



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ONE SOUTH HURON ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Bashert	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Brown	(7:05) Present	Council Member Vogt	(7:31) Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Edmonds	Absent
Council Member Richardson	Present		

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Council Member Bashert to excuse the absence of Mayor Edmonds.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the absence was excused.

III. INVOCATION –

Council Member Richardson 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 Bashert moved, seconded by Council Member Richardson to approve the agenda.

Council Member Murdock expressed disappointment that public safety was not on the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown replied public safety is number five under Section XII.

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

VI. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown introduced the following individuals; City Manager Darwin McClary, Assistant City Attorney Dan DuChene, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, City Attorney John Barr, City Clerk Frances McMullan, and DPS Director Stan Kirton.

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Kyle Hunter, 430 S. Adams, stated it is imperative that a Council recognize housing as a human right. He believes it is a widely held belief but is not expressed in the city code.
2. Dave Strenski, 323 Oak St., thanked Council for their support for solar power throughout the city. He is in support of the passage of Resolution No. 2018-025, to install adequate solar equipment to power the entire DPS Administrative Office Building.
3. Amber Fellows, Ward 3 Resident, stated she spoke with Judy Kramer regarding an investigation against her. She was informed by Ms. Kramer she was not aware of the investigation. Through conversations with Ms. Kramer informed her of her impression that Ms. Fellows was a person of high authority. What she found from the memo is the investigation was bogus. She expressed concern over the housing insecure living in the city.
4. Anthony Morgan, 210 N. River St. #3, stated Ypsilanti has several communities; business, homeless, student, etc... but when discussing Ypsilanti as a community they are considered one community, which is not the case. He asked what the consequence of so few individuals, or organizations owning such a large percentage of the city is. There is very little signage regarding gun laws.
5. Desiree Simmons, 407 Charles, encouraged everyone to read about the history of Ypsilanti, and use that to help form policy.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

— Mayor Pro-Tem Brown thanked everyone for speaking.

Council Member Richardson thanked Mr. Strenski for the work he has done toward solar power in the city.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS -

XI. CONSENT AGENDA –

Resolution No. 2018-019

1. Resolution No. 2018-020, approving minutes of January 9, January 23, and January 25, 2018.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of January 9th, January 23rd, and January 25th, 2018 be approved.

2. Resolution No. 2018-021, approving Ordinance No. 1301, Adaptive Reuse Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Ypsilanti Performance Space for 218 N Adams. ***(Second Reading)***

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance to approve an Adaptive Reuse Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Ypsilanti Performance Space, 218 N Adams be approved on Second and Final Reading.

3. Resolution No. 2018-022, approving appointment of Susan Melke to Police Advisory Commission.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT, the following individuals be appointed to the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions as indicated below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>
Susan Melke 330 Chidester, #409 Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Police Advisory Commission	February 1, 2021

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb
SECONDED BY: Council Member Bashert

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

XII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

1. Resolution No. 2018-023, allowing MMFLA Permits to be transferred from one entity to another and allow staff to waive any irregularities or incompleteness with the application by an existing facility.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, The City has been previously licensing medical marijuana facilities under Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, The licenses issued by the City under the Code of Ordinances are non-transferrable; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the adoption of the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1298 to amend this chapter of the Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the amended language of the Code provides that licensees may apply for a permit for operation on February 1, 2018, all others may apply on March 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, it is possible under state law that facilities currently operating may have to cease operation if they do not apply to the state by February 15, 2018; and

WHEREAS, A City-issued permit is required to be submitted for a complete application to the State; and

WHEREAS, there has been an overwhelming request from those facilities currently operating in the City to be ultimately licensed by the State to a different entity; and

WHEREAS, there is no provision in the amended ordinance that specifically prohibits the transfer of an issued permit to another; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear attachment of the permit application procedure in the persons that make up the ownership of an entity and a City interest in reviewing and investigating the same; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has communicated a desire in maintaining the current status-quo with regard to medical marijuana businesses in the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT permits ultimately issued by the City may be transferred from one entity to another so long as there are no persons with an ownership interest in the transferee entity that do not have an ownership interest in the transferor entity and there is at least one person with an ownership interest in both;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff may, at their discretion, waive any irregularities or incompleteness with an application submitted by an existing facility so long as a sufficiently thorough review and investigation of the application can be made within a timely manner.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Bashert
SECONDED BY: Council Member Murdock

Assistant City Attorney Dan DuChene provided a synopsis regarding the request for this approval.

