



**APPROVED**

**City of Ypsilanti  
City Council Goal Setting Agenda**

**Tuesday, January 31, 2017**

**6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

Spark East – 215 W. Michigan Avenue  
Ypsilanti, Michigan

**I. CALL TO ORDER –**

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

**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 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; State Representative Ronnie Peterson and Darwin McClary.

**VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –**

None

**VII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –**

None

**VIII. PRESENTATIONS –**

— Capital Improvements Plan – Marcus McNamara, OHM

Marcus McNamara, OHM, provided a presentation regarding the Capital Improvements Plan.

City Council Meeting  
January 31, 2017

Council Member Rob asked when we found out that we couldn't pass on this money to other communities. Mr. McNamara responded at the end of December. Mr. Robb asked if the City will need to have the money spent during our fiscal year or the state's fiscal year. Mr. McNamara responded within the state fiscal year. They don't obligate until you have a design package in by June.

Council Member Robb asked can the City do if it would like to complete a project not on the list, and will there be time to engineer that project. Mr. McNamara responded the project would not be completed in this season's construction, but you wouldn't lose the money. March or April is the latest if you wanted to get work done for construction this year.

Mayor Edmonds asked can be done to improve the Huron River Drive and Leforge corridor. That intersection has multiple issues. Mr. McNamara responded OHM has not looked at that project in detail, but it is something that could be examined.

Council Member Murdock stated the City is losing funding for roads each year. He said he is not sure what's going on in the Federal Aid. He believes that we should use the additional money to keep up in the next two years. Last year the City used \$350,000. \$300,000 for roads and \$50,000 for non-motorized. That funding came out of the major streets. The question is how much money is in major streets that can be used for road projects other than snow removal.

Council Member Murdock asked if the \$470,000 was for 2017. Mr. McNamara responded in the affirmative, and explained it is the Federal Aid Allocation.

Mayor Edmonds asked Council Member Murdock, as being the council member representative for this committee, are there pieces of the discussion of things that did or did not rise to the top as you were starting to say?

Council Member Bashert asked what is the City's commitment for the rail platform and what must Council do to ensure that contribution is available. Council Member Murdock responded Council approved a resolution promising \$2 million out of General Fund.

Council Member Bashert asked if lawsuit regarding ADA crossings has been resolved. Council Member Robb it will not resolve the issue completely, but it works toward an end.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification on how these projects will be funded. Mr. McNamara responded current federal aid allocated to the City in this fiscal year is \$470,000 dollars. There is no allocation in 2018, but there is \$390,000 for the city in 2019, which is a combination of some of the money that was originally in 2017. Council Member Murdock added the City would also receive funding from the county road millage, which is around \$120,000 each year. Mr. McNamara stated he does not disagree on anything that has been said, but for clarity it is important to understand what City receives from the county millage, or elsewhere to determine which projects you want to do with the money. The federal aid dollars are restricted to federal aid eligible roads, and that's part of the reason that the recommendation list you have. Council Member Murdock replied many of those were federal aid money. Mr. McNamara replied there could have been some overlap. That was part of the reason for the different list, and the money that is available through federal aid is roughly \$180,000. Mayor Edmonds asked if those funds would be allocated in just 2017. Mr. McNamara responded in the affirmative. He explained in order not to lose the federal aid allocation the City will need to find a match, and find projects that are on federal aid eligible roads.

Council Member Murdock asked if the City has \$300,000 in Act 51 funds the City would be able to add another project. Mr. McNamara responded in the affirmative, but the funding for that project would not be able to mix with Federal Aid.

Mayor Edmonds directed City Manager McMullan to work with DPS Director Kirton to create a master schedule of projects and available funding. Council Member Murdock added once Council is able to establish funding amounts it can receive project recommendations from staff.

