Approved

CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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	Absent		

Council Member Anne Brown moved, supported by Council Member Vogt, to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson.

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

III. INVOCATION –

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

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

V. AGENDA APPROVAL –

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

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

VI. WORK SESSION: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Health Care –Ralph Lange, City Manager

City Manager Lange introduced the following: General Accountant Rheagan Basabica II, Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy, new Human Resources Manager Kevin Welch, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Representative Michelle Bolzer, Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, and Human Resources Director Judi Smith who will be retiring after fifteen years of service to the City. Mr. Lange thanked Mrs. Smith for her years of dedicated service and wished her well in retirement.

Mr. Lange provided a presentation on the topic of Health Care for retirees and current employees. **(See Website)**

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification on the data provided in the presentation.

Michelle Bolzer responded in 2007 the City was on a Community Blue One Plan which meant there was a zero deductible and that plan no longer exists. Ms. Bolzer explained as a result of contracts in place at that time, the City was required to continue providing the zero deductible to those employees, but wanted to achieve some savings. Ms. Bolzer stated if the City stayed with a plan that style costs would become astronomical. Ms. Bolzer stated the City has gradually gotten to $4,000 or $8,000 network deductible plan titled Community Blue fifteen and by doing so have lowered the fixed cost premium. Ms. Bolzer stated the City was still required to offer the zero deductible plan and to do so, in 2008, a partnership was formed with a third party administrator called EHIM. Ms. Bolzer stated when EHIM gets a bill from Blue Cross Blue Shield they see that the member has a zero deductible plan with the City of Ypsilanti and pays the provider directly, then the City receives a bill for that deductible expense. Ms. Bolzer stated this 80/20 plan helps to mitigate increases in healthcare for the City. Ms. Bolzer said a second part of this plan is the City removed its prescription drug plan and now self-funds and the savings have been significant. Ms. Bolzer concluded those deductibles are what are represented in that chart.

Mayor Edmonds asked for an explanation for the 2% of base salary deductions. Mr. Lange responded at one point employees paid 2% of their salary to their insurance instead of 20% of the cost of the premium. Mayor Edmonds asked if there was overlap between these two plans. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the per capita cost includes the average of the self-insured. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Edmonds presented a scenario where an employee accepts insurance, but that employee's spouse and child refuse the insurance, and asked if the spouse and child are reflected in the numbers. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative. Mayor Edmonds asked if they would be eligible for the waiver. Council Member Robb responded that is not possible, and explained the waiver would be for the entire family.

Council Member Nicole Brown stated where she works she can insure herself and if her spouse has his own insurance he can insure himself. She asked if she is automatically two people simply because she is married. Mr. Lange responded in that scenario you would be considered a two person unit.

Mayor Edmonds asked how many people are eligible to be insured by the City, and explained that number would help estimate the City's liability for employee insurance. Mr. Lange responded it would be inappropriate to ask an employee those questions.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the Blue Cross plan includes vision and dental. Mr. Lange responded no, and said tier two employees do not have vision coverage, but they do have dental coverage. HR Manager Judi Smith added the City does not pay for the employee's vision, but they do have the option to purchase coverage through payroll deduction.

Mr. Lange added Council Member Robb submitted an alternative plan and that will be taken under advisement. Council Member Robb asked if retiring HR Manager Judi Smith will receive healthcare from the City upon retirement. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative, and said as a tier one employee she is a defined benefit. Council Member Robb asked if she still will be eligible after Medicare Part B is available. Ms. Smith stated once eligible she would switch to the Medicare Advantage. Mr. Lange stated there is a large population of retirees that are not 65 years old because police and fire contracts.

Council Member Robb stated the way the world is moving retiree healthcare is no longer provided once that retiree is Medicare Part B eligible. Mr. Robb stated that employee will also be given $1,800 to find supplemental coverage. Mr. Robb asked if the City will begin to move in that direction. Mr. Lange responded that was accomplished when the City went to the tier one and tier two models. Council Member Robb stated as a non-bargaining employee that plan can be changed at any time. Mr. Lange responded it can be changed at any time, but he would be greatly opposed to that. Mr. Robb responded can staff investigate what the savings would be if all non-union retirees were converted to Medicare Part B once eligible, and given a stipend to supplement. Mr. Lange responded staff can look into that possibility if the majority of Council agrees. Mayor Edmonds asked if the majority of Council would like to examine that possibility. Council responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Robb stated it was his intention that Council would have the opportunity to give direction to what employee health plans should be when completed in October. Mr. Robb added his employer requires an employee to pay $100 if that employees spouse refuses the insurance offered by their employer. Mr. Robb stated this will be a disincentive of using the City's insurance. Mr. Robb asked if that possibility is something that is being examined.

