



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order 7:05 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	Present		

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved to excuse Council Member Murdock, supported by Council Member Anne Brown.

III. INVOCATION – Mayor Edmonds asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

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 City Manager Frances McMullan, City Attorney John Barr, Interim City Clerk Andrew Hellenga, Director of Economic Development Beth Ernat, Police Chief DeGiusti, Community Development Manager Joe Meyers, Finance Director Marilou Uy, Interim Human Resource Manager Tarina Myris, and Council Member Elect from Ward 2 Beth Bashert.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Moved by Council Member Nicole Brown, supported by Council Member Anne Brown

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

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Mayor Edmonds Opened Audience Participation

Susanne Nicolsia, 1312 Kingwood Street- said she is disappointed that an accessory building, adjacent to her property and 4 or 5 other properties, was approved for construction. Ms. Nicolsia said that it does not fit the look of the neighborhood nor the intent of the City Code for an accessory structure.

Perry Nelson, 1319 Collegewood- Said her major concern is the size of the structure and that it might decrease the value of her property. She also mentioned water run-off and privacy issues created by the structure.

Kerry Black, 1308 Kingwood- the deck of the structure is about 10 feet high, and a privacy fence is unlikely to be able to provide much privacy for her home. She said she doesn't have any privacy in her home or backyard. She stated that perhaps if a deck is over 6 feet it should require neighbor approval.

Julie Sigda, 1306 Kingwood- it is strange a notarized letter from your neighbors is required for a privacy fence but not for a structure larger than a home. She stated she is worried about possible run off causing flooding on her property.

Mayor Edmonds closed audience participation.

Ms. Ernat replied she had no involvement in this until complaints were filed. She stated she was not privy to the issued permits and is only made aware if complaints are filed. She said the lack of the communication is a problem.

Ms. Nicolsia said the original inspector was contacted but she did not hear a response for a week. Ms. Ernat replied it is a difficult situation, and unless a building permit is applied for, it does take time for a response. She added a neighbor cannot request an inspection of someone else's property. Ms. Ernat said that in the future, they should contact the City directly, and if the Building Department does not respond, contact the City Manager's office.

Mayor Edmonds added that inspectors used by the City are contracted and are rarely in the office. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if a building permit was issued, and who approved it. Ms. Ernat replied that a permit was approved by the building department. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if they inspected the area beforehand. Ms. Ernat replied in the affirmative.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if they could address the material of the roof. Ms. Ernat said it was light material suitable for weather.

VIII. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

IX. ORDINANCE - SECOND READING –

1. Resolution No. 2016-240, approving Ordinance 1278, budget adjustments due to failed Water Street Millage on August 2, 2016.

Council Member Murdock moved to reconsider the budget adjustment seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown..

Council Member Robb stated the line item for the Parkridge Center is incorrect. He explained since Mr. Barfield has yet to contribute, the City will need to pay an additional \$11,000 and the correct savings is \$31,394, and Fiscal Year 2017-18 should be increased to \$49,219. He said that this would increase our deficit to \$820,927. He said the budget should not reflect the \$11,000 from Mr. Barfield because of the uncertainty of the agreement.

Council Member Robb asked if the Parkridge Center would be closed. Council Member Murdock responded it is on hold. Council Member Anne Brown replied that WCC is waiting to see how the City will react to the situation. Manager McMullan explained a meeting has been scheduled with Washtenaw Community College next week and added as of today, the City has already spent \$17,825. Manager McMullan said the City has been involved in discussion with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, which may contribute to Parkridge.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said she remembers when the City was first faced with cutting the recreation budget, and the County told Ypsilanti it would be provided with a one-time grant. Ms. Richardson added the City should ask for a large financial contribution for this project, to which Mayor Edmonds replied, the City is asking for a substantial amount, and she is advocating the City get more than just \$30,000. Manager McMullan said it would be possible to receive two years of funding; however, the goal is to finance Parkridge long term.

Mayor Edmonds stated she is meeting with the County next week and this isn't a fill in the gap; she asked if the \$5 million earmarked for the Eastside Recreation Center could be used to create an endowment to be used for this operation. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson agreed.