Economic Development Director Ernat stated part of the purpose for creating the Capital Improvement Plan is the City is required to have one by the GFOA and Redevelopment Ready Communities. When OHM brought this to the City the purpose was to have a plan in place for when new funding becomes available. This will not replace Council policy, but it will allow staff to apply for grants as they become available. This will not replace Council policy and will not forbid the City from completed other projects, but it will allow staff to apply for grants as they become available.

DPS Director Kirton explained Act 51 funds are used for snow removal, and depending on how much snow falls it might decrease funds available to complete road projects.

Council Member Murdock stated there are funds specifically for roads, and it is his intention to plan what to do with this funds. He explained this is a budgetary question, and said the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was already approved by Council. Ms. Ernat responded the CIP does not include any roads, which is the intention of adding this document to the Plan. She added at the next Council agenda will include a resolution adding this document to the CIP.

#### **A. DISCUSSION ITEMS –**

##### — Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Goal Setting Discussion

Interim City Manager McMullan provided an overview of last year's goals, and future goals. She explained approved goals from last year were difficult to meet as a result of the failed millage. She introduced John Kaczor, Principal at Municipal Analytics.

John Kaczor, Principal at Municipal Analytics, provided a presentation on the City's current financial position.

Mayor Edmonds stated the City has not received the \$1.2 million in mandated state revenue sharing in some time. Mr. Kaczor responded the complexity of the revenue stream is something that residents do not understand. If municipality's only revenue streams were taxes they would be easier to control, but would be highly susceptible to changes in property value.

Council Member Murdock stated if the City had another \$700,000 in revenue it would it would assist in stabilizing the City. Mr. Kaczor responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Edmonds asked for the lawsuit Michigan municipalities have filled against the state for withholding mandated revenue sharing. City Attorney Barr responded Council would need to speak with the City's lobbyist. Ms. McMullan stated replied she would contact Mr. Profit for an update. Mr. Kaczor added the state is also discussing eliminating the state income tax, which begs the question where will the money come from for state operations if not the state income tax.

Council Member Murdock stated the City's debt is divided into three segments, one could be covered by 2.3 mills levied, another that isn't covered and the last in the amount of \$700,000. Mr. Kaczor interjected the final segment has been decreased to \$270,000. Mr. Murdock asked what would happen if the entire debt would be paid by a millage approved by voters. Mr. Kaczor responded he has not examined that possibility. Council Member Robb responded in order the City would need to levy 3.25 mills in order to cover the full debt. Mayor Edmonds asked how much 3.25 mills would generate. Mr. Robb responded \$950,000. Mr. Kaczor added that amount would pay both series A and B debt service. He added the ballot language would provide the City could levy up to a certain amount, but will have the option to levy less.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the increased gas tax is factored into this model. Mr. Kaczor responded it is not. Fiscal Services Director interjected the tax would have already been factored into the model.

Mayor Edmonds stated many municipalities have been successful in cutting healthcare costs through wellness programs. She asked what kind of savings those efforts could create. Mr. Kaczor responded the City is already seeing the savings because it has already switched. He explained the volatility is removed from the premium costs. Ms. Edmonds asked how a wellness program would increase those savings, and how they are structured. Mr. Kaczor responded he does not have exact information on the savings. Council Member Robb replied the City is not offering real wellness programs. Mr. Kaczor responded there are many forms of wellness programs.

Council Member Vogt stated the spike in 2020 is when the road money would become available. Mr. Kaczor responded he wanted to be certain that it was in the model, but it really is a "money in, money out" situation.

Mr. Kirton asked what City's financial position in the next five years. Mr. Kaczor responded the City's position is much better than it was five years ago, but it is still a downward trend. The City is in a structural deficit that needs additional revenue.

Mayor Edmonds stated she would like the department heads to highlight two items from their departmental report.

Fire Chief Anthouard stated depending on the Department receiving the SAFER grant changes goals of the department. He stated the mutual aid agreement with the Township provides that both the Township and the City would responded to calls together, which allows need for only one dispatch center.

Mayor Edmonds asked for a status of the solar panels. Chief Anthouard responded they are working well.