Council Member Murdock asked if this would allow a transfer to a different entity that involves the same individuals. Mr. DuChene responded in the affirmative. Mr. Murdock asked what discretion this would provide employees. Mr. DuChene replied staff wants to be able to allow existing entities the ability to resubmit, or add on to their applications if needed.

Council Member Richardson asked if individuals could be added to the entity. Mr. DuChene responded no.

Council Member Bashert asked when businesses received the state application. Mr. DuChene responded he believes around December 15th. Ms. Bashert asked if the information on the state application requires a significant amount of information than in the past. Mr. DuChene responded there was not a state application in the past. Ms. Bashert stated she does not want the city to take a position that could negatively affect the city in the future. Mr. DuChene responded he believes the last paragraph of the resolution will prevent that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown asked if the incompleteness, or irregularities would be minimal. Mr. DuChene responded staff has an understanding of the city's process for licensing this type of business and are guided by that. Staff does not want red tape to prevent businesses from operating.

Council Member Murdock asked if the city is accepting applications for facilities other than what are already operating. Mr. DuChene responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Richardson stated she is going to vote no because she does not feel comfortable with the discretion provided in the resolution.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2018-023 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

YES: 5 NO: 1 (Richardson) ABSENT: 1 (Edmonds) VOTE: Carried

City Council Meeting
February 6, 2018

2. Resolution No. 2018-024, approving policy and state guidelines in granting or denying property tax exemptions.

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible under this section, a person shall do all of the following on an annual basis:

- Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- P.A. 390 of 1994 requires that *all persons residing in the household* MUST submit copies of the following SIGNED documents:

*City of Ypsilanti Poverty Exemption Application
Federal Income Tax Returns
State Income Tax Returns
Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim Form (MI-1040CR)*

Also include copies of ALL supporting documentation (i.e. W-2 forms, 1099's, schedules, etc.). The Board of Review shall consider income from all sources and from all occupants of the homestead when determining whether an applicant meets poverty exemption requirements as adopted by the City Council.

A Poverty Exemption Affidavit (Department of Treasury Form 4988) must be filed for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current year or in the immediately preceding year.

- The combined assets of all person residing the household (minus the value of the principal residence) MUST NOT exceed \$25,000. Assets include but are not limited to: real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- Produce a valid driver's license, Washtenaw County ID, or other form of identification if requested.
- Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.

- Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- The following are the 2018 federal poverty income guidelines with are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual income includes income for all person residing in the household. The total household income *must be less than or equal* to the guidelines below in order to be considered for this type of exemption.

Family of 1.....	\$ 12,060
Family of 2.....	\$ 16,240
Family of 3.....	\$ 20,420
Family of 4.....	\$ 24,600
Family of 5.....	\$ 28,780
Family of 6.....	\$ 32,960
Family of 7.....	\$ 37,140
Family of 8.....	\$ 41,320
For each add'l person.....	\$ 4,180

- The applicant(s) MAY NOT have ownership interest in any other real estate other than the homestead property.
- If home has been purchased within the previous 2 years, all closing documentation must be included.

The Board of Review may require a home audit and inspection done by the Department of Assessment as part of the application process.

The City of Ypsilanti allows for partial poverty exemptions to be granted. A partial poverty exemption is an exemption of a percentage of the taxable value of the principal residence rather than the entire taxable value. The formula for calculating partial exemptions is as follows: In cases where household income of a property as herein defined exceeds \$10,000, but meets the federal standard, the assessment shall be adjusted so the out-of-pocket property tax, as best estimated based on the previous year's millage rate and after deducting the applicable state property tax refund, no more than ten percent (10%) of the household income. In cases where the household income meets the federal standard but is less than \$10,000, the assessment shall be adjusted so the out-of-pocket property tax, as best estimated based on the previous year's millage rate and after deducting applicable state property tax refunds, no more than five percent (5%) of the household income.

It should be recognized that the poverty exemption reduction is a form of *temporary assistance* for those who are undergoing a difficult financial time. Any relief granted is for the current year only.