Council Member Murdock commented that we should maintain \$10,000 for both Rutherford Pool and the Senior Center for this Fiscal year and remove it from the next. Mayor Edmonds asked if it is because we already paid it this year and Council Member Murdock replied in the affirmative. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson agreed and said the City must leverage the finding from Washtenaw Community College.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if the DPS storage shed and concrete barn would be in the budget for the next Fiscal Year \$15,000, to which Manager McMullan responded that those capital projects have been delayed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the City was eliminating three police officers or is it simply a hiring freeze. Manager McMullan said they were proposed but never filled so they were eliminated. Ms. Richardson asked if the City were to receive additional revenue would the staff levels of the Police Department be increased back to 32. Manager McMullan responded "not in this budget period." Council Member Murdock said budgets can be amended if it is the will of Council. Mayor Edmonds asked Chief DeGiusti if the department still had 29 officers. Chief DeGiusti responded there are 29 officers on the payroll, however, the force is operating at 26. Mayor Edmonds asked if he could explain what the LАWNET does. Chief DeGiusti responded LАWNET is the Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team. They work on narcotics problems in Livingston and Washtenaw area. He added the LАWNET still work in the City of Ypsilanti, which is probably the second busiest place they work. He explained that YCAT team is in a state of flux as the sheriff doesn't have enough staff and both EMU and Ypsilanti has withdrawn their person. Mayor Edmonds asked if the records clerk is vacant as well. Chief DeGiusti replied in the affirmative. Council Member Anne Brown asked if they are being eliminated for the next two years. Chief DeGiusti answered that was his understanding.

Council Member Anne Brown asked Human Resources Manager Tarina Myris if the employee wellness plan has already been budgeted. Ms. Myris explained she is uncertain because she took her position after the budget process had been concluded. Council Member Murdock asked if the \$7,000 is maxed out only if every employee participated. Ms. Myris responded this is true, but last year the City only had three employees sign up for the program.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-240 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 1 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

X. CONSENT AGENDA –

Resolution No. 2016-48

1. Resolution No. 2016-249, approving the minutes of September 20, 2016, October 4, 2016, October 11, 2016 meetings.
2. Resolution No. 2016-250, approving appointment to Boards and Commissions.

Moved by Council Member Vogt, supported by Council Member Nicole Brown

On a roll call, the vote to approve the Consent Agenda 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

XI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2016-251, approving the 2017 employee wellness program.

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

Ms. Myris said that the City started the wellness program last year and it plans on continuing the program this year. She stated that participation is voluntary and would require employees to perform an online health assessment and complete a physical examination. She explained once completed, participating employees would receive \$125. She explained the program will be handled through a third party administrator and the City will not have access to confidential health information.

Mayor Edmonds asked if Ms. Myris spoke with employees regarding why they didn't enroll. Ms. Myris replied she was under the impression the implementation of the program last year was last minute. Mayor Edmonds suggested contacting Ferndale, which had tremendous success with their wellness program. Ms. Myris agreed. Council Member Robb said traditional wellness plans require employees to participate in programs to improve health in order to qualify for reduced rates and this program provides a giveaway. He added in order for this program to be successful it must hit employees in the pocketbook.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the City should reach out to Ferndale to see how its wellness program was successful. Ms. Myris said there is a cost for the third party administrator which is about

\$850, which is the same as last year. Mayor Edmonds said that hopefully this will reintroduce the idea while preparing for labor negotiations. Manager McMullan asked if the City would receive random results from the third party. Ms. Myris said the third party administrator will monitor if employees complete their assessment and health screening.

Council Member Robb said it's all in the plan and we have to sit down with our provider and explain what plan the City wants. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked Council Member Robb how the provider would know to lower his deductible. Council Member Robb said you have to show proof of completing programs to help your health, but it is between you and your provider, not you and your employer.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-251 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: ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

1. Resolution No. 2016-252, approving creation of a Sustainability Commission.

Moved by Council Member Anne Brown, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown

Mayor Edmonds said that two years ago, Council voted during Goal Session to create a Sustainability Commission. Council Member Anne Brown said there is a question about whether the two Council Members and staff member would act as liaisons because Council Members are prohibited to serve on Boards and Commissions. Mr. Barr replied in the affirmative. Mayor Edmonds asked if the staff member should also act as a liaison. Mr. Barr answered in the affirmative.

Council Member Anne Brown stated that the commission would consist of nine members and two liaisons. Mayor Edmonds stated the Commission would consist of eight members if the two Council Members and the staff act as liaisons. Council Member Murdock suggested the Commission consist of nine members. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson added if the Commission has nine members and three liaisons the Commission would include twelve members.