Mayor Edmonds stated one of the needed improvements listed in the Fire Department goals is improved dispatch, and asked for clarification. Chief Anthouard responded when a person calls 911 dispatch can move slowly because it begins with the County Dispatch, then to Huron Valley Ambulance, and to Ypsilanti. He explained there are new technologies that are becoming available that could alleviate this problem.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the Fire Department has the expertise needed for grant writing. Chief DeGiusti responded he has been able to solicit help from other departments.

Council Member Vogt asked how many firefighters are trained as paramedics. Chief Anthouard responded seven. Mayor Edmonds asked if the City pays for that training. Chief Anthouard responded it is paid for by the individual firefighter.

Council Member Richardson asked if the City passing an ordinance on the non-solicitation of immigration status would affect the City being awarded the SAFER grant. Chief Anthouard responded he is not certain, and explained the application does not ask for that information. Mayor Edmonds stated there is no legal explanation of sanctuary cities, and Ypsilanti's ordinance does not go to the degree that other sanctuary cities do. Council Member Bashert stated Council should be very proud of the ordinance it is working on, but it is not a sanctuary ordinance. Council Member Murdock stated the federal government has not defined what a sanctuary city is. Ms. Richardson added given the volatility of the Executive Branch of the government is difficult what will be the result. Mr. Murdock stated he is much more curious of what will happen at the state level because it involves much more money.

Police Chief DeGiusti stated one of the major goals from this past year was to stabilize the workforce, and that goal was been achieved. The department is currently at the budgeted 29 officers, and they have all completed training. The diversity has also been increased by adding two female officers. The nationwide average for female officers is 12% and Ypsilanti has 25%. He said the goals for this coming year mostly will not require additional funding except for \$2,700 to fund the Michigan Associations of Police Chiefs accreditation of Ypsilanti Police Department policies.

Council Member Richardson asked how many officers in the department are African American. Chief DeGiusti responded six or seven.

Mayor Edmonds asked what other languages police officers can speak. Chief DeGiusti responded one officer is fluent in Spanish, and others that have skills in conversational Spanish. Ms. Edmonds asked if any officers are able to speak Arabic. Chief DeGiusti responded no. Ms. Edmonds replied ideally that would be useful.

Council Member Bashert stated if the department reached 47 officers, as the Chief outlined in his report, the department could participate in community policing. She asked if the millage was passed would the department be able to be at that level. Chief DeGiusti responded no, and explained the 47 includes non-officer employees. The number of officers would be 41.

Mayor Edmonds asked for explanation in the trends in police calls and response times. Chief DeGiusti responded there was a reduction across the board in major crimes, and he hopes it is because the department is being effective, but it is hard to say for certain. Ms. Edmonds stated the response time was cut in half between 2014 and 2015. Chief DeGiusti responded part of that can be equated to the increase of officers in the field. He further explained the data is based on all runs not just emergencies, which can skew the data. The 911 reports state the response time as two to three minutes.

Mayor Edmonds asked what other areas the Washtenaw County Safety Alliance other than gang issues has been effective. Chief DeGiusti responded currently the alliance is specific to coordination, and is not actively using joint patrols. The department has also received training on how to approach mental health issues from the County. Overall, the alliance has been very profitable for all participants.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is an increase on enforcement of sex trafficking. Chief DeGiusti responded no. He explained there were specific incidents that occurred in the City, but the action is more responsive rather than proactive. Council Member Richardson stated there was a location on Madison that was supposed to involve the Federal Government. Chief DeGiusti responded the department had a car parked outside the house, which proved effective. He further explained the Federal Government is no longer pursuing the matter because it seemed to only involve one location.

Council Member Bashert asked for an update of the work done by the Community-Police and Black Lives Matter Task Force, and how it fits in with the outlined goals. Chief DeGiusti responded he has not regularly attended those meetings, but he does have ideas regarding the Review Commission that is currently being discussed.

