



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1 S. HURON
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

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

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Anne Brown	Present	Council Member Robb	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, Council Member Murdock seconded 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 Vogt moved, seconded by Council Member Anne Brown, to approve the agenda.

Council Member Vogt moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to add Resolution No. 2015-279 under Section XII, Resolutions/Motions/Discussions to approve a CLG grant for education.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Resolution No. 2015-279 was added to the agenda.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Edmonds introduced the following individuals: Assistant City Attorney Dan DuChene, Economic Development Director Beth Ernat, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, General Accountant II Rheagan Basabica, Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy, Ypsilanti Housing Commission Director Zach Fosler, Economic Development Intern Rasheed Atwater, and HRC Commissioner Sue Melke.

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

- Proclamation declaring World AIDS Day in Ypsilanti – Mayor Edmonds

Mayor Edmonds stated Heart and AIDS Michigan merged to form a new organization and on world aids day the name Unified was unveiled.

- Proclamation recognizing Debbie Locke-Daniel – Mayor Edmonds

Mayor Edmonds stated Debbie Lock-Daniels last day with the Convention and Visitors Bureau will be Wednesday, December 16th.

- Proclamation recognizing Kevin Hill – Council Member Murdock

Mayor Edmonds stated Mr. Hill has been both a member of the Downtown Development Authority Board and Downtown Association of Ypsilanti.

- City Audit Presentation – Kimberly A. Alleman, Manager of Abraham and Gaffney P.C.

Abraham and Gaffney Manager Kimberly Alleman provided a presentation of the City's audit.

Council Member Murdock stated the City would not have had the revenues from either the Rutherford Pool or the streetlight assessment. Ms. Alleman responded in the affirmative but those items being completed caused a change in the expenditures.

City Manager Lange stated public safety includes the Police and Fire Departments but also the Building Department. Mr. Lange asked if the audit counts the Building Department as public safety. Ms. Alleman responded it is included in public safety.

Council Member Murdock asked when the rule on tax expenditures go into effect. Ms. Alleman responded she believes it is next year, or the year after. Mr. Murdock explained that tax expenditures are incentives given to business making a loss of revenue.

Mr. Lange stated the expenditures are not as high as projected and one reason for that is the City has not hired the officers it projected but another reason is the City does not have an encumbrance system for capital projects. Mr. Lange added the City shows lower expenditures because projects are being completed at a lower cost than projected.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. D'Real Graham, 3018 Roundtree Blvd, stated a proactive Council would find a way to protect rather than prosecute African Americans and he would not describe Ypsilanti City Council in that manner. He said Council Members Robb, Murdock, and Vogt are unmarked police vehicles and refuse to make their intentions known. He said the people of Ypsilanti who identify as white have the right to remain silent and the people of Ypsilanti who identify as non-white have the right to assemble, free speech, and freedom of press. He thanked all that have shared their stories of interactions with the Ypsilanti Police Department, experience with local courts, and lack of confidence in the City complaint process. He asked the Mayor, the City Manager, and Council if black lives matter and if so then they should say so. He asked Council Member Brown if she is silent because she believes community transformation begins in voting booths, police stations, business schools, and gentlemen's clubs and asked if she is electing to stay silent because she does not want to diminish her social position. He stated he is having difficulty interpreting her silence and the input she would have would be invaluable. He said months ago several letters were sent to the City objecting to the escalation of prosecution of a local artist and activist and Council did not respond until local media got involved. He said recently he learned that the Human Relations Commission has joined with City Council in a

desperate attempt to save face. He said today the Black Lives Matter group of Ypsilanti withdraws its confidence in the City Hall and the next election is in November 2016 and if the quality of life is not improved for minorities the Black Lives Movement is determined to prevent their reelection.

2. Dave Hiekinnen, 133 Michigan Ave., stated at this coming Downtown Development Authority there is a resolution to discontinue the DDA Downtown Dumpster Corral maintenance. He said the DDA constructed the dumpster enclosures to help beautify the Downtown. He said the Downtown is the gateway into the City and without the dumpster corrals business owners will be putting their garbage out on the curb once or twice a week. He said when the dumpster enclosures were first introduced by the DDA the business owners were opposed to them because they would remove valuable parking but they were constructed anyway. He said over the course of the past several years the DDA has struggled to manage the enclosures until Kevin Hill was the DDA Chair. He said when the dumpsters were first installed the DDA picked up the dumpster used by Puffer Reds without permission. He said the DDA is now completely controlled by Depot Town and Downtown has been completely disenfranchised with only one member on the Board who is a part of SPARK East. He said the Downtown needs better representation on the DDA and Council is supposed to ensure that.
3. Lee Tooson, 107 Middle, stated if people fight to keep their jobs than those same people should fight to keep other peoples jobs because no livelihood should be interrupted. He said he is disheartened that last week a female police officer had to resign under duress and it could have been resolved another way if the City Manager and the Police Chief wanted it to be resolved differently. He said neither the Manager nor the Chief spoke to the officer about her short comings if there actually were not any, nor was she told her rights as a 17 year veteran of the United States Navy. He said it is a hard fight to get African Americans hired as Police Officers and the public should fight just as hard to keep the officers. He suggested that a mechanism be put in place so that Council is aware of these issues when they occur. He said the Police Chief and the City Manager claims this to be their City and will continue to make that claim until they leave their positions, however, this is the resident's City now and when those individuals leave their positions. He said if the officer who was terminated was failing then the both the Police Chief and the City Manager were failing.
4. Sue Melke, 330 Chidester #409, stated at the Council Work Session regarding snow removal and enforcement it was decided that warnings would not be given to residents who failed to remove snow from their walkways yet 50 warnings were given. She asked who is in charge of the decking on the Border to Border Trail Bridge at Water Works Park because it's in poor condition.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

