



Approved

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY JULY 5, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Anne Brown (7:04)	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Council Member Nicole Brown(7:04)	Present	Council Member Vogt	Present
Council Member Murdock (7:09)	Present	Mayor Edmonds	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Present		

III. INVOCATION –

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Edmonds introduced the following; Police Chief Tony DeGiusti, Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage, Assistant City Attorney Dan DuChene, Deputy City Clerk Andrew Hellenga, and City Manager Lange.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member Vogt moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

Proclamation in recognition of National Pollinator Week

2016 Byrne Memorial Grant – Police Chief Tony DeGiusti

Police Chief DeGiusti stated the Department of Justice has added a couple of extra steps to qualify for the grant; one to let the local government aware the Department is going to apply and allow for citizen input for 30 days. Chief DeGiusti said the minutes from this meeting can serve as a public notice as well as post the application on the website and allow the public to provide input for 30 days. Chief DeGiusti stated the Department is eligible for \$13,405 which will be used for two projects; a traffic monitoring system and body cameras. Chief DeGiusti said there have been complaints regarding the trailer which is currently used to track speeding. Chief DeGiusti explained the complaint is when individuals see the trailer they immediately slow down. Chief DeGiusti said there is a mechanism that is more discrete that can be mounted to a tree and does not flash any signs. Chief DeGiusti said it is the Departments plan to purchase two of those devices with a cost of \$2,800 apiece. Chief DeGiusti said with the remainder of the grant the Department plans to extend its body camera program. Chief DeGiusti said currently the Department has 15 cameras and nearly 30 officers meaning they are used constantly, adding to wear and tear and it must be decided how they will be allotted. Chief DeGiusti said the remaining funds would purchase 20 additional cameras.

Mayor Edmonds asked what is eligible for the grant. Chief DeGiusti responded anything other than construction. Ms. Edmonds asked if it can be used for staff time. Chief DeGiusti responded in the affirmative. Ms. Edmonds asked what the grant has been used for in the past. Chief DeGiusti responded this past year the funds were used for upgrades to the property room and cameras.

Council Member Anne Brown asked when the Department expects to receive the grant. Chief DeGiusti responded in October and said the allotment follows the Federal Budget Cycle.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the grant was competitive. Chief DeGiusti responded it isn't necessarily competitive the Department would just need to fulfill the requirements.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

None

X. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2016-151, approving the minutes of June 21, 2016.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of June 21, 2016 be approved.

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

SECONDED BY: Council Member Anne Brown

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

2. Resolution No. 2016-121, approving Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ypsilanti and John Barfield for Parkridge Center. ***(Tabled June 7, 2016)***

City Manager Lange stated he, Mr. Barfield, the City Attorney, and Mr. Barfield's attorney met to discuss the possibility of a closeout provision in the MOU which Mr. Barfield preferred to not include that item; however, if the City was unable to meet its \$40,000 commitment the contract could be nulled. Mr. Lange said Mr. Barfield conceded to allow the City to provide other revenues to satisfy its \$40,000 commitment. Mr. Lange said he has spoken with the president of Washtenaw Community College who agreed to make a monetary contribution which cannot be disclosed until after the results of its millage are known. Mr. Barfield said he will purchase the house near the center for demolition and as the center collects funds he will be reimbursed his \$35,000. Mr. Lange added that is above and beyond the contribution of \$200,000.

Council Member Robb moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt to remove Resolution No. 2016-121 from the table.

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

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ypsilanti and John Barfield for improvements and an endowment for Parkridge Center be approved and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign for and on behalf of the city, subject to the approval of the city attorney.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SECONDED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

Council Member Robb asked if funding has been given to the Ann Arbor Community Foundation. Mr. Barfield replied no, and explained he is waiting for approval from Council. Mr. Robb said the MOU states the money is to be released to the foundation by June 11th and asked if the agreement needs to be corrected. Assistant City Attorney Dan DuChene responded if City Council approves the contract it would waive the obligation in the agreement. Mr. Robb asked the Mr. DuChene and Mr. Barfield to set a date that is satisfactory to both parties. Mr. DuChene and Mr. Barfield decided on July 15th.

Council Member Robb clarified the \$35,000 to purchase the home would not come out of the \$200,000. Mr. Barfield responded it would not.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated Parkridge would have been closed a long time ago if Mr. Barfield would not have provided much needed assistance. Ms. Richardson said Mr. Barfield's endowment was able to leverage WCC programming for the center. Ms. Richardson said the center not only has an effect on the immediate area but throughout the City and the region. Ms. Richardson said she learned while sitting on the Ypsilanti community foundation was an endowment is forever and she can see the center continuing forever. Ms. Richardson said there are many people from the community that have utilized the center and it has been a blessing and an asset to the community.