Council Member Anne Brown stated the City's employee population is mixed between incoming young people and an aging out population, and asked what would be the advantage, as employer, to not offering employees a benefit package. Council Member Robb responded that is not his intention, his intention is to incentivize an employee's spouse to use the insurance offered by the company that they are employed.

Council Member Robb asked if wellness plans are being examined and explained that each employee is to get a physical each year but if they do not they are required to pay a higher deductible. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative, however at this point it is not really an option. Mayor Edmonds added she supports a wellness plan and said it falls in line with Council goals regarding wellness and cost savings. Mayor Edmonds added that possibility should be examined for retirees where the City is able. Ms. Bolzer added she and staff have had lengthy conversations regarding that possibility. Mr. Lange added both brokers were directed to look into wellness plans.

The meeting recessed at 6:52 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

VII. <u>INTRODUCTIONS</u> –

Mayor Edmonds introduced the following individuals: Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack, DPS Director Stan Kirton, Community Development Intern Rasheed Atwater, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, and Economic Development Director Beth Ernat.

VIII. <u>AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION</u> –

1. Victoria Johnson, 218 W. Michigan Ave Apt #B-5, stated she would like to address residential parking in the Adams Lot across from the EMU College of Business. She stated she resides at Black Hawk Apartments and has been having issues with students parking in the Adams lot after enforcement hours, making it difficult to find parking when she returns home from work. She stated she, and others, have paid for parking and now are forced to park either down the street, or in the lot in front of the Déjà vu, which is unsafe, especially for a single woman. She suggested expanding enforcement time in the Adams Lot, or designate specific spots for residential parking.

2. David Conrad, 218 W. Michigan Ave Apt #B-9, asked his business partner, Laurie Jurden, to join him if Council approves, stated he is an owner and resident of Black Hawk Apartments for 28 years, and parking has always been an issue in the Adams Lot. He said he understands the City metered that lot in hopes that would solve the problem but it has not. He stated there are several open parking spaces during the day and during night classes at the College of Business the parking lot is completely full. He said this is a safety and security issue for tenants and he hopes something can be done. He said he watched the debate at the library where Mayor Edmonds spoke about improving coordination with the university. He stated the College of Business students are commuters and are not purchasing Eastern Michigan passes because they do not have to and the issue has been increasing over the last two to three years. He said Victoria has suggested a couple of good ideas, and he is hoping the City and the University can find a solution. Laurie Jurden suggested a section of the Adams Street Lot be designated for residential parking to avoid students parking in those spots.

IX. <u>REMARKS BY THE MAYOR</u> –

— Asked for clarification of what downtown lot is being discussed. Mr. Conrad responded the North Adams Lot, the only City parking lot with meters. Mayor Edmonds responded there are meters in the Washington St. Lot. Mayor Edmonds asked City Manager Lange to investigate the issue. Mayor Edmonds suggested the City perform a parking survey in order to better understand volume for peak hours in the downtown lots. She stated the question that needs to be addressed is if there are enough parking spots for permits issued.

Council Member Murdock stated one of the recommendations of the 2012 DDA parking study is to look at extending enforcement hours. Mr. Murdock added that recommendation was lost as a result of the reshuffling of parking enforcement.

X. <u>MINUTES</u> –

Resolution No. 2015-208, approving minutes of September 1, 2015.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of September 1, 2015 be approved.

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 1257

An ordinance to limit and cap the maximum captured taxable value of a Depot Town Tax Increment Financing Plan.

A. Resolution No. 2015-209, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT an Ordinance to limit and cap the maximum captured taxable value of a Depot town Tax Increment Financing Plan be approved on First

Reading.

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

B. Open public hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015-210, close public hearing.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT a public hearing for an Ordinance to limit and cap the maximum captured taxable value of a Depot town Tax Increment Financing Plan be officially closed.