- Asked for an explanation on why warnings and not citations were given after the last snow fall.

Mr. Lange responded he was unaware warnings were given and would need to follow up with code enforcement. Mayor Edmonds asked that the City Manager also follow up with Ms. Melke about both of her concerns. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative, and added it is the City's responsibility to maintain the bridge.

- Said she appreciated Mr. Tooson for his comments and his commitment as a community member to inform Council about these issues. She said she was reviewing the Charter and would like Council to use its power to lodge an

investigation about the process of an officer's termination and the rights of an employee.

- Stated the issue of the Downtown dumpster enclosures has been a topic of conversation in the DDA several times over the past few months regarding issues of funding. She said there will be a lively discussion at Thursday's DDA Board meeting.
- Stated a Community-Police Black Lives Matter Task Force has been formed which has been investigating best practices in order to make recommendations. She asked what the timeline for recommendations from the Task Force is.

Council Member Anne Brown responded a memo to the City Manager and the Police Chief is being drafted to address those issues as well as recommendations. Council Member Robb added there was not a quorum at the last Task Force Meeting so it did not have the ability to make any action. Mr. Robb stated the process is the Task Force will create recommendations to send to the Human Relations Commission for approval who in turn will send those to Council. Mr. Robb stated the Task Force's next meeting is January 11th and the recommendations made would be heard by the Human Relations Commission at their January Meeting and Council in February.

Council Member Vogt stated over thirty years ago he represented individuals that were pressing charges against officers. Mr. Vogt stated he has many years of experience on the subject and he would like to continue the process and develop a well thought out set of policies. Mr. Vogt urged that the public have patients and make inquiries before making comments.

Council Member Anne Brown stated at the Task Force meeting it was discussed that Council should make its updates of the Task Force before audience participation can be heard by those voicing their concerns and leaving before a response is given. Ms. Anne Brown stated at 50 years old she has spent the majority of her life ensuring that black lives matter. Ms. Anne Brown stated Mr. Graham and others that voice these complaints need to stay at the meeting after they voice their concerns in order to hear response from Council.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS –

1. Alley Licensing Agreement to allow usage of the alley at 711 Towner.
 - A. Resolution No. 2015-267, determination

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the Ypsilanti Housing Commission and its partners are working to improve the conditions at existing public housing sites through rehabilitation; and

Whereas, space constraints at the existing 711 Towner site make trash removal challenging; and

Whereas, the Planning Commission, in recognition of this fact, has conditioned approval of the site plan and special use for this redevelopment upon construction of a suitable dumpster enclosure; and

Whereas, the only suitable location for said dumpster enclosure is within a closed public alleyway.

Now Therefore Be it Resolved that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to enter into the attached license agreement on behalf of the City of Ypsilanti, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

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

B. Open public hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015-268, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing for the approval of the Alley Licensing Agreement to allow usage of the alley at 711 Towner be officially closed.

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

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

Council Member Robb stated normally a map that indicates where the dumpster is located is provided and said this information was not provided. Mr. Robb asked why staff is deviating from the process. Ms. Wessler replied it was a simple omission and she will remedy that in the future.

Council Member Anne Brown stated the language in the agreement states the dumpster be emptied at least once weekly and asked if that language could be modified. Ms. Wessler responded that language was selected because it gives the option of emptying the dumpster more than once weekly.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-267 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

2. Conveyance of City-owned land to the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

A. Resolution No. 2015-275, determination

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

The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney, the attached Consent to Assignment of Option to Purchase Land Parkridge; the attached quitclaim deed to convey the New Parkridge site to the Ypsilanti Housing Commission; the

attached Dedication Agreement between the City and the Ypsilanti Housing Commission; and the attached deed to convey to the Ypsilanti Housing Commission the parcel of land occupied by its administrative offices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that: the attached purchase agreement and warranty deed from the Ypsilanti Housing Commission to the New Parkridge LDHA Limited Partnership is approved and may be so executed by the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Anne Brown

SECONDED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

B. Open public hearing

None

C. Resolution No. 2015-275A, close public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing for the conveyance of City-owned land to the Ypsilanti Housing Commission be officially closed.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Anne Brown

SECONDED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

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

Assistant City Attorney Dan DuChene stated this is hopefully one of the last steps in this process of the Parkridge project.

