



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Bashert	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	Present	Council Member Vogt	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Edmonds	Present
Council Member Richardson	Present		

III. INVOCATION – Mayor Edmonds asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS – Mayor Edmonds introduced Interim Manager Frances McMullan, Interim City Clerk Andrew Hellenga, Legal Counsel John Bar and Dan DuChene, Director of Economic Development Beth Ernat, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, and other esteemed community members.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, seconded by Council Member Bashert to approve the agenda.

Agenda approved in vote.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Mayor Edmonds opened audience participation

Beverly Washington- James 968 Monroe Street- Wanted to know who decided to put so many transformers on one street and asked why the residents haven’t heard anything about these transformers being put in their yards.

Adam Gainsley - 409 N. Adams: Reiterated that he would like council to formally turn down the truck routes ordinance on the table tonight.

Lillian Ellis - 760 Jenness St APT 12: Requested City Council to make the City of Ypsilanti a sanctuary city.

D’Real Graham - 211 N. Washington St.: Explained how he and a colleague were detained and harassed by the police. He asked if Ypsilanti Police Department has a stop and frisk policy and if he entered a crime scene why wasn’t he redirected to another area.

Mayor Edmonds closed Audience Participation

VIII. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

Mayor Edmonds replied to Ms. Washington-James by saying Council will look into the issue and asked Manager McMullan to follow-up. She invited Ms. Ellis to the January 10th Council Meeting to when Council will be discussing that issue. She advised Mr. Graham to file a complaint.

Council Member Richardson apologized to Ms. Washington-James and said the City needs to stay informed of what is happening and agencies operating in the City, including DTE, should inform the City. She apologized to Mr. Graham for the experience he had, and assured him an investigation would take place.

Council Member Murdock explained to Ms. Ellis, and any other interested parties, that we would be happy to forward them the draft ordinance concerning immigration.

IX. ORDINANCE - SECOND READING –

1. Resolution No. 2016-203, approving Ordinance 1271, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH A TRUCK ROUTE AND REGULATE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC WITHIN THE CITY OF YPSILANTI; TO PROHIBIT TRUCK AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC ON OTHER ROADS; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF, PURSUANT TO ITS AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLE VII, SECTION 29 OF THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION OF 1963 AND SECTION 726 OF THE MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE, ACT 300 of 1949 (MCL 257.1 ET SEQ)". **(Removed from agenda 10-18-16)**

Moved by Council Member Robb, seconded by Council Member Murdock

Council Member Robb explained his frustration; Council has been working on this for two years with input from the community. Council gave direction to regulate truck traffic in Ypsilanti and staff did not take direction. He stated staff was asked to create a solution to a problem, and instead what was submitted by staff is a recommendation to not approve this ordinance. He asked staff why alternate solutions were not examined and submitted to Council.

Ms. Ernat replied staff's response is directed at this specific ordinance and staff was not directed to create alternate solutions.

Council Member Murdock replied a year ago that he and Council Member Robb met with the City Manager, representatives from OHM, and DPS Director Stan Kirton. He said Mr. Kirton brought a variety of issues relative to roads; one of them was truck traffic in the City. The City has had issues with truck traffic and the recommendation was to implement a truck route plan. He said possibility of losing Federal Funding if a truck route is created, but there isn't a case where that has ever happened which has been confirmed by SEMCOG and MDOT.

Ms. Ernat said staff reached to contacts in funding agencies and received information that there is a possibility federal funding could be pulled. Its staff's responsibility to communicate that, what Council does with that information is their choice. She said staff has no fundamental reason not to create truck routes aside from the possibility of losing funding.

Council Member Vogt said the intention is not to divert truck traffic from one part of the City to another, but outside of the City completely. There isn't hard data on the current routes and there is only an anecdotal understanding. He said Council is not interested in approving anything

that will cause uncertainty. He added greater study needs to be completed before voting on this ordinance.

Council Member Bashert said she is not going to talk about the funding questions because it is up in the air. She asked if truck routes would only address pass through traffic, and there is not data available explaining how much of truck traffic is pass through. She added even if this ordinance is approved it is possible it would do little to address the problem.

Mr. DuChene explained the ordinance does somewhat address this; he said if a delivery is being made to the Gateway neighborhood the truck would have to keep on the designated route as possible. He said a driver can make a diversion but must quickly divert back to the proper route.

Council Member Bashert said this is unenforceable, the driver could simply say they were making a delivery.