Mayor Edmonds stated the Police Department has begun carrying Narcan to combat opioid overdose, and recently two lives were saved. She asked if there were any additional lives saved as a result of officers carrying Narcan. Chief DeGiusti responded there have been a few, but on that day the same officer saved two people during his shift.

Mayor Edmonds asked about EMU installing cameras that are directed toward the City. Chief DeGiusti responded he does not have much information on that, and in the past the idea of public cameras was not something supported by Council. Ms. Edmonds asked Chief DeGiusti's thoughts on public cameras. Chief DeGiusti responded he is in support of public surveillance. However, he does not think it is a deterrent, but are an excellent investigative tool. Ms. Edmonds stated there has been talk about EMU installing cameras off campus as well. Council Member Bashert asked what the downside would be of installing cameras. Chief DeGiusti responded from a police standpoint there isn't a downside.

Council Member Murdock stated EMU has also discussed installing cameras that are directed toward Cross St. instead of directed at campus. Mayor Edmonds stated this is a policy decision that Council should discuss. Mr. Murdock stated the Mayor was part of discussions had by the DDA for some time. Ms. Edmonds responded she was a part of those discussions, but this is a more broad discussion.

Fiscal Services Director Marilou Uy stated Fiscal Services has digitized all of its records, saving money on storage. She stated a goal for next year is partner with Human Resources to utilize the HR module in Incode to extract benefits data for budget preparation. This will assist in saving time and minimizing error.

Mayor Edmonds highlighted the intern program in the Fiscal Services Department. Ms. Uy responded the department is lucky to have two unpaid interns. Ms. Edmonds added the department also created a training program and a mechanism to assess the interns to get them ready for the workforce. Ms. Edmonds stated it is something to be commended and could be a story of how the City has partnered with university during lean budgetary times.

Interim City Clerk Andrew Hellenga stated in 2016 the Clerk Department had four elections that all went very smoothly. The Department was down a person for November General, which was a very large election, and the department registered an additional 2,500 voters. He said currently the department has \$2,000 budget per precinct for replacing voting equipment, which will be used with Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to help with purchasing. The bid includes three vendors, which all provide similar documentation as the current machines do, as well as modern

into the County. The new equipment will not jam as easily as the current equipment that is years past their estimated use time. The new equipment should help to create more efficient elections and quicker lines at the polls.

Mayor Edmonds mentioned the establishment of two new polling locations.

Council Member Bashert stated she is pleased the Treasury is now accepting VISA for payments. She asked how much the voting machines will cost, and if the funds budgeted are necessary. Mr. Hellenga responded the County advised each jurisdiction to budget \$1,500 to \$2,000 for each precinct, and that each precinct could see a total cost of around \$10,000.

Mayor Edmonds stated the report stated several new election inspectors were recruited that may have been more effective. Mr. Hellenga responded for the November General there were around 25 to 30 new inspectors, who were younger and more technologically savvy. This was very helpful in the operation of the electronic pollbook.

Department of Public Service Director Stan Kirton stated the City Tot Lots have been completed. The City partnered with EMU and MDOT to construct a mid-block crossing on Washtenaw. Also, the City received a grant of around \$25,000 for the inconvenience of the sub-station. He said the goals for next year are to maintain City assets, continue striving for energy efficiency, and continue to upgrade the LED street lighting initiative.

Council Member Bashert asked when a City trees is removed is it replaced. Mr. Kirton responded if requested a replacement it would be put on the tree planting list. He explained the protocol is to allow the roots to die before it is replaced, which is around a year.

Council Member Richardson stated she noticed a light pole that was cracked on Harriet. Mr. Kirton responded he is aware and he will follow-up with DTE. Ms. Richardson stated there are barriers around it, but it still looked unsafe. Mr. Kirton added if DTE felt it was an imminent danger DTE would have replaced it immediately.