Council Member Murdock stated this City owned property and it is his understanding that ultimately the City is responsible for these properties. Mr. Murdock stated he hopes the City is not responsible for the bonds attached to the Parkridge Center. Mr. DuChene responded initially the plan was to transfer ownership from the City to the limited partnership but that was not completed and first the ownership needed to be transferred to the Ypsilanti Housing Commission because of the interest that Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) has in the property. Mr. Murdock asked if ultimately the property will be transferred to the limited partnership. Mr. DuChene responded in the affirmative, and the City would not be responsible. Mr. Murdock stated it seems that public housing is being eliminated at least in the manner that it has been known. Mr. DuChene responded in the affirmative and said it is more of a public /private partnership.

Council Member Murdock asked if the partnership structure is the same for Hamilton Crossing. Ypsilanti Housing Commission Director Zach Fosler responded the Housing Commission will act as the overseeing board, and there is not a specific board created for these partnerships. Mr. Murdock stated a separate board was created for Hamilton Crossing. Mr. Fosler responded in the affirmative and said that was a slightly different scenario and it did not make sense to form a board for each of the Housing Commission properties. Council Member Robb stated Council has never dissolved the limited liability partnership board. Mr. Fosler responded the limited liability partnership board was not dissolved but the Parkridge Center does not have a separate governing board. Mayor Edmonds asked if the limited liability partnership board is a dormant board. Mr. Robb stated the question is should the board continue to exist. Mr. Murdock stated Council did not appoint that board. Ms. Edmonds stated then it is not Council's to create or dissolve. Mr. DuChene stated the property board is not really related to this matter but if Council wishes he will examine it further and report to Council.

Council Member Robb stated at the second goal setting session Council was given a list of all supplemental funding but did not receive information on the Housing Commission. Mr. Lange responded Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy completed that today and said it was a very small amount. Mr. Robb asked why the City is waving this year's fee. Mr. Lange stated to his knowledge the City did not waive the fee it was just a very small amount. Mr. Robb stated in the City Manager's plan the City was expecting to get revenue from this fee and now it is not expecting to get revenue and asked why that was waived. Mr. Lange responded he did not consciously waive that fee and he will need to look into it further.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-275 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

XI. CONSENT AGENDA –

Resolution No. 2015-269

1. Resolution No. 2015-270, approving minutes of November 10th, November 17th, and November 19th.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of November 10th, November 17th, and November 19th be approved.

2. Resolution No. 2015-271, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Russell Olwell (replacing Ken Dobson) 201 Boone Hall, EMU Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Term expiration: 7/7/2017	Downtown Development Authority	7/7/2017
Evan Sweet (new appointment) 1103 Kingwood St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Parks and Recreation Commission	12/1/2018
Linda Horne (reappointment) 205 Oak St. Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Park and Recreation Commission	12/1/2018

3. Resolution No. 2015-278, approving a fine for violation of parking time limits.

RESOLUTION SETTING FINE FOR VIOLATION OF CODE SECTION 102-61(c)

WHEREAS, Section 102-61(c)(3) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ypsilanti has recently been amended by City Council to provide that the fine be set be resolution of City Council; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this amendment was to bring this provision of the City Code in line with other such provisions establishing fines and fees; and

WHEREAS, the City maintains a fee schedule for such purposes;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that: The fine for violations of Section 102-61(c) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ypsilanti be \$20.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Ypsilanti fee schedule be amended to add this fine.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SECONDED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-269 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

XII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2015-272, extending County Recreation agreement.

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

the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to enter into the attached Second Amendment to Agreement to Purchase Real Estate between the City of Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County, in conjunction with and subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that: the City Manager is authorized to complete the sale with Washtenaw County and sign any and all documents to close the transaction, in conjunction with and subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SECONDED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat stated this has been a long process but staff feels that this request demonstrates significant progress. Ms. Ernat stated the property could be purchased at this point but it is in neither party's best interest to purchase the property until the development plans are complete. Ms. Ernat stated the building plans are approaching \$17 million and the County would like to reduce that to \$13 million or solicit additional funding.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the County has plans for \$13 million in funding. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Lange added he is in support of the approval of this purchase agreement. Mayor Edmonds agreed in the approval of the resolution.

Ms. Ernat stated historically this is the quickest the City has ever gotten an agreement signed by the County Parks Department which illustrates their commitment.

Mr. Lange stated the County has already spent \$300,000 on plans and designs and said this is a very different issue than the stalemate the City and the County were involved in over this project.

Council Member Murdock stated he is going to vote to approve this resolution because there is little choice but he said Council first voted on this item in January of 2012. Mr. Murdock stated this is very frustrating and the last purchase agreement approved by Council listed an October construction start date and nothing has happened. Mr. Murdock stated there have been many discussions that speak toward modifications to this project and he is not really certain what is going to happen. Mr. Murdock stated Council keeps talking about Water Street and keeps informing the public that something is going to happen but we are still waiting for something to actually happen.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-272 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

2. Resolution No. 2015-273, approving Property Disposition Policy.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti owns residential and commercial property as a result of tax foreclosure and seeks to sell the properties and return properties to active tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, A Property Disposition Policy has been created to achieve the goals of selling city-owned property in a fair and clear manner; and

WHEREAS, The Property Disposition Policy excludes the Water Street Development Parcel; and

WHEREAS, City staff and City Council will use the Property Disposition Policy for the basis of promoting the sale of City-owned property, blight reduction, cost reductions associated with the maintenance of City owned property and increased tax revenues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council accepts and approves the Property Disposition Policy as a guide for the sale of all City-owned property with the exception of the Water Street Development Parcel.