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

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

Council Member Murdock stated this ordinance amends the Depot Town Downtown Development Authority TIF Renewal Ordinance. Mr. Murdock stated this amendment would reestablish the base amount and limit future growth in the tax increment financing authority (TIFA). Mr. Murdock stated his proposal is not tied to a specific TIF plan and future TIF plans would have to meet these criteria. Mr. Murdock stated this proposes to reset the base with a reduction of 25% and limit the growth to 1% annually. Mr. Murdock stated the City of Ann Arbor has limited the growth of its Tax Increment Financing Plan similarly to this proposal.

Council Member Vogt asked Council if this proposal is passed tonight would there be possibility to amend the numbers presented. City Attorney Barr responded the ordinance can be amended.

Mayor Edmonds stated she will not be supporting this proposal and said a memo was sent to the City Council from the DDA Board this afternoon which outlined a different proposal which will come before Council during the next regular meeting.

Council Member Robb stated this proposal is a classic form of sharing in the success of Depot Town, which the City has invested a great deal resources. Mr. Murdock stated the point of a TIF is to increase the tax base, and municipalities and taxing jurisdictions should share in that increase, which is the framework of the proposal. Mr. Robb stated resetting the base year is common, and Ann Arbor went through a similar process. Mr. Robb stated if the original ordinance is passed that district will maintain 1992 tax levels for 50 years. Council Member Vogt agreed with Council Member Robb, however, if the DDA has a different proposal and Council wants to reconsider, he wants to be certain Council can do so. Mr. Vogt suggested this proposal be passed in order to get something on the books even if there is a possible change. Council Member Anne Brown asked what a possible change might look like. Mr. Vogt responded the Mayor informed Council the DDA has a proposal and will be bringing it to the October 6 meeting. Mr. Vogt added he would not want the DDA to think Council will not examine their proposal in good faith.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-210 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

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

1. ~~Resolution No. 2015-105, approving Ordinance 1244, the adoption, amendment and restatement of the Depot Town Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan.~~ ~~***(Second Reading)***~~

2. Resolution No. 2015-211, approving Ordinance No. 1256, 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. ***(Second Reading)***

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 Second and Final Reading.

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

Assistant City Attorney Jesse O'Jack stated he would like to clarify concerns brought up during First Reading. Mr. O' Jack said when the City was using the services of Duncan Solutions all contested tickets would go to district court. Mr. O'Jack stated that was one of the many issues the City had with Duncan Solutions. Mr. O'Jack stated the Parking Enforcement Committee wanted to have some type of local hearings, similar to Ann Arbor.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-211 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

3. Resolution No. 2015-212, approving Capital Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Ypsilanti requires that Council adopt a Capital Improvements program on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Enabling Act requires that Council adopt a Capital Improvements program on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is pursuing Redevelopment Ready Certification from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is pursuing Redevelopment Ready Certification through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council hereby adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2016/2017 through FY2022/2023.

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

Council Member Robb asked for staff to walk Council through the plan and highlight what was changed. City Planner Bonnie Wessler responded the only item changed was the addition of Council setting the prioritization during goal setting. Ms. Wessler informed Council a draft plan will still be presented for input but the final prioritization of projects and project justification will be set by Council.

Mayor Edmonds stated this is the last piece before Ypsilanti is deemed a Redevelopment Ready City, she said that designation will open up funding and support possibilities for the City. She added the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has been very eager for the City to complete this process, and it has taken a lot of work from staff. Economic Development Director Beth Ernat added the designation should be awarded by the end of October. Mayor Edmonds stated during the award ceremony there is a ribbon cutting attended by the Governor and it is a great time to promote the City to developers.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-212 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

4. Resolution No. 2015-213, approving the Michigan Department of Transportation Contract No. 15-5376 for the 2015 Mid- Block Crossing at Washtenaw Ave. and Oakwood Project.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Federal Transportation Fund –Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding has been programmed to improve the pedestrian refuge island and install a mast arm pedestrian hybrid beacon on Highway M-17 (Washtenaw Avenue) between Oakwood and West Cross Streets in the year 2015 construction season; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to enter into a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the implementation of this project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council approves the Michigan Department of Transportation Contract No. 15-5376; and

THAT the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign this contract and the City Manager is authorized to sign any change orders, subject to approval by the City Attorney, to facilitate the completion of this work.