Council Member Vogt stated on Hewitt north of Washtenaw near the Convocation Center could benefit from adding another street light. He explained he can see people at night on the Border to Border Trail in the dark, and feels that it is a safety issue. Mr. Kirton replied he will contact EMU to see if they would be willing to add a light. Mr. Vogt added there is a pole in place and would only require the addition of a light.

Council Member Richardson stated the street lights were out at Spring St. and Huron this past Saturday, but were back on Sunday. She asked the cause of the malfunction. Mr. Kirton responded it might have been a temporary power outage.

Council Member Bashert stated she is appreciative of the LED conversions that have taken place. Mr. Kirton responded Ypsilanti was one of the first cities in the state that converted its lights to LED.

Mayor Edmonds outlined three goals; continuing pursuit to reduce the City's carbon footprint, HVAC conservation, especially at City Hall, and a number of possibilities in the realm of recycling. She stated she was pleased to see the recommendation for the summer youth hire.

Economic Development Beth Ernat stated the highlight for the Building Department goals of 2016 was the hiring of a second building inspector. Unfortunately, shortly after that hire the department did lose an inspector to medical leave. The Parkridge development, Paradise Manor, and the scatter site housing inspections are underway, and inspections of the Towne Center also continue. The biggest goal for 2017 is improving the amount of certificates of occupancies and incorporating that process with the business license program. The Planning Department has had a very good year; the Water Street trail was installed, and continued remediation of the Water Street site, the installation of the solar array at the Highland Park Cemetery. The future goals of the department are the sale of City owned property, preparing for the Master Plan update process, and future changes of the medical marijuana legislation. She a presentation will be given at a Council meeting in March. The Economic Development Department is very pleased with the progress of the Thompson Block, which has been sold. She said the department has been successful in grant applications for blight issues. She said the biggest goal for the combined departments is going to be a comprehensive parking study. She stated the Historic District Commission was able to promulgate rules and revise its ordinance.

Council Member Robb asked for a two year projection of the Water Street Development. Ms. Ernat responded in the past couple months the City has received several calls of interest, however none to the point of a letter of interest. She has had three meetings to discuss possible multi-acre developments, but most likely there will not be anything in ground within two years. Mr. Robb stated the reason he asks is the department was built up to address Water Street and now the City is getting ready to wind down the department. He added he isn't very optimistic about the Water Street development, and his goals do not even include Water Street.

Council Member Bashert asked if there has been progress in possible litigation regarding the Towne Center. Ms. Ernat responded litigation is being sought through Legal Aid and not by the City.

Downtown Development Director Joe Meyers stated the Community and Economic Development Department took over control of the DDA in 2016. He said there have been some successes during that time including stabilizing its finances. A key component that has been implemented is the business interaction component, in which staff visits each business to understand what is going on in the City. He said goals for next year are to work on parking and continue to address the downtown trash issue.

Council Member Bashert asked when patrons visit Go! Ice Cream! this summer will they be facing garbage cans. Mr. Meyers responded unfortunately, yes. He explained the owners of the building next to Go! Ice Cream! have decided not to participate in the DDA Dumpster program.

Council Member Robb asked what is charged per month per unit. Mr. Meyers responded it depends on the use of the building, that specific building is residential and the fee is \$25 per unit. Mr. Robb stated it would be in the best interest of the downtown to remove those trashcans. Mr. Meyers stated if the DDA were to cut every other service it still would not be able to fund the trash service without participant buy-in.

Council Member Bashert stated the downtown has redundant garbage service. Mr. Meyers responded not exactly. Mayor Edmonds explained some business are serviced by dumpsters and some are not, depending on where a business is. Mr. Meyers responded the City trash pick-up allows for three cans per unit. If a business produces more than that amount they would require a dumpster, however there is not space for each business to have its own dumpster. Council

Member Robb stated the DDA needs to speak with counsel to speak to other communities because Ann Arbor does not allow the downtown residents and businesses to put out trash cans. Mr. Meyers responded the DDA spoke with counsel and their opinion that nothing can be done.