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

Ms. Ernat stated this item was introduced to Council in September during a work session and this policy is a result of that work session. Ms. Ernat recommends this policy to reduce blight and get properties back on the tax roll. Ms. Ernat stated this along with the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone will help to address concerns of blight, safety, crime, and overall living conditions in the City. Ms. Ernat stated a huge drain on the City is to maintain its properties and this would help to alleviate that problem. Ms. Ernat stated there has been a large amount of interest from the public in this program which makes her think that a realtor would not be needed until the program begins to slow. Ms. Ernat added if this policy is approved she estimates six sales in the first month.

Mayor Edmonds stated Section C on page one, she does not see a difference in the residential and commercial program. Ms. Edmonds asked for the intent of a public hearing and approving sale. Ms. Ernat responded once a year staff is requesting Council to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sell the parcels identified. Ms. Ernat stated commercial properties would require a hearing for every parcel.

Mayor Edmonds stated there is a "not less than" stipulation for the commercial program but not for the residential and asked if that was an omission or if it was on purpose. Ms. Ernat responded it was purposely done because in the case of side-lotting for residential they would be charged the cost to close plus \$1. Mayor Edmonds asked what would be the process for selling property. Ms. Ernat responded the first option to buy would be offered to any property that would be able to side-lot. Ms. Ernat stated those neighboring the property would be sent a letter to discuss purchasing the property. Ms. Ernat added those that have called will get the next priority then after that it becomes first come first serve.

Council Member Anne Brown asked for clarification for interim use of a parcel. Ms. Ernat responded it has been suggested by legal counsel for staff develop a standard agreement for the use of those properties to be approved individually by Council. Mayor Edmonds stated she would be able to provide staff with draft policies. Ms. Anne Brown asked if there has been any other thought into what the properties could be used for other than community gardens, public art, and other cultural uses. Ms. Ernat responded it is the intention of staff to be open to other possibilities. Ms. Anne Brown asked what other communities allowed. Ms. Ernat responded those three items were what staff found to be other practices in communities. Ms. Ernat responded staff is open to anything other than a public park because the definition would make the property the responsibility of the City to maintain.

Council Member Murdock stated the residential properties being discussed are empty lots. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Mr. Murdock asked if the commercial properties were also vacant. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Mayor Edmonds stated this policy does not indicate it is only applicable to vacant lots and if that is the case it will need to be amended. Ms. Ernat responded staff wanted to keep it open in case properties in future years do include structures and the purchaser was willing to bring it to code.

Council Member Murdock asked if the first come first serve is the best process for this policy. Mayor Edmonds stated she would like to give preference to people who live in the community after those with the ability to side lot. Ms. Ernat stated the majority of calls that she received were local. Mr. Murdock stated he understands local preference but he is more interested in viable projects.

Mayor Edmonds asked if residential properties would be for homestead use only. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Ms. Edmonds asked will staff be vetting purchasers to make certain that properties will only be for homestead. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Ms. Edmonds stated she wants to be certain that individuals buying land have the ability to actual build and asked if all available lots for residential are buildable. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative but legally there is no such thing as a non-buildable lot.

Council Member Murdock stated once the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone is established it will make a big difference when an individual is building a home. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative which will also allow the City to do a more in-depth investigation of an individual's financials.

Mayor Edmonds asked if a part of this the purchaser fill out a form that stipulates what their intent is with the property. Ms. Ernat responded there might be people who purchase property as a part of this program that have no intention to build. Ms. Edmonds replied the policy states that the property must be homestead. Ms. Ernat responded the property must be homestead if the purchaser decides to build. Ms. Edmonds responded the way the policy states the purchaser agrees to purchase the property for homestead only and the purchaser must build. Mr. DuChene stated there are two different processes occurring one is sidelotting which might or might not have a building on it and the other is a standard purchaser with whom it is assumed that they will build on the property. Ms. Edmonds responded that many people purchase vacant lots with the prospect that the lots become more valuable but if they don't those individuals might not pay their taxes and it is her intention to protect the City against that possibility. Mr. DuChene asked if the goal for the purchaser scenario is to require a structure be built on that property in a certain amount of time. Ms. Edmonds replied currently the policy already provides that stipulation and if that is not the intent it should be changed. Mr. DuChene stated that is the intent for that scenario but not for all properties included in this policy. Ms. Edmonds replied any property not purchased as a sidelot would be required to build. Ms. Ernat responded she thinks the Mayor's concern could be addressed by adding "if built upon lot must be maintained as a homestead property".