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

DPS Director Stan Kirton stated this has been in the planning stages for awhile and it is the first step in beginning the project.

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat stated this is collaboration between the City and Eastern Michigan University.

Council Member Anne Brown asked where exactly the crossing would be on Washtenaw and Oakwood. Mr. Kirton replied there is an island there now and the island will be widened and a crosswalk with beacon lights will be installed.

Council Member Murdock asked if EMU was contributing to the project. City Planner Bonnie Wessler responded Eastern is contributing to this project but they have a separate contract. Ms. Wessler added the Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority will also be contributing.

Council Member Murdock asked when the crosswalk will be completed. Mr. Kirton replied his understanding is the project will be completed during this construction season. Mr. Murdock asked if this fall is the presumed start to construction. Mr. Kirton responded in the affirmative.

City Manager Lange asked if this was a federal aid project. Mr. Kirton responded in the affirmative, and added it is mainly funded by the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-213 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

5. Resolution No. 2015-214, approving purchase of one (1) 2016 GMC Sierra 3500HD 4WD dump truck with front plow attachment.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, a purchase proposal was received from Red Holman Pontiac - GMC, Westland, Michigan for the purchase of a 2016 GMC Sierra 3500HD 4WD Dump Truck with front plow attachment for use in the Department of Public Works- Streets Division for surface maintenance, winter surface maintenance and park maintenance activities for a total amount of $42,436.00; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Ypsilanti City Council approves the purchase of one 2016 GMC Sierra 3500HD 4WD dump truck with front plow attachment.

FURTHER, that the $42,436.00 to purchase this vehicle be expended from the $42,436 budgeted in account 641-7-9320-987-10;

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

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

DPS Director Stan Kirton stated this is a part of the Motor Pool Plan to cycle out equipment while it stills has value.

Council Member Murdock stated this vehicle is not an alternative fuel vehicle. Mr. Kirton responded no, it is not. Mr. Murdock asked if DPS has alternative fuel vehicles. Mr. Kirton responded the department has three. Mayor Edmonds asked which vehicles are alternative fuel. Mr. Kirton responded DPS has a stake truck, new signal lift truck, and the third he cannot think of at this moment. Mayor Edmonds asked if they are all propane. Mr. Kirton responded in the affirmative. Mr. Lange added there are several vehicles in the City's Motor Pool that can make the transition to alternative fuel however; there are things holding up the conversions, such as the change in the price of gas. Mr. Lange added another reason is there is not a refueling station close to the DPS Yard. Mr. Lange stated there was an effort to partner with EMU to install an alternative fuel station but it was not economically viable. Mr. Lange said there has been discussion on natural gas versus propane, and once it makes economic sense the research will have been already completed, and the City will be able to move forward with purchase.

Council Member Robb stated the L-96 is an obsolete engine, and has been replaced by the Eco-Tech engine and asked why the Echo-Tech engine was not examined. Mr. Kirton responded more than likely because of the cost. Mayor Edmonds asked if Mr. Kirton felt like there is a risk to using an obsolete engine. Mr. Kirton responded no and said DPS has been successful with the previous purchase.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-214 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 1 (Murdock) ABSENT: 1 (Richardson) VOTE: Carried

6. Resolution No. 2015-215, approving the bid for Freighthouse upgrades.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti seeks to improve the Freighthouse, a city owned building, to allow for year round use of the building; and

WHEREAS, the City let bids and received 5 qualified bids for the work required to upgrade the Freighthouse and the bids are within the project budget; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to reject the lowest bid by Cross Renovation Inc. based on failure to respond to supplemental questions in a timely manner and having an irregular low bid and seeks to accept the second lowest bidder, Envision Builders, Inc., due to price and experience.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council awards the Freighthouse Update bid to the second lowest bidder, Envision Buildings, Inc., and seeks to have Its Mayor and Clerk enter into a contract to be approved by City Attorney for the amount of $242,800.00 and allow change orders to be signed by the City Manager.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock
SUPPORTED BY: Council member Anne Brown

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat stated this project has been a long time coming. Ms. Ernat stated the Friends of the Freighthouse have been excellent in this process, and construction is ready to begin which will be monitored by OHM and the City. Ms. Ernat stated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be brought to Council in the near future. Ms. Ernat added Envision Building Inc. performed the roof repair and have an excellent reputation.