Council Member Murdock explained the possibility of this Commission was first discuss the issue was how would it be staffed. He said he spoke with Economic Development Director Beth Ernat about the possibility of staffing it with an intern; however, the City is unable to afford as many interns. He said the City is having difficulty staffing Boards and Commissions that it currently has. Mayor Edmonds agreed and said if it is possible to staff the Commission with an intern it would be preferred. She recommended a member of the Department of Public Service to staff the Commission.

Council Member Murdock stated Commission seats should not be designated to individuals with certain job classifications; they should be left more broadly. He added there is already a mechanism in place that would provide checks if individuals are appointed from outside the City. Mayor Edmonds said she worded the resolution to allow up to no more than three non-residents on the Commission.

Council Member Murdock said the resolution should state terms of office for Commissioners and suggested staggered three year terms. Mr. Barr agreed, and suggested that staff modify the resolution and resubmit it to Council.

Mayor Edmonds said she sees this as a chance to add one or two youth liaisons, under the age of 18 in a non-voting capacity. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the Commission would have fourteen members. Council Member Nicole Brown explained the best practice is to include two youth members. Council Member Murdock said he thought this resolution should include the climate action plan and the Michigan Green Community Challenge. He said the City joined this program several years ago and should be part of the task of this Commission, as well as the alternate fuel policy. Mayor Edmonds responded she included the climate action plan, but the Commission would not be tasked with creating a plan. Councilmember Murdock said City Council adopted official plans and that should be reviewed; he said the climate action plan should be updated particularly in energy efficiency. Mayor Edmonds asked if Council Member Murdock feels like they need language change.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if terms lengths were set. Council Member Robb said the creation of this Commission needs to be more thought out. He said that when the climate action plan was adopted it took fifteen months to write and it seems unlikely that a Commission of volunteers would be able to complete that task. He added the formation of this Commission would also take staff away from work they are currently working to complete. Council Member Murdock responded the climate action plan is broad and can be built upon.

Council Member Murdock said he has spoken with staff about how staff committee will support this Committee. Ms. Ernat said she thinks Planning Department should have a role and added each role of government should have a role in sustainability. She said it comes down to how quickly you want something and what that direction is.

Mayor Edmonds responded by saying one the strategies in some related sectors there is a health policy which is in the public health sphere. She said to her, it's a way to put another lens on it that might be something to move forward looking at the equity as they do in every policy. Council Member Anne Brown said that she and Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson met with the City of Southfield and they indicated that they look at 1 or 2 policies a year and work through those. Ms. Ernat said if she made a recommendation it would be to bring this forward as part of the goal setting. She said having everything ready at the goal setting time you could have everyone at the table saying this is what part that needs to be done. She stated that you would have a smaller committee and more break out subcommittees to have the committee identify what needs to be done, and a subcommittee to submit different things. She added that you would have a coordinator and a subcommittee feeding information back to the coordinator.

Mayor Edmonds responded that the scope of the commission is a lot of things outside of the municipal government. Ms. Ernat responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Edmonds said the role of this committee is creating priorities from existing plans. Council Member Murdock said the committee should focus on specific items. He added this committee would not be appointed before goal setting.

Council Member Murdock motioned to table until November 14th meeting, seconded by Council Member Anne Brown

Manager McMullan stated that usually when anything is done with the commission and involved with other departments, you normally make a resolution that says "subject to approval" and review by whatever department it is. Mayor Edmonds said she could probably find a grad student who could help in the initial year.

1. Resolution No. 2016-253, approving employee health insurance premiums.

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

Ms. Myris said that we are looking at open enrollment; she said part of that is determining how much employees will pay towards their health care and share with employers. She said in years past the City used the 80/20 share and employees have become accustomed to that, she stated there are other options we can look at and that there is the hard cap which is a \$10,000 difference. She said that the good news is, overall because of the renewal payment with the reduction if we stayed with the 80/20 it is about a 1% decrease for the City and employees meaning there is no significant change.

Council Member Murdock said that a couple of our contracts have splits that are different from that. Ms. Myris agreed that the POAM and COAM has specific language that if the person is hired after July 1, 2012 and if they are over \$55,000 and if they choose a two person coverage, they have to pay 25%, if they have family they have to pay 30%. Council member Murdock asked if anyone has reached that and Ms. Myris said not at this time. Council Member Murdock said his thought on the resolution is if they repeal it, should there not be a reference on contract provisions. He said this makes it sound like everything is 80/20 but he said he doesn't know exactly how to word it.

Mayor Edmonds said that whereas City Council has decided on the 80/20 options the choice to comply with other acts except for POAM and COAM contracts. Mr. Barr said it is subject to Union Contracts.