Council Member Robb stated the data being requested does not exist. He said there is a lot of cut through traffic on City roads and currently the City has no recourse to control this traffic. He said many communities do this around the State, and if the issue is suggested routes that can be debated, but he cannot agree to outright reject truck regulation when it is a common practice in the state.

Council Member Richardson responded she is not opposed to the idea of regulating truck traffic. The opposition she has heard coming from residents is they are not opposed to the regulation of truck traffic, it's the suggested routes. She's not in favor truck traffic going up and down Hamilton and Huron.

Mayor Edmonds said she would be voting no on this ordinance. She doesn't have an issue with regulating truck traffic but this ordinance is not feasible to enforce. She said people live on almost all of the streets in the City and unfortunately trucks will be on roads that people live. She said while she appreciates trying to divert trucks out of the City it only moves the problem to our neighbors.

Council Member Murdock said this ordinance is trying to limit the amount of streets trucks can use. He said Hewitt is a designated truck road by the County and the City has no recourse to change that. If you look at the County Map of truck routes and how they connect to the City you will notice they connect with the major arteries, traffic is focused on M-17 and Michigan Ave, when looking north of the City Prospect, LeForge, Holmes and many other roads are not truck routes. Everything north is not connecting, where it does connect is to the East, and that's where traffic coming from the east is most likely go.

Mayor Edmonds said she would rather keep the stress equal among everyone rather than chose winners and losers.

Council Member Vogt suggested reaching out to local trucking companies to access truck route data. There will be several different sources from that, and possibly using state and local police agencies could provide information. He said Council was told staff would research and report on data that was acquired. There is enough data for us to make informed decisions. He disagreed there is an undue burden to move truck traffic into more rural areas, driven Clark and Harrison, Clark and Ford to see where R&L would drive if they aren't coming down Prospect and those routes are less populated and the set back of houses are much greater. Those routes have less traffic and it should be easier for them than to drive through Hamilton with their tight turns. It is the Township taking the burden but it is also the safest routes.

Mayor Edmonds asked staff if R&L has been contacted.

Ms. Wessler replied that she did not contact R&L.

Council Member Murdock said suggestions for amendments from various people. He suggested that these be adopted, and there were three suggestions; MDOT suggested we add language in the ordinance including the list of streets and state highways. Secondly there was a mistake on the map, Harriet only went to Huron street, not up to Hamilton, and it is in the language but not on the map. Thirdly, add Maus from Grove to the City limit making a loop into the Township and back to M-17.

Offered by Council Member Murdock, supported by Council Member Robb

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2016-203 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

Council Member Vogt moved to remove LeForge and Hewitt from the map, street descriptions, and remove as part of the allowed truck route. He explained it is a safety issue, there are a lot of students and people coming in to visit that would not know about it being a truck route.

No Second the Amendment dies.

Council Member Vogt moved to table, seconded by Council Member Richardson

On a roll call, the vote to table ordinance 2016-203 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 2 NO: 5 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Failed

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-203 as amended was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 2 NO: 5 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Failed

X. CONSENT AGENDA –

Resolution No. 2016-271

1. Resolution No. 2016-272, approving the minutes of November 1, 2016 and November 14, 2016.
2. Resolution No. 2016-273, approving appointment to Boards and Commissions.
3. Resolution No. 2016-274, authorizing the City Treasurer to levy and assess on the December 2016 tax roll the attached listing of unpaid bills totaling \$24,025.67.

Moved by Council Member Bashert, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown

On a roll call, the vote to approve the Consent Agenda was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

XI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2016-275, approving the MOU between Washtenaw Community College and the City of Ypsilanti regarding Parkridge Center.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, seconded by Council Member Richardson

Manager McMullan said the contract with Washtenaw Community College and the City to provide programming at Parkridge will expire December 16th. She explained by action of Council staff is only directed funding until the end of this fiscal year. Anthony Williamson stated he contacted the new Dean of WCC to convey the value of the current partnership, while making them aware funding in the future. He said he spoke with Mr. Barfield who has agreed to spearhead fundraising efforts to continue what has been started. Ms. McMullan stated signing this MOU solidifies our commitment to Parkridge and working with WCC the agreement is for funding for the next 6 months, and added there is available grant funding if absolutely necessary.

Mayor Edmonds asked why there is not a budget amendment included with this MOU.

Manager McMullan replied that she was advised by the Finance Department the budget could be amended at the end of the Fiscal Year.