Council Member Vogt stated he would like this to be announced to the media and voiced great appreciation and praise for all Mr. Barfield has done for the center.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-121 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

Mr. Barfield stated he met his wife at the center 68 years ago and his children and grandchildren have enjoyed it. Mr. Barfield said he wants to make sure that the center is there for future generations. Mr. Barfield added it is his intention to start an entrepreneurs program from 9 to 12 years of age. Mr. Barfield said he wants to also teach the parents about part-time entrepreneurs as a way of increasing wealth.

3. Resolution No. 2016-141, approving fee schedule. ***(Tabled June 21, 2016)***

Council Member Vogt moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown to remove Resolution No. 2016-141 from the table.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Resolution No. 2016-141 was removed.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that the FY 16-17 fee schedule amendments, highlighted below, are adopted pursuant to the Ypsilanti City Code, and all other fees relating to various sections of the City Code and activities of the City are hereby established and shall remain the same as the previous fiscal year, and the various City Departments are authorized to charge and collect such fees effective immediately.

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

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-141 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. LIASON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update - None
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
- C. Urban County – Mayor Edmonds stated Brett Linerat is leaving to take a planning job in the City of Ann Arbor.

- D. Freight House – Council Member Robb stated the fire suppression system is almost complete.

Mr. Lange stated Associate Planner Cynthia Kochanek informed him that an updated punch list is being generated and staff is currently waiting on corrected cost estimates on changes in work.

- E. Parks and Recreation – Council Member Anne Brown stated one new application for Adopt 'a' Park has submitted by Friends of Candy Cane Park. She stated the sign has been complete for Edith Hefley Park. She said the gazebo, retaining wall, and steps still require repair. She asked who the staff liaison is for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mayor Edmonds added Bee City U.S.A. was supposed to liaison to staff through the Parks and Recreation Commission but there is no staff in which to do that.

Council Member Anne Brown stated the Trail Towns will not meet again until August.

Council Member Murdock stated work has been completed on the gazebo and the Tridge.

- F. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - None
- G. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance – None

Mayor Edmonds asked if the Alliance had dissolved. Chief DeGiusti responded the departments are still working together and working in joint patrols it just has not met.

- H. Police-Community Relations/Black Lives Matter Joint Task Force – Meeting Monday, July 11th. Council Member Anne Brown stated a sub-committee will be meeting to discuss a police oversight board. Ms. Anne Brown stated Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson, HRC Commissioner John Shuler, and community activist D'Real Graham are members.

Mayor Edmonds asked for an update on the Police Department report regarding bench warrant arrests. Chief DeGiusti responded the data is still being compiled. Mayor Edmonds asked what the timeline is for recommendations to come back to Council. Council Member Nicole Brown responded recommendations have been sent to the Human Relations Commission for approval.

- I. Friends of Rutherford Pool - None

XII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Vogt

- Stated Council should reconsider whether an alternate budget should be passed before the August 2nd Election to provide what the City would do if the millage is not approved. He said he is fairly confident the millage will succeed but it is useful for the City to show it has a full plan and to define what a yes vote and no vote would mean. He said Council should discuss that in some detail and perhaps adopt at least an outline of an alternate budget.

Council Member Murdock responded there is only one meeting between now and the election and it seems very unlikely an alternate budget could be developed and approved by then. Council Member Vogt responded the budget does not need to be detailed. Mr. Murdock said the memo sent by the City Manager could be used as that outline which outlined four options. Mr. Murdock said it will only matter once the cuts are needed to be made and be them other opportunities could arise. Mr. Murdock added this should be discussed at the meeting following the election. Council Member Robb said voters should never be threatened and said an alternate budget is a losing option. Mr. Vogt responded it is not a threat it is providing information and said putting Mr. Lange's email on the website might be sufficient. Mr. Murdock said all cuts that would be made if the millage is not approved would be employees. Mr. Vogt agreed but many residents say they do not know what would happen and this would provide them information. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson agreed with Council Member Robb that voters should not be threatened and asked Council Member Vogt vote to clarify what information he would like to provide. Ms. Richardson said voters are saying Council has said these cuts would happen when previous Water Street Debt financing initiatives were brought to the voters and when it did not pass these cuts were not needed. Ms. Richardson said voters that will take it as a reality are already going to vote yes and those that are on the fence might say the City was able to do it before and will find funding. Mr. Vogt said a simple version of Mr. Lange's memo is what could be sent and unless there is a plan people will not believe there will be cuts. Council Member Anne Brown said she agrees with Council Member Vogt but her concern is staff particularly DPS and Police, are already concerned about their jobs. Ms. Anne Brown said the message to staff should be Council is working to pass this millage and after August 2nd Council will need to examine the City's next steps. Mr. Vogt said he will look over what was sent by the City Manager and perhaps it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Council Member Robb asked what Council Member Vogt has been telling residents. Mr. Vogt responded he has been vague because he has not had a concrete proposal but he has been explaining various cuts have been made this year and previous years, paying down the debt, and now the City is running out of money. Mr. Murdock said in his discussion with residents he has been explaining if the millage does not pass the City will need to reduce the budget by \$700,000 to \$900,000 which could amount to seven to eleven layoffs. Mr. Murdock said when residents say after the last financing option failed at the polls the worst did not happen and the City should be proud that it was able to avoid that. Mr. Murdock added the reason the City was able to continue was because it had reserves but now those reserves are gone.

Mayor Edmonds said she is asked frequently by the media if the millage is passed what will residents get. Ms. Edmonds said she shows a bar graph to illustrate what will happen if the millage is passed or if it isn't. Ms. Edmonds said the millage will help stabilize the City so that it may begin investing in its future.

Council Member Vogt stated he appreciates Council's comments regarding how they have discussed the Water Street Millage with voters. Mr. Vogt stated the Millage Campaign Committee should incorporate those ideas into its strategy. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said Council needs to be mindful three is less than a month before the election and action needs to be taken.

Anne Brown

- Stated the Senior Center is having a jazz festival which will include Jonnie Lawrence. Ms. Anne Brown said Hobbs will be supplying a chicken dinner for a total of \$30 on July 10th beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- Said she received an email requesting that all parks other than Riverside be made smoke free.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the Parks and Recreation has discussed that possibility. Council Member Anne Brown responded the recommendation is coming from that commission.

Assistant to the City Manager Ericka Savage added tickets for only the music cost \$20.

Murdock

- Stated Council needs to have a discussion on roads. Mr. Murdock explained the City has County dollars and there was a plan to spend that money on specific projects. Mr. Murdock said Council has not seen one contract for any of the projects listed in that plan and time is running out. Mr. Murdock said the Council Information Letter stated there were urgent road repairs being completed and he assumes that is being funded by money received from the state.

Mr. Lange said the repairs made were minor and the big program is yet to come. Mr. Murdock asked if there are additional streets to be completed other than the ones the County is paying for. Mr. Lange responded the County money was around \$145,000 and the City somewhat matched it for a \$300,000 program. Mr. Murdock asked if there were any additional streets added to the program. Mr. Lange responded he believes the streets included in the program are within the same group and added one road became a mill and fill rather than a micro surfacing, which was \$250,000 to \$300,000 by itself. Mr. Lange said he has spoken with OHM and asked DPS Director Stan Kirton to stay on top of it. Mayor Edmonds asked Council Member Murdock asked if the City Manager is being asked for a schedule of road repairs. Mr. Murdock responded in the affirmative. Council Member Anne Brown asked if the City is running out of time. Council Member Robb responded construction season has already begun.

- Stated there has been a readjustment to the Federal Aid to Highways and the City Manager keeps sending memos that keep changing plans making it very confusing. Mr. Murdock said there was a lot of discussion about construction of Cornell and now Council is being told that money will be used for the rail stop.
- Asked for an update on a truck route ordinance.

Mr. DuChene responded a draft ordinance has been prepared and circulated to staff to get feedback and from that feedback he has made some changes. Council Member Murdock stated that ordinance will require a public hearing. Mr. DuChene responded in the affirmative.

- Said other communities have banned the use of coal tar and said it might be something the City should consider.

Richardson

- Stated if Council is going to be involved in activities such as the 4th of July Parade Council needs to improve coordination. Ms. Richardson said Council needs to make itself recognizable and in parades it should carry a banner. Ms. Richardson said in the past Council has used a car from the Hudson Museum but she was informed they no longer are street legal. Ms. Richardson said Council needs to be identifiable and suggested next year Council should consider that for the parade.

Mayor Edmonds said she will make sure Council is more identifiable in future events. Council Member Murdock stated the reason he was later than usual is because he was engaged in discussion with his constituency.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- Stated there was a ribbon cutting or reveal for the mural on the back of City Hall. She said the mural was completed by a young local artist and it was great to have representation and coverage for the City.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if any Council Member attended six month update of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded she did and it was very well done and well attended. Ms. Anne Brown asked if many citizens attended. Ms. Richardson said it was mostly attended by agency officials. Ms. Richardson said the event included a virtual tour and said the building in downtown will be redone and the façade of the building will be all glass and a person will be able to see to the rear of the building from the front. Ms. Richardson said CVB staff will be working out of SPARK East and the Ann Arbor CVB office until construction is complete. Ms. Richardson said she believes the virtual tour can be seen at SPARK East. Ms. Richardson said there have been a lot of plans formed in the past six months. Ms. Richardson said a person brought individuals in to fish on the Huron River and were able to catch a very large bass. Council Member Vogt said he also attended and was very impressed with the tremendous view of Ford Lake from the golf course. Mr. Vogt said the tour Mayor Pro-Tem was referring to is by an individual from a national marketing firm who provides tours to writers of various magazines and on this occasion it was a bass magazine. Mr. Vogt said several other places in town were highlighted such as the Ypsi Ale House, Casablanca, and several others. Mr. Vogt said Council and City officials complained vigorously last year about the CVB merger and it seems like they listened. Mayor Edmonds agreed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said the tour writer said the river was perfect for canoeing and kayaking and said in the past a livery was going to be placed in Waterworks Park but the City Manager at the time refused. Mayor Edmonds said there has been discussion with the Huron Watershed Commission to construct a livery on the Huron. Ms. Richardson said one of her visions is to use the river as a recreation tool. Council Member Anne Brown stated that is a Trail Town initiative.

Nominations

Historic District Commission

Michael Davis Jr.
905 Grant St.
(exp. 2019)

Mayor Edmonds introduce Michael Davis Jr. her nomination for the Historic District Commission.

Michael Davis stated he is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan Planning Program and a resident of Ypsilanti for the past two years. Mr. Davis said he is excited to begin his work with the HDC to maintain the historical integrity of the City. Council Member Anne Brown asked what Mr. Davis does during the day. Mr. Davis responded he is currently trying to gain employment and working for the Planning Department in Ypsilanti Township.

Mayor Edmonds said there was a recent resignation from the Tax Assessment Board of Review. Ms. Edmonds said the Assessor informed her that the Board should be okay for July because two members is quorum but she would like recommendations from Council. Ms. Edmonds said the nomination will need to have daytime availability.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- Stated during the Water Street Forum certain individuals made a lot of comments that were not based on facts on City staff has worked diligently to keep the City moving forward. Mr. Lange said he, Executive Secretary Nan Schuette, and Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy developed a summary of everything accomplished by the City. Mr. Lange asked for Council to review his document and provide input. Mr. Lange said once he receives input he wants to get that out to the public.
- Thanked Council for the approval of the Parkridge MOU and staff is hoping for a contribution from WCC.
- Said the Friegthouse construction is moving forward.
- Stated the solar array construction is moving forward quickly. He said he would hope to have a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Council Member Murdock stated the solar array is going to be complete before the connection to Riverside Park. Mr. Lange responded in the affirmative.
- Stated the Park and Grove railroad crossings will be beginning soon and he will speak with OHM to ensure it is moving forward.
- Said the City should be updated on the progress of the rail this month. He said staff is trying to arrange Mayors of municipalities that have had rail projects to speak toward the positive impact of rail.

- Said the \$470,000 from the sign sale will not be able to be used to pay down the debt because it cannot be spent for 35 days. Mr. Lange stated that \$470,000 will create a reduction in P & I payments of \$700,000 over 15 years.
- Stated John Roe has retired after 30 years with the Fire Department.
- Said the rail platform will cost \$2.1 million and he sent Council an itemized list of costs and funding sources.
- Said the spur line track is starting to be installed.

Council Member Anne Brown stated the store World of Rocks will be expanding and are hiring new staff. Ms. Anne Brown said Betty Green Organics Salon is also hiring additional staff. Ms. Anne Brown said SEMCOG says 76% of new jobs come from existing businesses.

XV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Michael Davis Jr., 905 Grant St., encouraged Council to release a press release of all the great things the City has accomplished. He said he believes the smoking ban should be applied to all parks and not exclude Riverside Parks.

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

None

XVII. ADJOURNMENT -

Resolution No. 2016-152, adjourning the City Council meeting.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or two (2) members of Council.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

SECONDED BY: Council Member Vogt

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.