Moved by Council Member Murdock to include the language subject to all Union Contracts, seconded by Council Member Anne Brown.

Council member Robb said health care costs are out of control. He said his biggest concern is that 11 people are paying over 10% of their salary to health care cost, this is 20% for the people that work at the City and this is our lowest paid employees. He said the goal setting next year needs to focus on health care plans because this is unsustainable. He said we are pushing all of this cost on our lowest paid employees and that is not good.

Mayor Edmonds asked Ms. Myris if she has any model for us to become a bigger unit from joining together or have a regionalism and jointly negotiate with others. Ms. Myris said she is unsure but can look into it. Council Member Robb replied that we have to renegotiate this contract because we offer a very specific plan and why we are locked into the Blue Cross Blue Shield since they are killing us financially. Council Member Murdock said that one of the first things we looked at when this first came out was is splitting that 80/20 in total and it was a percentage in salary, he said that was because we would have employees pay 2% to their health care. He said the number would be manipulated because they were all used to paying a percentage not the percentage of a salary. He said that some system like that might resolve the imbalance on the low wage employees but would be difficult to negotiate.

Mayor Edmonds asked if a comparative study with other municipalities in the area has been done on this. She asked if we are paying different from others in our scale. She said that she is comparing insurance with 10 people on it while Council Member Robb is comparing to a plan that has thousands on it. Ms. Myris agreed saying that public and private would be very different. Council member Robb said that this plan locks in too many things. Mayor Edmonds said if we can look across our peer entities maybe we can see if they are locked in the same type of program and may give us an understanding on where the City should be.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2016-253 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 6 NO: 1 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

XII. LIASON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update
 - a. Nothing to Report
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
 - a. Nothing to Report
- C. Urban County
 - a. Tomorrow- having a presentation on land banking
- D. Freight House
 - a. Passed the test on the fire suppression system, in line for a conditional certificate
- E. Parks and Recreation
 - a. Meet next Tuesday
- F. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority
 - a. Met two weeks ago- the Thompson Block Façade Grant was rescinded because the project never began.
- G. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance
 - a. Just had a meeting- discussed incident at Eastern, presentation from the City of Detroit, shared the Detroit Connect and Detroit Police Department App
- H. Police-Community Relations/Black Lives Matter Joint Task Force
 - a. Last meeting there was a committee report and was looking to invite Southfield's police chief to show how they are working through Citizen complaints and the oversight boards
- I. Friends of Rutherford Pool
 - a. Going through some of their 5 year plan and teasing out the committee work, the November meeting is not yet scheduled

XIII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Council Member Vogt- Requested a hidden driveway sign on North and South bound Hewitt, has been six to eight months and have not seen or heard anything. He said it is a dangerous curb and there have been a few high speed accidents there.

Council Member Nicole Brown- Stated some fallen branches from City property fell into a neighbor's yard. The neighbor called DPS but the branches are still present.

Council Member Robb- asked if the Smith Furniture building is on the vacant dangerous building list. Mr. Meyers responded no. Council Member Robb reported the building is vacant. Mayor Edmonds replied to that saying but it is not dangerous, it is secured. Council Member Robb said his only concern is that the people who owned it are building condos in Pittsfield Township and it would be nice to apply some pressure to them.

Council Member Murdock said just because it is secured does not mean it does not pose a risk. Council Member Robb agreed. Mayor Edmonds responded it is not on the dangerous building list. Mr. Robb

asked how the building can be added to that list. Mayor Edmonds replied that is based on inspections. Council Member Robb responded the Mayor should review the ordinance because it meets that criterion. Council Member Murdock explained the Train Depot is the same the same condition and, under the ordinance, the owner is required to put funds into Escrow. Mr. Meyers responded he would follow-up and report to Council.

Council Member Robb asked if the City employed an expert on Municipal Employee Retirement Service (MERS).