Council Member Murdock stated a maintenance clause could also be included in the policy. Mr. Lange stated if the property is not maintained code enforcement would issue a ticket. Mr. Lange added even if the purchaser maintains the property and pays taxes on the property for a year the City is still ahead of where it would be if the property was not sold.

Ms. Ernat stated when this policy was initially discussed it was the consensus of Council that these properties should not be built upon to create more rentals and if the sentence "if built upon lot must be maintained as a homestead property" is added it would address this concern. Mayor Edmonds replied it is her intention that this is clear and she predicts these properties will be purchased for a number of possibilities.

Council Member Murdock stated many of these properties have limited uses however sidelots could also be built upon. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Mayor Edmonds asked if a parcel was purchased for sidelotting would the parcels be combined. Mr. DuChene stated the purchaser would have to combine the lots it would not happen automatically.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the City owns the property on Worden and Frederick. City Planner Bonnie Wessler replied it is possible but would need the address to be certain. Ms. Ernat responded staff will investigate and get back to Council. Council Member Robb added when Council received the presentation in September that property was not listed.

Council Member Anne Brown stated the City of Akron, Ohio built structures on vacant lots and then sold them similar to how Habitat for Humanity operates. Ms. Ernat responded she hopes Habitat comes forward as a partner in this process.

Council Member Robb asked if a property were to be solid that contained a structure it would only be sold for the cost of the land. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative because most likely the structure would need to be demolished.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification of Section C regarding the annual resolution of Council. Ms. Ernat responded she feels that section does need clarification. Mr. DuChene stated the policy should read, Council should annually consider a resolution to annually cover all stipulations of the residential properties in this policy. Council Member Robb stated the annual resolution will approve the properties for sale not the sale of properties. Ms. Ernat added the City Manager would not have the authority to sell properties not included in the list approved by Council. Ms. Edmonds asked if instead of stating "approve the sale of subject parcels" it could read "approve subject parcels authorized to be sold". Mr. DuChene responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Robb asked if any of these parcels will be sold between now and January 4th. Ms. Ernat responded no. Mr. Robb stated if there will be no sales until January why not fix the policy and resubmit

it to Council at the January 19th Council Meeting. Ms. Ernat responded she has no objections to the tabling of this item. Mayor Edmonds asked if Council Member Robb is not satisfied with the changes already made. Mr. Robb responded he prefers not to make major changes to a policy at the table, especially when there is no need to approve this tonight. Mayor Edmonds asked the consensus of Council of bringing this back for the January 19th meeting along with a resolution. Ms. Ernat asked if it could be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Robb moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt to table Resolution No. 2015-273 until the January 19th Council Meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Resolution No. 2015-273 was tabled.

3. Resolution No. 2015-274, approving contract with Arbor Masonry that exceeded \$25,000 allowed.

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACTS WITH ARBOR MASONRY

WHEREAS, In July, the City Manager entered into a contract with Arbor Masonry in the amount of \$13,100 to construct a storage building for the Parkridge Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Also in July, the City Manager entered into a separate contract with Arbor Masonry in the amount of \$19,800 to construct a dumpster pad and sweeping containment area for the Department of Public Works Yard; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to both of these contracts, on October 8, 2015, the City Manager entered into a separate third contract with Arbor Masonry in the amount of \$800 to install an 8-foot by 15-foot concrete slab outside of City Hall; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Masonry was the lowest qualified bidder for each of these projects; and

WHEREAS, the total amount paid by the City to Arbor Masonry under all of these contracts would total \$33,700; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 2, Section 2-296 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ypsilanti requires that City Council approve purchases in excess of \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, Council approval is not required under the Code of Ordinances for any of these contracts but the City is maintaining a policy of obtaining Council approval for such instances for audit purposes;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that: each of the above contracts with Arbor Masonry is approved for the total amount of \$33,700.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

SECONDED BY: Council Member Vogt

Mr. Lange stated this resolution is straightforward and it is a double check on the City administration. Mr. Lange added the projects listed in the resolution were separate and the length of time of the projects caused them to overlap. Mr. Lange added that both major projects came under estimated cost.

Council Member Robb stated it seems that Council is authorizing projects after the fact every meeting. Mr. Robb stated he was been on Council for nine years and this never occurred until recently and now this would be the third time Council had to approve a project after the fact. Mr. Robb added he feels that this is disingenuous because one quote is dated for July 22nd and another is dated for July 23rd and said technically this is not a violation of the City Manager's purchasing authority but this is a violation in spirit. Mr. Lange responded they were two completely different projects, and the Charter states any unit project over \$25,000 is to be approved by Council. Mr. Robb replied it does not matter and now the City Manager is telling Council that he spent funds that Council never budgeted for and asked how simple it would have been once staff received these quotes in July to bring them to Council.

Council Member Anne Brown stated even though Arbor Masonry submitted the lowest bid in the spirit of employing more people in the City why not select another company to perform the other project. Mayor Edmonds replied that would be a policy recommendation in the City's bid award process. Mr. Lange responded it is difficult to get interested companies to the bidding process.