Council Member Anne Brown asked what the timeline is for this project. Ms. Ernat responded if this is approved tonight a pre-bid meeting will be held next week and it is anticipated that the work will be complete by December.

Mayor Edmonds asked if this is the last piece that needs to be completed. Ms. Ernat responded this piece will be the last piece before the building can be open, but there will be other work required. Council Member Anne Brown asked if by open Ms. Ernat means the building would have a certificate of occupancy. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the MOU is forthcoming. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Ms. Anne Brown asked if it would be similar to the MOU from Friends of Rutherford Pool.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-215 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the MOU will be consistent with the other Friend's Groups. Ms. Ernat responded recently there was a meeting with the City Attorney and it was discussed that the situation must be looked at uniquely, however, she said she is making sure that insurance is the same throughout the City's MOU.

Mayor Edmonds asked that the Parks and Recreation Commission be included in the development of the MOU. Ms. Ernat asked if the building was considered a Parks and Recreation structure. Mayor Edmonds responded in the affirmative.

7. Resolution No. 2015-216, approving contract with Carr's Outdoor Services, Inc. for the City of Ypsilanti Pavement Maintenance Program.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, bids were duly advertised for The City of Ypsilanti Pavement Maintenance Program; and

Whereas, two (2) bids was publicly opened on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. and reviewed for compliance with bidding qualifications and project specifications; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Carr's Outdoor Services, Inc., 48910 Ford Road, Canton, MI 48187 best meets the project specifications and qualifications and is in the best interests of the City; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the City Council awards the bid to Carr's Outdoor Services Inc. in the amount of $1.20 per pound for crack sealing services throughout the City during the 2015 construction season; and

THAT the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the necessary contract documents, subject to approval by the City Attorney, to facilitate the completion of this work.

FURTHER, that the City Manager is authorized to sign change orders subject to the approval by the City Attorney.

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

Council Member Anne Brown asked if there were any local businesses that bid on this project. Mr. Kirton responded no, nothing local. Mr. Kirton added there are not many companies that perform this kind of work in Washtenaw County.

Mr. Kirton stated this is just a continued effort to maintain the roads. Mr. Kirton stated this year the project will be east of Cornell including some eastside neighborhoods.

Council Member Murdock asked if Mr. Kirton had seen the hairline crack on N. Adams. Mr. Kirton replied he had not but he will investigate. Mr. Murdock added the sewer on the corner of Adams and Michigan is beginning to collapse.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the existing road is ground-up to use as material for the new road. Mr. Kirton stated that is not a practice of the City for the subgrade because of the need for a higher quality road. Mr. Lange added at the County level if there is a road in need of repair it can be grinded up and emulsion added to it for the repair, in an urban area it is more difficult.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-216 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

XIII. <u>LIASON REPORTS</u> –

A. SEMCOG Update – Council Member Murdock stated there will be an economic development meeting held in October at the County Library.
B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
C. Washtenaw Metro Alliance - None
D. Urban County - None
E. Freight House - None
F. Parks and Recreation – Stated there was some destruction to an Inside Out DIA display but it has since been repaired. She added that the Ypsilanti Huron River Day is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th in conjunction with Ann Arbor, and a van service will return participants back to their vehicles.
G. Millennial Mayors Conference – No meeting
H. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – Stated the next regular meeting will be held Thursday, September 17th.
I. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – Stated the meeting is scheduled for September 28th at 9:30 a.m. at the EMU Student Center, room 300.

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

<u>Nicole Brown</u>

— Stated she will be attending her first Michigan Municipal League (MML) Convention and will update Council at the next regular meeting.

Mayor Edmonds stated she had a meeting with a constituent of Ward 1 who inquired about speed calming methods on Ferris St., and it was great to be able to point that individual to a process recently adopted by Council.

<u>Murdock</u>

— Stated Family Dollar's weeds are out of control and asked if they have ever trimmed the weeds themselves.

Mr. Lange responded they have not and staff will follow-up with the business. Mr. Murdock stated the weeds are not quite 10 inches but it is only weeds and no grass.