Mr. Barr explained Mr. Barfield is in the audience and the Attorney’s Office has been meeting with him and his accountant to prepare a contract. He explained Mr. Barfield has raised \$200,000 as an endowment fund for Parkridge and is agreeing, once everything is signed, to contribute \$27,000 a year to Parkridge.

Manager McMullan asked Mr. Barfield how much he has committed and starting when.

Mr. Barfield answered \$27,000 a year starting immediately.

Manager McMullan asked if this would cover payments failed to be made to the City. Mr. Barfield replied he would like begin repayment in the next months and start the \$27,000 this year. Manager McMullan responded that is acceptable.

Mayor Edmonds asked if Mr. Langston would like to add anything.

Mr. Langston said he is here representing WCC and that the college would want to keep the relationship with the City of Ypsilanti and the Parkridge center. He said it has always been WCC's plan to provide community service in the eastern part of the County. He said the program at Parkridge has continued to grow over the past ten years. He stated it is imperative to keep the program going for the residents of the City and residents in the greater community. He asked the Council is if the sticking points the amount of money that is paid yearly.

Mayor Edmonds responded Council has always supported Parkridge, but funding is an issue, which is the partnership with WCC and Mr. Barfield is so essential.

Council Member Richardson said saving and maintaining Parkridge is extremely important, and was opposed of removing recreation from the budget in 2003. She there have been various points throughout her tenure on Council that the City didn't want to assist in funding or maintain the building and Council cannot allow this building to deteriorate. She stated Mr. Barfield and other community members came together and were able to keep Parkridge open, working without pay for three years until the establishment of the Parkridge Advisory Board. She sees Parkridge as more than a recreation center but an enhancement center, not just to the City but to the greater community.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown echoed Council Member Richardson's comments and added Parkridge is a safe space for this City's youth. She said since she was young she has been a part of Parkridge and happens there is truly magnificent. She expressed her gratitude for the partnerships as they are what kept Parkridge going.

Mr. Barfield said he hired a Development Officer and is training that person to build and endowment. It is his hope that over the next five years an endowment of \$1 million to \$2 million will be created. We will work to create an endowment for Parkridge and if we work together we can salvage it and make it more viable to the City.

Council Member Vogt said in the past the WCC program gave an excess of \$250,000 if the City and other private sources could produce \$27,000. He agreed with Ms. Richardson that Parkridge is about nurturing, training, helping, and educating youth, especially those from troubled homes. It is a tremendous asset and it should be continued anyway it can.

Council Member Robb asked for his understanding that \$31,391 out of the budget that is going to be put back in at the end of the year.

Manager McMullan said they gave them \$10,000 to maintain the building, and the janitorial. The excess of that has been \$13,000, what goes back into the fund would allow us to be fully reimbursed once Mr. Barfield put in his donation.

Council Member Robb asked Mr. Barr for clarification regarding a date.

Mr. Barr responded said Mr. Robb caught a typo and it should say for 2017. Council Member Robb asked if they would have to amend that. Mr. Barr said they could get a clean copy for the signing and they would have to note that it has been changed.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-275 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

2. Resolution No. 2016-276, approving the Bell/Kramer testing proposal.

Moved by Council Member Vogt, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown

Ms. Ernat said the last council meeting staff was directed to solicit pricing for testing. She asked AKT Peerless to be here tonight to discuss possible. We will need to have access agreement with all the home and structures, it would take two hours per home and would need to be installed in the lowest part of the home. The testing would require a small hole that could be permanently covered afterwards. The monitoring includes fifteen samples and would include about ten structures.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the samples were all in the structures on that block.

Ms. Ernat said the testing would not include any housing in the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

Mayor Edmonds asked for more information on the testing.

Ms. Vienna from AKT Peerless stated data for some previous investigation in 2013 have been researched and based on the results the scope of work will be to examine both methane in the subset. She said AKT would resample if necessary based on the data, or expand the investigation further outwards. She said AKT will be looking for both volatile organic compounds and test for methane in the landfills obviously because of the breakdown of garbage, sometimes a pocket of gas will move in a different direction.

Ms. Ernat said they did meet with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and they were satisfied with this being a starting point for testing.

Council Member Richardson said she would like make sure the housing behind the gas station would be tested too.

Ms. Ernat responded that those houses are included.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there was a reason to be testing in the landfill, surface or otherwise.