The Board of Review may reject any application where the information contained in it appears fraudulent, misleading, inaccurate, or incomplete. Failure to complete all sections of the application and/or failure to submit signed copies of all tax forms or other required documentation will result in the poverty exemption application being denied. The board of review must have complete, accurate data in order to review this appeal.

In certain instances, the Board of Review may consider extenuating circumstances as a basis of a poverty exemption where the total household income exceeds the established income guidelines.

Due Dates: The application for exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review during the year in which the exemption is requested. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED* that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines that there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.**

OFFERED BY: Council Member Murdock

SECONDED BY: Council Member Richardson

Doug Shaw, WCA Assessing, stated this resolution this is another item the State Tax Commission has added to their audit. This resolution must be in place to satisfy that requirement.

Council Member Vogt recommended changing "equal to... 10%" and equal to ...5%" to "no more than" in both places.

Council Member Bashert recommend adding the Washtenaw County ID to the forms of accepted identification.

Council Member Vogt moved, seconded by Council Member Bashert to add "no more than" prior to 10% and 5%, and add the Washtenaw County ID as an accepted form of identification.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2018-024 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

Council Member Vogt asked if approved what might this do to tax revenues. Mr. Shaw responded the effect would be minimal. Mr. Vogt asked if typically the property values are low in exemption cases. Mr. Shaw responded in the affirmative. Mr. Vogt asked if it is common for poverty exemptions to be granted for consecutive, or multiple years. Mr. Shaw responded if there is no change to the applicant's income.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2018-024 as amended was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

3. Resolution No. 2018-025, approving Solar Equipment lease with Chart House Energy Investment Fund, LLC to enhance the solar array located on the DPS Truck Port roof.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, funds have been allocated in the FY 2017-18 budget to enhance the solar array located on the DPS Truck Port roof ; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to enter into an lease to own agreement with Chart House Energy Investment Fund, LLC, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon, MI 49440 to install adequate solar equipment to power the entire DPS Administrative Office Building; and

WHEREAS, the City will deposit the fair market value buyout deposit of \$15,000 to Chart House Energy Investment Fund, LLC., upon signing this lease from Account # 101-7-2650-818-03; and

WHEREAS, the City will pay 90% of estimated avoided electrical expense to Chart House Energy Investment Fund, LLC. for first 6 years of Lease from Account # 641-7-9320-920-00;

NOW THEREFORE BE It RESOLVED THAT the City Council approves the lease to own agreement with Chart House Energy Investment Fund, LLC; and

THAT the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the agreement, subject to approval by the City Attorney, to facilitate the completion of this project.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Bashert

SECONDED BY: Council Member Murdock

DPS Director Stan Kirton stated Mr. Strenski is present to answer any specific questions Council might have.

Council Member Robb asked if the Finance Department reviewed this proposal to see if lease or purchase was more cost effective. Mr. Strenski responded it can be purchased, but this was designed to work with a budget of \$15,000. Mr. Robb stated he wants to use tax payer funds wisely, and there is no analysis to show what option is better for there the city. Mr. McClary stated the project cost is \$27,000 over a six year period, and if it were purchased it would cost that same \$27,000 up front. Mr. Strenski responded that would have to be negotiated with Chart House.

Council Member Bashert stated the original project cost was \$15,000 and it grew to \$27,000 as a result of increased solar power. Mr. Strenski responded in the affirmative.

City Council Meeting
February 6, 2018

Council Member Murdock asked for an explanation of the letters set to DTE. Mr. Strenski responded the project he is working on could produce \$500,000 to the city. He explained he is starting a letter writing campaign to get DTE to install solar power at the landfill at reduced cost.

Council Member Vogt stated with the cost savings created the city would really only pay \$15,800 over six years, and at that point would own the mechanism. He asked what the fair value of the system is. Mr. Strenski responded around \$50,000 to \$60,000. Mr. Vogt stated the \$27,000 is misleading.

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2018-025 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

4. Resolution No. 2018-026, approving 2018-19 Council Goals.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City Charter requires that each year in February, City Council provides the City Manager, by resolution the budget priorities for the next fiscal year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with Section 5.02 of the City Charter, the following direction is hereby given:

That the City Manager shall present City Council with a balanced Resources Allocation Plan for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 using the City's organizational values and the following goals and priorities:

OFFERED BY: Council Member Richardson

SECONDED BY: Council Member Vogt

Mr. McClary stated the informational items include the report from the goal setting sessions. The assumption is Council will decide on its budget priorities from that list.