— Asked what the status is of tree removal, including notifications, and asked for an updated report on what trees need attention. He stated the tree nursery has trees that are relatively a good size and asked if the trees that are removed will be able to be replanted. He asked if a work day should be scheduled for the tree nursery. He asked if there are any other trees that need to be replanted this year.

Mr. Lange replied not that he is aware of, and said there is a specific plan of what tree need to be trimmed and what trees need to be removed. Mr. Lange added the report includes reasons why a tree needs to be trimmed or removed. Mr. Murdock stated at one time if a resident wanted to purchase a tree the City would plant it and asked if that is still the practice of the City. Mr. Kirton responded he does not believe so but the City does send instructions on how to plant the tree. Mr. Kirton added the DPS would need a larger staff and a Forestry Division in order to maintain that service. Mr. Murdock asked if the City will be applying for the DTE grant. Mr. Kirton replied in the affirmative. Mr. Lange added the City can apply for that grant every other year.

- Asked what the plan of action is for snow removal this winter, particularly City owned properties, ADA ramps, and who the City could partner with to help with the task.

  Mayor Edmonds stated that topic will be discussed at a future working session, before winter.

- Informed Council he will be reconsidering his DDA Ordinance proposal at the next Regular Council Meeting on October 6th.

Robb

- Stated Lincoln St. Garage has been operating illegally for years and asked when it will cease its illegal operations.

  Ms. Wessler responded staff is working with legal to find a solution and will have a report for Council soon.

- Asked the status of Bay Logistics site plan.

  Ms. Wessler responded staff has recently met with Bay Logistics who submitted a sketch of the proposed screening. Ms. Wessler added the easement is under review by the surveyors. Council Member Murdock asked staff to inform the property to trim the trees and weeds of the sidewalk on the 700, 800 Block of River St. Ms. Wessler responded she will inform them during her next communication with Bay Logistics.

- Stated there is a lot of excitement regarding streetlight banners, and asked who controls the banners and what the process is. Mr. Robb stated he was asked what the process is for hanging a banner on the streetlight pole and how long are they displayed.

  Ms. Wessler responded it is her understanding that the poles are owned by DTE. Mayor Edmonds stated an organization pays for the banner and they are hung by DPS who bills the organization for the service but the CVB does all the programming.

Anne Brown

- Stated on Friday, September 18th several Council Members and City Staff will be participating in the EMU Memorial Ceremony for September 11th.

- Stated there is a communication workshop scheduled for October 27th.

XV. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR** –

- Thanked everyone from the community that attended the first day of school to cheer. Mayor Edmonds stated there were around 100 people in attendance at eight different buildings from preschool to high school. Mayor Edmonds stated there was also participation from EMU students, the EMU President, administrators, and faculty. Mayor Edmonds added there was also participation from many of City Staff. Mayor Edmonds concluded that those in attendance were challenged to do the same in February and said that is the goal.

XVI. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER** –

- Stated the kindergartners at Perry School were very enjoyable on the first day of school activities.

- Stated the construction signs on Prospect Rd. are being removed and if they are not removed by Thursday, September 1, the City will remove them and bill the company.

- Said the Adams St. construction is progressing.

- Explained that he and Economic Development Director Beth Ernat have been making slow progress with economic development but are anxious to increase efforts.

  Council Member Anne Brown asked if the letters of support for the train stop were sent. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Mayor Edmonds added there were a total of fifteen letters sent. Mr. Lange estimated ten to fifteen letters. Ms. Ernat added there was a great level of support from all levels of government and local and regional partners.

  Ms. Ernat introduced Rasheed Atwater the Community Development Intern and the staff is thrilled to have him.

  Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage stated there have been two meeting to date for See. Click. Fix and it should be fully implemented by October 26th. Ms. Savage stated See. Click. Fix. must be branded, and staff has been voting on the title it has been narrowed down to three and now the top three are being voted on.

  Ms. Savage stated the Simple Recycling postcard will be sent to residents this week. Ms. Savage stated staff is being proactive and a press release is being sent to the community to inform them of the service. Ms. Savage stated a month after the beginning of the program a second postcard will be mailed as a reminder. Ms. Savage stated the kick-off for the service will be October 5th. Ms. Savage added if residents want extra bags for textiles they will be available at City Hall and the DPS Yard free of charge.

