roger Kansey, 521 Belmont, Ypsilanti Township, stated he is here to assisit Ms. Mcowski about her son. He said his concern is that her son has mental disabilities and he was speaking to the police about a recent shooting and now his life is being threatened. He stated there has not been an increased police presence by her home nor has there been any follow-up from the police. He asked for Council's help to protect this young man.

XXI. <u>REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR</u> –

- Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked where Ms. Mcowski was living. Ms. Mcowski responded she is living on Jefferson. Ms. Richardson asked if her son lives with her. Ms. Mcowski responded he stays there a lot, but he does come and go as he pleases.

- Mayor Edmonds stated she and Mr. Philips have spoken on numerous occasions and she will continue to direct him toward the correct avenues for his concerns. She mentioned the vigil that is being planned in Library Plaza for 7:00 p.m. on September 2nd.

- She said that the way Ms. Mcowski has been treated is not okay, and the best thing to do is work directly with the Police Chief.

  Ms. Mcowski referenced another instance that a woman came to her home and told her that she has been shot before and has no issue with shooting a person. She added that she felt that the woman was threatening her. She stated she filed a report with Officer Anderson.

- Thanked both individuals for coming and expressing their concerns, and that Council is aware of the recent violence, however, it is helpful to hear specific occurrences from the public.

  Ms. LoKowski stated she asked her son to come in but he is scared to come forward. Mayor Edmonds responded that is understandable and asked Ms. LoKowski to leave her information with the City Manager. Mr. Kansey asked if immediate patrols could be issued for Ms. Mcowski's address.

  Council Member Anne Brown echoed the Mayor's sentiments to contact Ms. LoKowski, and to increase patrols. She asked if Ms. Mcowski had family her son could stay with, to which Ms. Mcowski responded that she did not.

  Council Member Nicole Brown stated she works in mental health and would speak with her after the meeting.

XXII. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u> –

Resolution No. 2015-207, adjourning the 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 9:48 p.m.