Council Member Bashert asked if the City has control of the garbage routes. She stated she thinks redundancy is wasteful. Mayor Edmonds stated the DDA has a separate contract for the dumpsters. Ms. Bashert responded the City controls the routes to pick-up City trash, and should consider exercising that control. Council Member Vogt asked if the City should do what it thinks should be done regardless of the wishes of property owners. Ms. Bashert responded in the affirmative, and said it is not respectful to other businesses.

Council Member Murdock stated Ann Arbor City contracts the collection of trash in the downtown. Mayor Edmonds added DDA Board Member Andrew O'Neil owns property in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, and says the DDA prices for dumpster service are much lower than in Ann Arbor.

### Robb

Council Member Robb stated the City brought parking enforcement in house a few years ago, and it has been a disaster. It has cost the City around a million dollars in revenue, partly because for two full years the City did not write parking tickets. The City also lost revenue from 13,000 parking tickets because the file the City received from Duncan Solutions was not readable. He said since the City created a Parking Bureau on December 1, 2015 13,469 tickets have been written. Of those ticket 7,191, leaving 6,278 tickets have not been paid. Meaning the City is only collecting 58% of potential revenue. He explained the problem is the City does not have a mechanism to collect revenue. The equipment the Parking Enforcement Officers use does not tell them how many outstanding tickets a particular vehicle has, making it difficult to know if that vehicle is at the six ticket limit to be towed. He stated currently the City uses the court for collection who only sends the City a check each month, without data as to which tickets it is for. The City used Duncan Solutions for nine years, and averaged \$183,000 a year. Mr. Robb stated the problem is if someone doesn't pay their ticket it will never be paid because there is not collections mechanism.

Council Member Robb suggested removing the 24 hour grace period for expired meter tickets. By changing the fee schedule the City can generate an additional \$103,000, only considering the 53% of tickets collected. If the City collects 100% the amount increases \$229,000 in additional revenue a year. This does not consider additional fine increases if not paid. He explained in Ypsilanti if tickets are not paid nothing happens, but in Detroit if a driver has unpaid tickets they would not be able to renew their license.

Council Member Robb stated his goal is for the City to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a third party vendor. He suggested the City create a new system that allows license plates of vehicles with unpaid tickets to be registered with the Secretary of State. He stated he would like to move away from using the court system if possible because issues with collection. He added the lost revenue is an entire Water Street debt payment.

Council Member Robb stated he would like to see a job instruction sheet in order to create a plan for new employees. He said See. Click. Fix is a great system, but it does have its problems. He mentioned an issue of submitted tickets not being closed in a reasonable time. This was mentioned by Mr. McClary specifically in his interview for City Manager. Another example of how a job instruction sheet could assist is for Parking Enforcement. He said if Parking Enforcement

were to carry batteries for parking meters they could be easily changed during the activities of that job. However, Council was informed that it would be against union rules to allow Parking Enforcement to complete that task. He asked how it could be against union rules if both positions are in AFSCME. Chief DeGiusti responded it is outside their job description. Mr. Robb replied all three union contracts will be negotiated this year, and that will be something that should be negotiated.

Council Member Robb stated pensions have dropped to 58% funded, and he wants to understand if the City will need to increase the tax levy to sustain the fund. His plan is to fund the pensions at 80%, which would mean the City would need to levy 34.6 mils. This is not a reasonable scenario, but getting to 80% should be a goal of the City.

Council Member Robb stated he would like the City to move to a wellness plan, and with the union contract negotiations upon us now is the time. He explained a wellness plan should outline goals for an employee, and if those goals are not met their deductible would increase.

Council Member Robb stated with all four union contracts up for negotiations he would proposed Council begin meeting in Closed Session 30 minutes after each meeting to begin these discussions.

Council Member Robb stated his last goal is for Council to receive meeting packets a week before the meeting. This would allow Council time to review material and ask staff questions. He added he would like the Clerk Department to create a policy of what is expected when submitting items for approval.