Council Member Robb moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown. to amend the resolution stating "Be it Further Resolved that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of all purchase of service contracts executed by the City Manager regardless of the amount to City Council upon their execution".

Council Member Anne Brown asked City Clerk McMullan if that is already a function of her position or would that added responsibility. Ms. McMullan responded the City Clerk is keeper of records and each contract is scanned into the shared drive so it would be as simple as emailing contracts to Council.

Council Member Anne Brown stated it seems redundant to what Council is already provided. Council Member Robb responded Council is not provided contracts under \$25,000 that are executed by the City Manager. Ms. Anne Brown stated it is policy that Council does need to view contracts under \$25,000. Mr. Robb responded this is the third time this has happened and he is requesting that Council be informed of that information.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the City Clerk will be keeping track if a contractor receives two awards. Ms. McMullan responded she will need to inform department heads and the City Manager's office that all contracts under \$25,000 will be required to be kept on file with the Clerk Department, because sometimes contracts are not submitted. Council Member Robb responded he does not see why that is not the current practice. Ms. McMullan responded it should be but it does not always happen and the last time this was requested they needed to be collected from departments.

On a roll call, the vote to amended Resolution No. 2015-274 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

Resolution No. 2015-274 as amended:

WHEREAS, In July, the City Manager entered into a contract with Arbor Masonry in the amount of \$13,100 to construct a storage building for the Parkridge Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Also in July, the City Manager entered into a separate contract with Arbor Masonry in the amount of \$19,800 to construct a dumpster

pad and sweeping containment area for the Department of Public Works Yard; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to both of these contracts, on October 8, 2015, the City Manager entered into a separate third contract with Arbor Masonry in the amount of \$800 to install an 8-foot by 15-foot concrete slab outside of City Hall; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Masonry was the lowest qualified bidder for each of these projects; and

WHEREAS, the total amount paid by the City to Arbor Masonry under all of these contracts would total \$33,700; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 2, Section 2-296 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ypsilanti requires that City Council approve purchases in excess of \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, Council approval is not required under the Code of Ordinances for any of these contracts but the City is maintaining a policy of obtaining Council approval for such instances for audit purposes;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that: each of the above contracts with Arbor Masonry is approved for the total amount of \$33,700.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of all purchase of service contracts executed by the City Manager regardless of the amount to City Council upon their execution.

Mayor Edmonds thanked the City Manager for bringing this to the attention of Council even though he was not required because it sheds light on the fact that all contracts were not being submitted to the Clerk Department. Council Member Nicole Brown agreed.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-274 as amended was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

4. Resolution No. 2015-276, approving the City Manager and City Clerk Evaluation Policy.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, City Council is the governing body of the City of Ypsilanti charged by law with certain powers and duties to conduct the affairs of the City;

WHEREAS, there is a desire to codify an evaluation process for the City Manager and City Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Ypsilanti City Council hereby adopts the City Manager Evaluation Policy and Procedure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Ypsilanti City Council hereby adopts the City Clerk Evaluation Policy and Procedure.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock

SECONDED BY: Council Member Anne Brown

Mayor Edmonds moved a friendly amendment that the policy includes that Council be reported the results of the evaluation before the committee inform the employee, that the first step of the review process should be Council approving the tool for the evaluation, and that the Mayor sit on the review committee.

Council Member Murdock asked if Council received this policy three weeks ago. Council Member Robb responded he did not send the policy out three weeks ago.

Council Member Nicole Brown responded she does not agree that the Mayor should sit on the evaluation committee. Ms. Nicole Brown stated that all Council Members interact with both the City Manager and the City Clerk and each member of Council's evaluation factors in equally.

Council Member Anne Brown voiced concern that both the Mayor and the Mayor Pro-Tem asked for the committee to meet on two separate occasions and two members of the committee did not feel that the meeting was necessary. Ms. Anne Brown said that Council does serve at the pleasure of the people and if a member of this body asks to meet Council should make every effort to meet if the meeting is substantive or not. Council Member Nicole Brown agreed. Council Member Vogt stated a point of information is that neither he nor Council Member Robb refused to meet they only requested proposals be discussed ahead of time in order to be more effective in their discussion.

Mayor Edmonds moved a friendly amendment be added to the beginning of the policy that the employee being evaluated be made aware of the evaluation tool and adding number seven that Council be reported the results of the evaluation before the committee inform the employee.

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt, to table Resolution No. 2015-276.

Council Member Murdock requested that the changes being suggested be submitted to Council in writing.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if this policy would take effect in 2016. Council Member Nicole Brown responded in the affirmative.