Ms. Ernat responded that after recommendations from MDQ and longer discussions with AKT staff feels this is the critical part of the test. She said we know there is methane existing in the landfill, but we know to know where it is migrating.

Council Member Richardson asked what are we prepared to do if we find methane.

Ms. Ernat responded a strategy depends on what is found. She explained methane, for example, will always take the path of least resistance, there could be more or less. We could use monitors such as CO2 Monitors that indicate like a fire alarm when those levels are higher, this is an easy solution we could provide immediately at a lower cost.

Mayor Edmonds asked what different ways of mitigation are available.

Ms. Vienna said that you could install a venting system they are pretty simple to design and install. She said it would be prudent to find out the results first before moving ahead with plans.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown asked for clarification of the testing process.

Ms. Vienna replied two hours for testing because 45 minutes after the installation before it is stable to collect the samples, we then send it to the lab, which is a turnaround of about five to six days, then analyzed and a report prepared for the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown said it wasn't "until 30 days" but "within 30 days". After that we can take more action and planning. She asked what the timeline is for the radon vents.

Ms. Ernat responded once the results are received staff would report to Council if it would require immediate attention Council would be contacted immediately, for something moderate staff would wait for the final report to be brought to Council.

Mayor Edmonds asked if residents in the structures being tested will be informed of the results immediately.

Ms. Ernat responded the information would first go to Council and staff would inform residents, but Council will make the final decisions in terms of remediation.

Council Member Bashert said she is very pleased with the swift response when concerning the health of residents. She asked if an issue could develop since this project went to bid. Council Member Robb said it is only \$25,000.

Ms. Ernat responded the City and AKT Peerless have a professional service contract of up to \$225,000. Ms. Ernat added it was not necessary for staff to bring this to Council for approval however it is staff's intention to keep Council abreast of what is happening at Bell/Kramer.

Mr. Barr said there is an exception in the charter for professional services.

Council Member Murdock asked if they are testing for VOC and Methane should be complete relatively quick.

Ms. Ernat responded the results will be available somewhat quickly, but the final report will take more time.

Council Member Murdock stated the testing will provide data on how the City should proceed. He asked how the City will fund possible remediation.

Ms. Ernat responded the budget was reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000 but it can be amended at the six month budget review.

Council Member Murdock stated a budget amendment will require a budget amendment. Ms. Ernat replied it would occur during the six month budget review. Mr. Murdock asked if the City had a similar professional services contract with AKT as it does with OHM. Ms. Ernat

responded in the affirmative. Mr. Murdock asked if that contract was sufficient for remediation. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative. Council Member Robb added the funding should be expended from that contracted amount.

Council Member Robb said his concern is through this process the City is creating a lot of data with no baseline to measure. He stated the City is fundamentally creating a baseline with this testing with uncertainty of how long possible levels have existed. He added this data could potentially put the City at risk.

Ms. Vienna stated based on the previous studies the levels were very low to not existent near the residential structures but it is prudent to test in the homes.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification on the baseline.

Ms. Ernat said that the baseline tests were taken around 1975. She said at that time testing was not completed in the structures in that area. Council Member Robb asked why sampling is not done to learn how possible contamination is migrating instead of creating new data by testing in the homes in the area.

Ms. Ernat replied Council gave the direction to focus on potential harm to the residents.

Council Member Robb said he understands but the data could be used against City.

Council Member Murdock replied Pandora's Box was already opened with the testing already completed and it is important to understand how those residents are being affected.

Council Member Bashert added the issue is not to find out where the contamination is but determining the impact has on the lives and health of residents.

Council Member Robb responded in his industry that is not how testing would be complete for fear of massive lawsuits. He appreciates the health of everyone, but they are here to protect the City and that is what concerns him.

Council Member Bashert responded that with all due respect to Council Member Robb there are areas of his industry that handle liability differently.

Council Member Richardson stated this is a situation the City created and that the City needs to take responsibility to correct.

Council Member Robb replied he is not stating it is not the responsibility of the City and the City shouldn't correct the problem but the City should be testing the migration patterns and not inside the homes.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-276 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

3. Resolution No. 2016-277, approving the amended 2017 Council Schedule.

Moved by Council Member Murdock, seconded by Council Member Richardson

Council Member Murdock stated January 3rd is a Tuesday and asked if January 2nd would be a holiday.

Clerk Hellenga responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Murdock asked the January dates be change to tenth and the twenty-fourth.