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson- said there was another graffiti incident at EMU and she isn't sure what the City can do to support the university and the student body. Mayor Edmonds responded previously Council approved a resolution of condemnation and supported a vigil. Council Member Nicole Brown said she had been a part of the committee for "Walk with a Stranger". She said this walk is going to take place on Thursday at 4:30 pm, and it is just to create a space for dialogue to discuss the perception of the community at large.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said the Bell-Kramer Meeting will be hosted at the Washtenaw Community College, which was not her choice for venues. She said the meeting rooms aren't really that large. She said she would prefer another building within the community. Council Member Murdock asked if they were going to publicize that meeting. Manager McMullan replied she will ensure that the meeting is posted.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked the status of the Thompson Block. Mr. Meyers said they are meeting with the development team today and are looking to get started as soon as possible. He said he can't say exactly but the final purchase should occur soon. Council Member Murdock asked if they got a structural engineer to look at the building. Mr. Meyers replied that he does not know.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said that there are cuts completely across Harriet and 1st avenue where they are doing the construction on Parkridge Housing; she said at night you can't tell that the cut is there, she asked if there can be a reflector light at each side of the road to help drivers. Council Member Nicole Brown said it was closed to traffic for a few days but now it is back open. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said that since it reopened they took away the signs and reflectors.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said there was a big dumpster on the corner of Frederick and Second Avenue that was finally moved, but there was trash left all around and there is a large pile on the curb. She said at 411 Second the trash is getting out of hand again, and it needs to be removed. Chief DeGiusti said he will have Mr. Jackson look into it. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said that the other issue is on Hamilton and Buffalo who were supposedly having yard sales but there isn't a yard, she said the stuff is packed up but it is still unsightly. Chief DeGiusti responded that Mr. Jackson has been looking into that one as well.

Council Member Murdock- He said that several people in the audience had come in to talk about 1317 Collegewood; he said he'd been on the receiving end of phone calls and emails about it. He said from what he understands the building is permissible as it is. He said that some of comments made about changing the ordinance is something Planning could look at. Mayor Edmonds said that she felt that some of these issues were rooted in the neighbors and not the house. Council Member Anne Brown said that two of them are putting their house up for sale. They understand that they have to live with the structure but they want council to direct staff to look at the ordinance. She said that they had some incident with that neighbor and they weren't very kind. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked what they were going to do, rent the top floor out. Council Member Anne Brown answered that was her question, she said that Ms. Ernat went by after she took a look. She said the other issue is that they are building a full length structure that overlook everyone's yard. She said at the end of the day they just want to make sure the ordinance does not allow this to happen again.

Council Member Murdock said that he is hoping to convene after the election on the roads after they have more knowledge. He said what he is looking to accomplish is to bring some type of 5 year recommendation on transportation money on some options of how to allocate that money between various projects. He said that he found 25 communities in Michigan that has truck routes and none of them gave up their federal money, so he does not know where that comes from. He said he has maps of the truck routes going through the city. He said that if they can get the right permit they want to have the meeting in the Freight House.

Council Member Anne Brown- She said November 17 there is a gentleman by the name of the Fred Van Liew who is from Des Moines Iowa. She said he is an historical justice person, she said that emails were sent to both Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson and Council Member Nicole Brown to see if they would help host him at EMU. She said she did call to get a date and secure a date of November 17 at McKenny. Mayor Edmonds asked what time. Mr. Barr asked if Council Member Anne Brown could repeat the name. Council Member Anne Brown responded by giving his name again and telling Mayor Edmonds that the time agreed upon was 6:30. She said it would be a public forum on historical justice as a tool for helping those in community who was victimized by crime.

Council Member Anne Brown said she received a phone call from a resident who lives on the corner of Roosevelt and Mansfield, she said yesterday Dome Construction painted all 4 of the ramps and she was concerned because Dome said they had to do all 4 of the ramps. Council Member Anne Brown said she called DPS and Ms. Beckett went down to check and said the ramps were recently done so they are going to pull the plans because those should not have been on the list.

Council Member Anne Brown said she wants to thank everyone and really enjoyed serving on Council for 2 years. She said being on the seat she truly understands the challenges that the Council and the City faces and she wishes everyone good luck and wants them to continue to do the good work they have been doing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said she has one more thing that she'd hate to bring up. She asked Mr. Barr about the Community Benefits. Mr. Barr said that he's been keeping track of that in Lansing and it is on his radar. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said it is disheartening to see construction around people like her but not seeing employees of people who look like her. She said they are supposed to be hiring people from the neighborhood but they are bringing in people from Grand Rapids.

Council Member Anne Brown said that she wanted to mention to Manager McMullan that there was great disappointment that the City Staff was rude and not understanding. Mayor Edmonds said she and Clerk Hellenga have been talking about customer training classes. Council member Anne Brown said you have to remember that you are talking to people and helping them.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

Mayor Edmonds said that she had speaking with Ms. Grinzing about the search process and there are some resumes in hand, Ms. Grinzing said that in her experience, the bulk will come in the last 10 days and the best will probably come in the last 48 hours. Council Member Anne Brown and Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked what the deadline was and Mayor Edmonds answered "in November" although they had not yet reached the 10 days yet, then December 1st they will do the review of the finalist.