On a roll call, the vote to table Resolution No. 2015-276 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 4 NO: 2 (Edmonds, Robb) ABSENT: 1 (Richardson) VOTE: Carried

5. Resolution No. 2015-279, authorizing the application Michigan Historic Preservation CLG Grant for Education.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti is a Certified Local Government (CLG) in the State of Michigan which allows for access to CLG grant funds from the National Park Service that are directed through the State of Michigan Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); and

Whereas, the City would like to apply for the 2016 Historic Preservation CLG grant offered through the SHPO for funds that are available for education, identification, community based planning, registration, and rehabilitation activities; and

Whereas, the Ypsilanti City Council would like to authorize the acceptance and execution of the grant agreement with the SHPO with matching funds provided by staff matched time;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council authorizes the City's application for a CLG grant to fund educational workshops;

FURTHER, that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the CLG grant agreement, any grant agreement amendments and any grant agreement related documents which might be necessary following approval by the City Attorney.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Vogt

SECONDED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

Ms. Ernat thanked Council for considering this resolution and said this is a project the Historic District Intern has been working on as well as the Associate Planner. Ms. Ernat responded funding comes from the National Parks Services and is funneled through the State Historic Preservation Office and then distributed to local governments. Ms. Ernat stated this has been an excellent project for the Historic Preservation Intern and will not cost the City any money. Ms. Ernat asked for Council's support in the approval of this resolution.

Council Member Vogt asked if City staff will act as the educators and preform the presentations. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2015-279 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 HDC Intern could be sent to the Department of Natural Resources grant writing workshop in January. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative.

XIII. LIASON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update – Mr. Lange stated the last meeting there were discussions on the Transportation Alternative Program Grants. He said there were discussions on the completion of Grove Rd. as a part of the Border to Border Trail.
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Council Member Murdock stated we sent a note to Council after the last meeting regarding the crossing on Washtenaw by the

university which was postponed and the issue of redoing M-17 and US-12 is still undecided.

- C. Urban County – Mayor Edmonds stated the priority projects are due by next January which might have more regional significance. Ms. Edmonds said if Council has additional thoughts to send them to Economic Development Director Beth Ernat. Ms. Edmonds also mentioned the "Home Dollars" Request for Proposal for affordable housing projects. Ms. Edmonds stated the piece that she put forward was regarding the Huron River Drive at Leforge corridor.

Council Member Murdock asked when the funds for the Huron River Drive corridor would be available. Mayor Edmonds responded they would be available possibly by July. Mr. Murdock stated the reason why he asks is the various needs that have been listed for that corridor.

- D. Freight House – Council Member Murdock stated construction has begun on the Freight House. Mr. Murdock stated an alternative waterline entrance needed to be found into the building causing the construction to be delayed by six weeks.
- E. Parks and Recreation – Council Member Anne Brown stated there was a new appointee Evan Sweet who attended the last meeting and sent out an 'adopt a park' application. Ms. Anne Brown stated each Ward should have three seats on the Commission and the appointment is another person from Ward 2.

Mayor Edmonds responded there have been five applicants from Ward 2 and they are sent to the chair of the Commission for recommendations. Council Member Murdock stated he knows of one person from Ward 3 who said she applied. Ms. Edmonds asked who the applicant was. Mr. Murdock responded Alison Diem. Ms. Edmonds responded she has not gone through the process yet.

Council Member Anne Brown stated that during the Joint Task Force Meeting on Monday, December 14th it was learned that Martha Valadez has resigned from the Human Relations Commission because she is relocating out of state. Ms. Anne Brown stated Ms. Valadez has been a very engaged member of that commission and if it is known that an individual is separating from a Commission Council should be prepared to award that individual for their service. Ms. Anne Brown added that there should also be an orientation meeting for new members of boards or commissions. Clerk McMullan stated there is a letter that is sent when a member is leaving a board or commission.

- F. Millennial Mayors Conference – No Meeting
- G. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – The Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17th.

Council Member Nicole Brown stated she was contacted by a DDA member regarding the creation of an Executive Committee and asked for clarification of that Board. Mayor Edmonds responded the Executive Committee by default is the officers of that Board and that is not a new committee. Council Member Murdock stated the Executive Committee is subject to the Open Meetings Act. Mr. DuChene stated he will review the resolution requiring certain committees to abide by the Open Meetings Act and will inform Council and the DDA of his findings. Mr. Murdock added the resolution was in response to the committees of the DDA which also do not have a majority of the DDA Board.

- H. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – Council Member Anne Brown scheduled to meet in January 2016 and Garland Gilcrest will be presenting how See.Click.Fix can be used as a tool for community engagement.
- I. Police-Community Relations/Black Lives Matter Joint Task Force – Council Member Anne Brown stated she was under the impression that there was a quorum. Council Member Robb responded roll was not called and he did not want to take action because a quorum of the Task Force was not present and he does not want three people to make policy. Mayor Edmonds stated that group is not making policy it is only making recommendations to the Human Relations Commission. Mr. Robb responded in the affirmative and the recommendations should come from a majority of the Task Force. Mayor Edmonds stated she asked Clerk McMullan to notice each meeting of the Task Force for transparency and inclusion from the public. Ms. Edmonds stated similarly the Task Force is not staffed. Mr. Robb stated the Deputy Clerk staffs the Task Force meetings. Ms. McMullan stated the Clerk Department needs to know if it will staff the dedicated liaison to the Task Force and said other commissions such as the Parks and Recreation Commission supply their own liaison.