Council Member Murdock asked what the cost is attached to the goals listed in the report. Mr. McClary responded cost will be provided once Council has selected its priorities. He recommended postponing this resolution until February 20th in order to leave time for Council to review the report.

Council Member Murdock stated the report lists goals with sub-categories, and asked if the subcategories would be approved as goals. Mr. McClary replied he would list the bullet points as goals.

Council Member Bashert suggested Council submit its top goals prior to the next meeting.

Council Member Bashert moved, seconded by Council Member Vogt for Council to submit its top budgetary priorities to the City Clerk by Friday, February 9, 2018.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated in budgets past the City Manager provided action steps prior to setting budgetary priorities. Mr. McClary stated the reason for the change is administration should be tailoring the budget around Council priorities.

Council Member Richardson stated having been through this process many times, and Council's priorities never came second to the administration. Her experience has always been the administration has worked with the goals Council has set. She asked Council Member Murdock if that has been his experience. Council Member Murdock responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Bashert stated when the list of goals was created, Council was aware it was too long and now it needs to be prioritized. She added it is a reasonable request. She asked if Council should set the priorities now or wait until next meeting.

Council Member Murdock stated there are five items in the February 20th meeting, and a potential item for 220 N. Park.

Council Member Richardson stated whether priorities are set at this meeting, or the next she would like to give consideration to find ways to increase compensation for city employees. Non-union staff has submitted a letter and spreadsheet regarding raises for those employees. She has read through the document and it is eye opening that they have gone without pay increases for so long. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown agreed.

Council Member Richardson asked if Council needs to submit their priorities by Friday if this will be an agenda item for February 20th. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown asked the due date for agenda items. Clerk McMullan responded the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Ms. Brown asked if Monday, February 12th would allow enough time. Council Member Bashert stated Council has reviewed these goals a number of times and does not feel more time would be necessary. Ms. Brown replied the time over the weekend would be helpful to complete a prioritization.

Mayor-Pro Tem Brown moved a friendly amendment to change the submission date to Monday, February 12th.

Council Member Bashert accepted the friendly amendment.

Council Member Vogt accepted the friendly amendment.

On a roll call, the vote to amend Resolution No. 2018-026 was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Council Member Bashert to postpone Resolution No. 2018-026 until February 20th.

On a roll call, the vote to postpone Resolution No. 2018-024 as amended was as follows:

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

VOTE:

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

5. Discussion on Public Safety Staffing.

Council Member Murdock stated he hoped the Chiefs of Police and the Fire Departments would be present to provide guidance. Mr. McClary replied Chief Anthouard had a death in the family, and was unable to attend. He stated one police officer, or one firefighter costs the city between \$95,000 and \$100,000. He explained between the Water Street Millage and the Public Safety Millage the city will see increased revenue of \$1.075 million. He understands Council wants to increase staffing in both of those departments. An analysis needs to be completed to understand what optimal staff levels should be for those two departments.

Council Member Robb stated there is \$250,000 in unfunded Water Street debt, which will decrease that amount. Council Member Murdock added there will be an additional \$100,000 in healthcare costs. He said it is difficult to provide guidance without the data to support those decisions. Mr. McClary responded if Council were to ask the Chiefs a good starting point would be to go back to the thirty-two full time positions in the Police Department and twenty-one positions in the Fire Department. Mr. Murdock replied the city will not have to funding to staff at that capacity. Mr. McClary stated staff needs to review Council goals and identify priorities and compare that to adding positions in those departments. These are discussions that need to take place during the budget process, as well as staffing in other departments. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated for several meetings this discussion has been mentioned, and her expectation was Council would be provided with that information during this meeting. Now that Council is supposed to have this discussion it can't because there is no information to discuss. Council Member Richardson stated she attributes the lack of information due to the Chiefs not being present.