Council Member Murdock moved a friendly amendment to change the January Council Meeting dates to the tenth and the twenty-fourth. Council Member Richardson accepted the friendly amendment.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-277 as amended was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

4. Resolution No. 2016-278, directing staff to negotiate an agreement with Amicus Management for a one-time cash payment for a sign lease to end in 2022.

Moved by Council Member Richardson, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown

Economic Development Director Beth Ernat stated this information was received early this week that a company is seeking to buyout some of Adam’s Outdoor sign leases. She stated the Attorney’s Office has some concern that if the sign would be leased again the lessor would attempt to remove the City form the agreement. She does not share that fear because the City is the property owner and the City would not be willing to negotiate a proposal that would not benefit the City. She added at one point this specific billboard was scheduled to be removed by Adam’s Outdoor. She stated the Finance Department has agreed it would be more beneficial for the City to receive a onetime payment of \$10,000 rather than continue receiving \$1,500 a year. She added this is not very risky and could benefit the City.

Council Member Vogt asked who is responsible to remove the sign if the lease is not renewed in 2022. Ms. Ernat responded the City would be responsible. Mr. Vogt stated it is a reasonable amount however he is neutral but it would be useful to add to the agreement that Amicus would remove the sign.

Ms. Ernat stated it is her opinion the parcel that holds the sign is not very attractive for development due to its size. Ms. Ernat stated the billboard is a steady stream of revenue for the City even if it only amounts to \$2,000 a year.

Council Member Robb stated this is not about possible revenue rather how Ypsilanti sees itself as a community. Mr. Robb stated the City prides itself on its Historic District and the City should not have billboards in its Downtown. Mr. Robb said if the City enters into this contract it means for the next six years this billboard may not be removed and the amount of money involved should remove any consideration. Mr. Robb added he believes Council should not approve this resolution and wait until Adam's Outdoor removes its billboard.

Council Member Murdock asked if Adam's leases the billboard this billboard would not apply to the agreement that Adam's must tear down billboards in order to construct others. Council Member Robb added that makes this an even worse prospect for the City. Ms. Ernat stated she does not disagree but \$10,000 will assist in covering a soil test however it would not assist in solving greater budget issues. Mayor Edmonds responded \$10,000 could help to fund one of the recreation centers in the City. Mr. Robb responded this should be considered in if Council would like billboards in the Downtown.

Council Member Bashert stated she is not a fan of billboards but this parcel is in a downtown area full of businesses, and billboards and advertising are a part of businesses. Ms. Bashert stated because of this it is not out of character to have a billboard in a downtown.

Council Member Richardson stated if Council approves of this resolution the lease would end in 2022 and at that time Council can decide how it would like to proceed. Council Member Robb stated Council can direct staff to inquire what the cost would be to get out of the lease and remove the sign.

Mayor Edmonds stated if Council chooses to not approve this resolution the City will continue to receive \$1,500 a year and there is a possibility Adam's could remove the sign. Ms. Ernat stated one of the strategies in creating additional revenue would be to capitalize on the I-94 properties owned by the City. Ms. Ernat stated the City is limited by state statute but can permit two more digital billboards along the highway.

Council Member Bashert stated this might be more of a concern of reducing expenses instead of creating more revenue. Ms. Bashert stated it is not wise to both not accepting this lease and incurring the cost of removing the billboard.

Council Member Richardson asked if this is not approved will Adam's Outdoor remove the sign. Ms. Ernat responded no. Council Member Robb interjected unless Council removes the possibility and approves this Adam's could remove the billboard.

Mayor Edmonds stated the lump sum payment is not necessarily more revenue it is just received up front rather than over time.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-278 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 2 NO: 5 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Failed

XII. LIASON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update – Meeting on Friday, December 9th.
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
- C. Urban County – Meets, Wednesday, December 7th.
- D. Freight House – Ms. Ernat stated the Freight House is working to complete the last item to be eligible for a temporary Certificate of Occupancy. Ms. Ernat said a photometric study was submitted to the City in October that showed major inefficiencies in lighting. Ms. Ernat stated in order to proceed additional lights need to be installed or lights need to be hooked to a generator. Ms. Ernat added the study has also showed that the piping system is also susceptible to freezing. Ms. Ernat stated the Friends of the Freight House have not responded to questions from the City regarding this plan.