Council Member Anne Brown stated since Martha Valadez moved will there be another appointment made by the HRC. Mayor Edmonds responded she will inform the HRC of the need to fill that position. Council Member Robb added the HRC will not be able to make that appointment until their January meeting.

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Vogt

- Asked when there would be a replacement flag for the Senior Center.

Mr. Lange stated he was under the impression that the flag had been replaced but will follow-up to be certain.

Anne Brown

- Stated the next phase in the Council communication training is to meet with Walter Kraft and Emma Jackson from EMU to discuss a communication plan for the media and intercommunication among Council members. Ms. Anne Brown stated that will be scheduled during a January Council Meeting.

Murdock

- Stated the state legislature has changed some of the rules of ballots for elections by eliminating straight party voting. Mr. Murdock stated the legislature is discussing no reason absentee voting which would be restricted to the only being able to do so at the Clerk's Office. Mr. Murdock stated if that passes he would like to and the legislature does not prevent jurisdictions for opening Saturdays he would like to be open for every Saturday for the entire month before the election and possibly evening hours.

Mayor Edmonds asked for the registration deadlines for the next year. Ms. McMullan responded she can forward that information to Council and it is also available on the City's website.

- Stated he and Council Member Robb spoke with Mr. Lange and OHM about developing a truck route through the City. Mr. Murdock said an ordinance and a map are going to be developed and if anyone would like input let him or Council Member Robb know.

Mayor Edmonds suggested being aware of how these routes would affect delivery for businesses in the City.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Stated throughout the first floor of City Hall there is an exhibit of the HP Jacobs Mural Project.
- Stated there was a ceremony Friday, December 11th for Ypsilanti being a Redevelopment Ready Community which was well attended.
- Stated she met Robert Fletcher the first African American POW from Ypsilanti in Stadium Hardware in Ann Arbor and she will forward his information to students completed a report on African American History.

Nominations:

Human Relations Commission

John Shuler (reappointment)
316 E. Forest
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Term Expiration: 11/1/2018

Parks and Recreation Commission

Nicole Putala (new)
914 Pearl Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Term Expiration: 11/1/2018

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Asked if it is true that the Downtown dumpster corrals will no longer be maintained.

Mayor Edmonds responded the dumpsters would be removed and businesses would be able to purchase their own dumpster service. Ms. Edmonds stated the Downtown dumpster enclosures have been a controversial topic in the DDA for some time particularly from businesses in the DDA districts that have to pay for their own dumpster services. Ms. Edmonds stated there was an attempt to create a private/public partnership with the users of the enclosures but there was little buy-in. Ms. Edmonds added the reality is the DDA has a third less budget and this is an economic reality. Ms. Edmonds stated to clarify the comments of Mr. Heikiknen the DDA is composed of two people from Depot Town, one person from the West Cross, and three people from Downtown including the resident requirement.

Council Member Anne Brown stated Mr. McGadney is taking a new position and asked if he will be replaced on the DDA. Mayor Edmonds responded no because he is a resident. Ms. Anne Brown stated Mr. McGadney was nominated because of his employer. Ms. Edmonds responded Richard Smith also became a board member because he had a Downtown business and he does not live in the City. Ms. Anne Brown asked why those individuals are still on the DDA. Ms. Edmonds stated the requirement of the DDA is that 50% of its members have a business, property owners, or an employee in one of the districts. Council Member Murdock responded he feels that Mayor Edmonds is misinterpreting the statute.

- Stated the City Administration will have a comprehensive response to the matter discussed in Mr. Tooson's comments. He stated his reputation and the

reputation of other City staff are being impugned by Council which will also be responded to and he is not used to having his integrity personally attacked.

- Stated he has been subject to the employee evaluation for the past three years and he has never been given the opportunity for input in the questions asked in the evaluation. He asked if there is any vehicle that he might be able to provide input now that input is being asked for.
- Stated he will work with the attorneys to ensure that each contract be forwarded to the Clerk Department.

Council Member Murdock stated he understands the Police Department is waiting for the State for a policy on police body cameras, but the City needs one now because it is currently not operating with one and if the state makes changes then the policy can be amended. Mr. Lange responded he will follow-up with the Chief. Mr. Murdock stated it has been over a year. Mr. Lange stated if the majority of Council prefers to not wait on the state, staff will produce a policy. Mr. Murdock responded the Chief must have some idea of the policy he would like to employ. Council Member Anne Brown stated the State Police is using body cameras and asked what policy they are using. Mr. Lange responded he is not certain but he will follow-up.

Council Member Vogt moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown to extend the meeting by 20 minutes.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting was extended until 10:20 p.m.

Council Member Vogt stated there might be a simple policy that the City can employ that will be easily modified once the state completes a policy. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative.

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS –

None

XVIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Chase Flanery, 001 Walton Hall, asked if a roundabout could be installed at Leforge and Huron River Drive or is there an issue with the rail line.

Council Member Murdock stated that intersection is notorious for traffic back-ups and once the design process begins that intersection and the one at Oakwood will be examined.

XIX. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

None

XX. ADJOURNMENT –

Resolution No. 2015-277, 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 Nicole Brown
SECONDED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.