Manager McMullan said that she contacted Ms. Parker and asked her if she could forward the questions used last time to Ms. Grinzing, unless Council wishes to come up with their own set of questions. Mayor Edmonds said she thinks it is fine to have Ms. Parker forward the questions but she believes that Ms. Grinzing has enough experience that she may be able to bring her own set of questions. Mayor

Edmonds said that Manager McMullan can ask Ms. Parker for the questions and they could work from there.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

Manager McMullan stated she just has three items to mention. She stated that she had a meeting with a company regarding health care savings; also she and Ms. Myris will be meeting with Doug Shaw who recently worked with Ypsilanti Township on health care savings and a meeting with Anthony Williamson about Parkridge.

Council Member Anne Brown asked if Manager McMullan can check on the chess program. Manager McMullan said she can do that. She also announced the ribbon cutting of the solar fields on November 15 at 9:30. She added that it will start in the chambers with the speakers; end with photos prior to going out to the site. Council Member Anne Brown asked how long they think the ceremony will last, to which, Manager McMullan responded about an hour.

Mayor Edmonds asked Clerk Hellenga about the election. Clerk Hellenga said that he sent out a news flash and will continue to send out one until the election.

Mayor Edmonds asked when the polls are open, and about the signs for new polling places. Clerk Hellenga answered that polls are open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM. He added that he received signage from United Sonz, yard signs, additional signage for ADA entrances, and for Second Baptist as well. He said parking meters will be bagged and Pease Auditorium will be used for poll workers to keep the lot behind the Honor's College open for voters.

Council member Murdock asked about the absentees compared to 4 years ago. Clerk Hellenga stated that 1,360 ballots have been issued and 890 returned. He assumes that they will be getting a lot in the next few days. He has to check the analysis for 4 years ago. Council member Murdock said that selfies with the ballot is illegal. Clerk Hellenga said he talked to the County who corroborated this information.

Council Member Murdock asked if guns are allowed at the polls, to which, Clerk Hellenga they are because at the point the school is not a school, it is a polling location. Mr. Murdock said they need to fix that. Mr. Barr said he's not sure they can but he'll look into it.

Council Member Anne Brown asked the number of machines they have a Second Baptist. Clerk Hellenga answered there is one tabulator at each precinct and two for the absentee counting board. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson said the lighting at Perry School needs to be improved.

Council member Anne Brown asked the process of counting absentee ballots. Clerk Hellenga answered that poll workers are sequestered in the meeting room from 8AM until 8PM. He explained Ward 1 and 3 will be tabulated on one machine and Ward 2 is on another. Council Member Murdock asked why there are not 3 machines since they are different ballots. Clerk Hellenga replied the memory cards are programed to read ballots from both Wards. Mayor Edmonds asked if there is an issue during the day, who do we need to call. Manager McMullan answered that they could call the Clerk's office.

Manager McMullan asked how many polling booths there are in each precinct. Clerk Hellenga said that he had the same amount for the past general election, 16 booths per precinct. Council Member Anne Brown asked if they would have something posted letting people know they could vote straight ticket. Clerk Hellenga said there will be signs and he also instructed the chairs to make sure people understand they can vote straight ticket. Clerk Hellenga explained that if a person voted straight ticket but then cross voted in the partisan section it would negate that race. Council Member Murdock said it would not negate that. Clerk Hellenga said it would cancel it, he said it would be registered as over vote. Manager

McMullan said it would pick up everything that is not partisan but it would count the partisan as an over vote.

Mayor Edmonds asked Clerk Hellenga review with the state and forward the information to Council.

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS –

- November 5th Clerk’s Office will be open for the purpose of absentee ballots (last day to request a ballot by mail).
- November 7th last day to request absentee ballot in person (no later than 4:00 p.m.).
- November 8th General Election.
- November 14th Council appointment meeting.
- November 15th Joint City Council and Ypsilanti Community Schools Board Meeting will be held at Ypsilanti International Elementary School (503 Oak St.)

XVII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Mayor Edmonds opens audience participation

XVIII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

XIX. ADJOURNMENT –

Resolution No. 2016-254, adjourning the City Council meeting.

Moved by Council Member Robb, seconded by Council Member Vogt

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm