



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ONE SOUTH HURON STREET, YPSILANTI, MI 48197
FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2016
7:00 A.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 a.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 (7:15)	Present		

III. INVOCATION –

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -

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

V. AGENDA APPROVAL –

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

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

VI. INTRODUCTIONS -

None

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION -

None

VIII. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR -

None

IX. CLOSED SESSION –

Closed Session to discuss attorney opinion. *OMA 15.268(h)*.

Council Member Robb moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt to adjourn to Closed Session.

On a roll call, the vote to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:08 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 a.m.

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson to approve the retirement release agreement for City Manager Ralph Lange.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the retirement release agreement 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

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Murdock that starting August 5, 2016 the City Clerk will be appointed Interim City Manager per the City Charter.

On a roll call, the vote to appoint the City Clerk as Interim City Manager starting August 5, 2016 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

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt to accept the proposal from Michigan Municipal League for executive search services at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if there are other vendors that provide executive search services. Ms. Anne Brown said the City and the County have both used MML for executive services and suggested using a less expensive company because of budgetary concerns. Ms. Anne Brown asked how this would be perceived with the upcoming millage. Council Member Murdock responded he recalled using private agencies for executive searches but MML is more in tune with executive searches in the public realm. Ms. Anne Brown suggested soliciting quotes from other vendors to show Council is doing its due diligence. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson agreed with soliciting quotes from other vendors even if the City uses MML for the search. Ms. Richardson asked if there are any other vendors that would provide this service in the state that focus on the public sector. City Attorney John Barr stated in the past the City has bid this service and the City has always decided on MML to complete the executive search. Mr. Barr added there are other agencies that could be asked to submit a bid. Mayor Edmonds asked if Mr. Barr would be able to provide a list of possible agencies. Mr. Murdock responded there are many agencies that could provide this service but they tend to focus more on the private sector. Ms. Edmonds asked for specific agencies that would focus on the public sector. Mr. Barr replied that could be determined.

Council Member Vogt stated he agrees with Council Member Murdock the City has looked at other agencies and have always picked MML to complete the search. Mr. Vogt said he shares the same concern as Council Member Anne Brown and solicit quotes to see what other prices are available. Council Member Murdock replied \$15,000 used to fund the search will not make any of the City's debt payments. Mr. Vogt said certain members of the community that feel the City mismanages funds. Council Member Robb said if the City is able to find a company that charges less will the savings change the minds of citizens who already feel the City mismanages money. Mr. Vogt responded probably not. Mr. Robb said by bidding this out it delays to hiring of a new City Manager and Council must ask if that delay is worth a small amount in savings.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson left at 8:00 a.m.

Council Member Anne Brown stated her position is the City does its own due diligence in this process. Mayor Edmonds said this process is a midlevel search, which is what is appropriate for a City the size of Ypsilanti. Ms. Edmonds said the search will include local candidates and beyond. Ms. Edmonds said staff, Council, and community partners will be interviewed in order to create a community profile. Ms. Edmonds said a screening of applicants will be completed in order to narrow the search. Ms. Edmonds said when the screened pool of applicants is complete it will be submitted to Council with all identifying characteristics removed. Ms. Edmonds said the timeline would begin after the August 2nd election.

Council Member Vogt stated the cost given by MML is up to \$15,000 and his recollection of the last search MML offered a variance of services. Mayor Edmonds responded this search is midlevel and has a midlevel price. Mr. Vogt asked for information on any other alternatives. Ms. Edmonds responded the midlevel search was the most appropriate for the scale and budget of the search. Ms. Edmonds asked if Mr. Vogt would like to know the prices and services from the other tiers. Mr. Vogt responded it might be wise to get those figures and make the final decision at the next regular meeting.

Council Member Murdock stated he does not believe Council will be able to do any better than MML and said the process can be modified as it moves forward but the search should start as soon as possible. Mr. Murdock said the last search took some time. Council Member Robb said his recollection was the last search took nine months.

Council Member Robb stated his concern is how rigged this process is. Mr. Robb explained for two months Council has been working on this and this is the first time Council has seen this proposal. Mr. Robb said initially an individual from the County was going to be the interim City Manager with the idea that person was going to become the permanent City Manager. Mr. Robb said the Mayor does many things without the input of Council. Mr. Robb said because the search is listed as a 120 days it leads him to think it is suspect and the City Manager has already been defined. Mr. Robb said Council should

approve the MML proposal and his concern is the transparency of the process. Mayor Edmonds said she has never been a part of this process and 120 days is what was quoted to her. Ms. Edmonds said if Council wants to examine this further she is willing to make inquiries. Council Member Anne Brown said it is her preference to table this until next meeting so Council does its due diligence. Council Member Vogt agreed.

Council Member Vogt removed his support from the motion.

Council Member Robb seconded the motion.

Council Member Vogt moved, seconded by Council Member Anne Brown to table the item.

On a roll call, the vote to table the approval of Michigan Municipal League’s executive search proposal was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

Council Member Robb asked who will be contacting other agencies that provide this service and what is Council’s expectations to vote on this at the next meeting. Mayor Edmonds said she will contact at least two other agencies that performed similar search recently and reach out to MML for additional information. Council Member Murdock stated time is money and delaying this process will have an impact. Council Member Anne Brown said Council already said the search would begin after August 2nd. Mr. Murdock said there is no reason to wait until after the millage.

X. ADJOURNMENT –

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

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:14 a.m.