  Ms. Savage stated she received the City Website Layout proposal. Ms. Savage stated it is not complete but she shared the mood board with Council. Ms. Savage stated the mood board is not the website but it shows the color scheme of the site. Council Member Anne Brown stated the pictures all seem to be from Depot Town and asked for more diversity in location. Ms. Savage responded those aren't necessarily the pictures that will be used and the website designer has been given a large amount of photos by staff. Anne Brown stated the color scheme is not very vibrant. Council Member Nicole Brown echoed Council

Member Anne Brown's sentiments. Ms. Savage asked if they would like to see brighter colors. Ms. Anne Brown replied in the affirmative. Ms. Savage explained the mood board colors will mostly be used for accent, or fonts, and there different colors will be used.

Mayor Edmonds stated the primary navigation center is a science in itself and asked that current user data be used to decide what the navigation center should include. Mayor Edmonds stated the goal is that visitors of the site be able to navigate as simply as possible. Mayor Edmonds added many visitors view the City's website and that should be considered in its design. Ms. Savage agreed, and said that most of the information regarding EMU is under the living section of the website and she is not certain where those visiting would search.

Ms. Savage stated the 2015 Heritage Festival bill has been received and only $5,000 is still owed, which is unprecedented. Ms. Savage stated no DPS charges were accrued and the $3,000 was removed from the bill as Council approved. Ms. Savage stated the 2014 bill for the festival has been paid in full ahead of schedule.

Council Member Anne Brown thanked Ms. Savage for the information and asked for similar information for the other festivals. Ms. Savage replied in the affirmative.

Council Member Murdock asked how the light pole was knocked over. Ms. Savage responded she was informed by DPS it was not caused by the festival.

Council Member Murdock asked if the gross was $13,800. Ms. Savage responded in the affirmative.

— Mr. Lange informed there are two other interns recently employed, Lorenzo Sylvertooth, the Manager Assistant, and Heidi Guether, the Marketing Intern. Mr. Lange responded staff really appreciates the interns.

— Stated he was been actively supporting Act 283 for roads. He added an email including the resolution of support by Council.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the County Commissioners vote regarding the merger of the CVBs is tomorrow. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Ms. Anne Brown stated the proposal is 25% of funding and board representation will go to Ann Arbor, 25% will go to Ypsilanti, and 25% will go to the remainder of Washtenaw County. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative and said she is uncertain where the other 25% goes. Ms. Ernat said the staff level is supposed to stay consistent, as well as finishing the current lease of the Ypsilanti office. Ms. Ernat stated she is very against the merger, and it is unfortunate that the representative for the City on the County Board is not choosing to fight to keep autonomous CVBs. Ms. Ernat compared this issue to the use of Act 88 funds in which the City is guaranteed 25% but it will come down to applying for those funds. Ms. Ernat stated there is a meeting this week with some start up folks to start a sports commission in Ann Arbor and no one from the eastside was invited. Ms. Ernat stated Commissioner Peterson stated that all hinged on the support of the University of Michigan but there is no confirmation or denial. Ms. Ernat stated there are three Commissioners who are supporting Ypsilanti including Commissioner Rabbi. Ms. Ernat concluded the City will need its Downtown Development Authority more than ever.

Mayor Edmonds stated guarantee funds doesn't have guarantee in service, and the Ypsilanti Area CVB already has a strategic plan in place that was the product of input from many stakeholders, the YACVB spearheaded the wayfinding initiative. Mayor Edmonds stated she is fearful that initiatives began by the CVB will pause and the City cannot afford to be set back. Mayor Edmonds concluded she sees this as an irresponsible move, and she has great concern if the CVBs are merged.

Ms. Ernat urged Council to contact all of the County Commissioner. Council Member Murdock stated unless they were all brow beaten which he thinks they did. Mr. Murdock stated he does not feel there are five votes to keep the CVBs separate without Commissioner Peterson. Ms. Ernat stated the count is very interesting, and it depends on who you hear the count from, but she does know that Commissioner Rabbi will stand firm on keeping the CVBs separate.

XVII. <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> –

- 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

XVIII. <u>AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION</u> –

None

XIX. <u>REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR</u> –

None

XX. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u> –

Resolution No. 2015-217, 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 8:35 p.m.