Council Member Vogt asked what the estimated cost would be to complete the project. Ms. Ernat responded less than \$10,000. Council Member Murdock interjected the total cost to complete the project is \$30,000. Ms. Ernat responded that is not true, the number to open the building is \$10,000. Mr. Murdock stated he is referring to total project completion. Ms. Ernat responded the generator is a permanent fix costing \$10,000 plus the exterior lights for total cost of \$20,000.

- E. Parks and Recreation - None
- F. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority – Meets Thursday, December 15th.
- G. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – Council Member Murdock stated several reports were given about how Eastern Michigan University is responding to the graffiti issue.
- H. Police-Community Relations/Black Lives Matter Joint Task Force – Meeting is Monday, December 12th.
- I. Friends of Rutherford Pool - None

XIII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Robb

- Inquired about the slow resolution of ordinance issues. He requested a detailed report on the reasons why.
- Stated fourteen streetlights on N. Washington St. are out and asked if there are any plans to replace them.

Vogt

- Thanked staff for the installation of “hidden driveway” signs on Hewitt.

Bashert

- Stated she received several calls regarding the lack of quorum at the Task Force meeting. She said she is proud of this community for paying attention and being involved. She stated it is disappointing there wasn't a quorum.

- Said several residents have expressed an interest in enhancing the equipment installed in the “tot lots”. She stated those residents will be approaching the Park and Recreation Commission regarding the possibility.

Council Member Richardson asked if those individuals would be willing to form a “Friends Group” as a funding mechanism. Council Member Bashert responded she would make that suggestion. Council Member Murdock added the equipment in the “tot lots” is uniform throughout the City.

Murdock

- Stated he sent some grant possibilities to Economic Development Director Beth Ernat regarding playground equipment.

Ms. Ernat responded it is being examined for Riverside Park.

- Informed Council that he sent out two Ordinance amendments recently; one an amendment to the Non-Discrimination Ordinance and the other is based on models used by immigrant groups involving not asking a person’s immigration status unless required by federal law.

Richardson

- Stated the Town Center residents have had issues with receiving their mail resulting from issues with its mailroom. She added residents were also forced into signing new leases with higher rents. If residents did not sign the new lease rents automatically increased to \$750 a month. She said Council has worked on living conditions at Town Center for some time and asked if there are any legal steps the City could help walk the residents through. City Attorney Barr responded he is in the process of getting in touch with a legal aid from Southeastern Legal Services of Michigan for assistance.

Mayor Edmonds stated it was her understanding the issue with mail had been resolved. Interim City Manager McMullan responded she would follow-up with the Post Master. Ms. Ernat added the management service is arranging for offsite delivery and the residents will need to go to the management center. Ms. Edmonds asked for this to be confirmed.

- Asked that staff contact DTE to see if there is any recourse for Mrs. James.
- Asked staff investigate what was mentioned by D’Real Graham.

Council Member Robb stated DTE has the ability to put transformers wherever they would like and there is little the City can do.

Council Member Murdock stated there has been talk in the community about people receiving their mail later in the night and he is not sure what has caused this.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Stated she asked the Interim City Clerk to draft a press release regarding the formation of the Sustainability Commission and asking the public to apply. Asked if Council knows of anyone that might be interested to encourage them to apply.
- Said she would prefer the Goal Setting meetings to be held in January and ideally we hope that the new City Manager will be able to be a part of the meetings.
- Asked that Department Heads prepare a report to forward to Council to read prior to Goal Setting.

- Asked if Council would like to provide tours for potential City Manager candidates on the Friday prior to the interviews on December 17th.

Council Member Bashert stated it is a best practice and believes the City should provide tours however she would not be available on that date. Council Member Murdock agreed it would be a good idea. Mayor Edmonds stated another option would be to conduct the interviews and if there is more than one potential candidate provide a tour prior to the second interview. Council Member Richardson agreed.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS –

- December 17, 2016, 8:00 am – City Manager Interviews.

XVII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. **Beverly James - 968 Monroe Street-** stated DTE should have gone through the City's Planning Commission at some point. She added there should not be four transformers in her backyard. She said Council should be watching out for the citizens of this City. She said there must be a code to decide how many transformers can be placed in a single area.
2. **Jim Loganson – 2422 Packard** – Stated he supports the City of Ypsilanti becoming a sanctuary city. He said after September 11th the federal government began offering Byrne Memorial Grants to police forces and is curious of what the conditions are to be awarded the grant.

XVIII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

None

XIX. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2016-279, adjourning the City Council meeting.

Moved by Council Member Vogt, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.