Council Member Robb stated except for parking enforcement, these are all low level process goals he would like to see implemented.

#### Bashert

Council Member Bashert stated she thinks the City has an incredible, overworked staff and a lot is demanded of them. However, she would like the staff to undergo training in service because she would love the citizens of this City to respect the staff as much as they deserve. She stated she is very concerned about the budget, and much of the cuts made by Council were more stop gaps than actual solutions.

#### Edmonds

Mayor Edmonds stated the two goals she would like to highlight are one, improving both internal and external communication. She has spoken with EMU's Vice-President of Communications to possibly provide some training. She added Council could also benefit from increased communications skills within that body.

#### Vogt

Council Member Vogt stated he would like to emphasize Council Member Robb's statements regarding the level of City fees. He agreed they are too low and the City underestimates what it costs to carryout City business. Most importantly he agrees with issues with parking enforcement, and emphasized the collection of outstanding fines. This might include a letter sent after 30 days stating the violator's car will be towed, and would be taken to court. He agreed

with Council Member Bashert that the City needs to actually balance the budget without a millage. He isn't sure how exactly that can be done, but it must be a priority. He added no City funds, including street and road funds, should be allocated to construct a rail platform, those funds should all come from other entities.

#### Murdock

Council Member Murdock stated getting the pension fund under control should be a top priority. He isn't sure it needs to be fully funded, or if it's possible, and could be a part of contract negotiations, as well as other things mentioned at this meeting. He said he supports providing customer service training for staff. He stated he would like to see a four, or five year road funding plan. He is concerned about the City's ability to maintain the City's park system, and would like to see strategies on how to improve. He said he would like to continue to maintain the City's vigilance in protecting residents from negative impacts of state and federal policies.

#### Brown

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown agreed with Council Member Robb in adjusting fines and fees. She said she would like to see improved communication amongst Council Members. She would like to see external communication improved, especially through social media, website, and See. Click. Fix. The implementation of a Community-Police Board as well as community involvement to meet the needs of the community. She added increased partnership with Eastern Michigan University.

#### Richardson

Council Member Richardson agreed that if the City is losing that much parking ticket revenue it needs to be improved. She agreed in enhancing community and police relationship, and said community policing is a philosophy and if adopted it could be implemented. She also agreed in enhancing communication among Council Members. She added increasing "town and gown" relationships with EMU.

DPS Director Stan Kirton stated during the last City Manger's tenure two or three salary comparison studies were completed. He said non-union employees have received one raise in the last eight years. Council is discussing spending money on training and other things, and asked about employee compensation. Mayor Edmonds stated that is something the new City Manager could address. Council Member Richardson agreed with Mr. Kirton, and said the City needs to take care of its employees.

Council Member Murdock suggested creation of two budgets; one including with and one without the millage. Council agreed.

Mayor Edmonds stated she would like to see an improvement in code compliance. This is something that each Council Member has heard from the community. She said it should not be something that is difficult to fix. Council Member Richardson asked if that is a result of staff levels. Ms. Edmonds responded she is not sure of the reason. Chief DeGiusti responded it is partially because there is only one Ordinance Officer. He is very busy and said his citation amount is in the hundreds as well as issued abatements. He stated again the volume of work is too much for one person. Council Member Bashert asked if an Ordinance Officer pays for themselves. Chief DeGiusti responded he does not know the answer to that. Council Member Robb responded the officer does pay for themselves, but the philosophy of the position is to

correct the problem not make money. Mr. Robb stated if the Ordinance Officer is not able to complete their job Council needs to know.

**B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –**

None

**C. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –**

None

**D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –**

**Nominations**

**Planning Commission**

Christopher Madigan  
223 N River St. Apt 6  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
**Exp. 1/2020**

**E. ADJOURNMENT –**

OFFERED BY: Council Member Richardson  
SECONDED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.