Council Member Bashert stated several times Council has asked both Chiefs what their perspective, and they provided a fantasy number of full staffing. She is not sure if the Chiefs were present Council would have been given any additional information. She is also frustrated for staff because when they submit a proposal to Council they are accused of doing Council's job, and when they don't they are accused of not doing their job. Regardless of what is discussed two to three additional Police Officers and two to three firefighters will be budgeted. She requested an analysis on the effect of that staff increase on those departments. Council Member Murdock replied that is the discussion that should Council should be having now, which is why it is on the agenda. He is disappointed this information has not been provided because it takes time to recruit and train officers and firefighters. He does not want to wait until budget to make these decisions.

Council Member Vogt stated staffing in public safety can be approached in two stages; staff to be hired as soon as possible and any additional staff that could be hired as a part of the budget process. He said he believes that is what the voters wanted when they approved the millage.

Council Member Vogt moved, seconded by Council Member Bashert to increase current staff levels by hiring two Police Officers and two Firefighters as soon as possible.

Council Member Robb asked what the current level of staffing is for the both the Police and Fire Department. Council Member Vogt responded the Chiefs can provide that information. Mr. Robb replied that is why this information is needed prior to making any decisions. Council Member Richardson stated she feels uncomfortable voting on this motion without input from the Chiefs. Council Member Bashert stated that is a disingenuous response because Council is aware that public safety needs more staff.

Council Member Murdock stated four additional position would take out \$400,000 in additional revenue. He requested these funds come out of the Water Street Debt Millage, and not the county millage.

Council Member Vogt asked what hiring firefighters now would affect the SAFER Grant, and the hiring should follow that practice so as to not jeopardize that grant. Mr. McClary replied he does not believe it would cause an issue. He explained the SAFER Grant funding drops a certain percentage each year of the grant, and would not provide 100% funding. Adding two position should not affect the grant because of the great need for staff at the fire Department. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown replied she understands the need for staff, but she wants the information before she is ready to make a decision. Council Member Murdock stated the SAFER Grant usually requires the positions provided by the SAFER Grant are maintained once the grant expires.

Council Member Robb stated in the Fiscal Year ending this June there are fifteen positions funded in the Fire Department, and asked how many firefighters are currently working for the City of Ypsilanti. Mr. McClary responded fifteen positions plus the Chief. Mr. Robb stated the budget lists sixteen firefighters plus the Chief, and the city should be actively recruiting to hire that position. Mr. Robb asked if the motion was to hire three new people in the Fire Department. Council Member Vogt responded no. Mr. Robb stated there are twenty-six police officers in the budget and asked how many are on staff. Mr. McClary responded he did know and would provide that information to Council. Mr. Robb asked if the city is actively trying to hire the staffing shortfall in both departments. Regardless of the motion both departments should be actively trying to get to staff levels that were budgeted. Council Member Vogt replied the Fire Department budget should be increased by one more staff member, his intent is for Council to make a decision. Mr. Robb stated Council made a decision last July when it approved the budget. Council Member Murdock stated Council Member Robb is saying Council should be reviewing authorized positions. If Council would like to increase the authorized positions it can do so. Mr. McClary stated if the positions are already budgeted the administration does not need further approval to fill make those hires. Mr. Murdock asked if Council wants to increase the budget for additional positions. He said without the Chiefs present to answer these questions it is difficult to make these decisions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated her interpretation of Council Member Vogt's motion was to budget additional positions. Council Member Vogt stated his motion was to add personal to existing levels. His intent was to get Council discussing this topic and to provide the City Manager the authority to fill the authorized positions. Ms. Brown responded the Chiefs are already aware of the positions that are budgeted. Council Member Bashert stated the Chiefs are already authorized to make those hires and do not need further approvals from Council. Council Member Murdock stated Council Member Vogt's resolution is not necessary. Mr. McClary added if the positions are budgeted the city actively looks to fill those positions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated the Chiefs are having a difficult finding applicants to fill the positions that are budgeted for, not needing additional authorization. The ideal staff levels for those departments is what Council needs to make a determination. Council Member Richardson agreed.

Council Member Murdock stated once the Chiefs are available he would like to have this discussion, and would like it to be scheduled soon.

Council Member Vogt withdrew his motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown added part of that discussion needs to be budgeting funds to send recruits to the academy.

Council Member Bashert asked if the Fire and Police Chiefs were aware of this agenda item. Mr. McClary responded he isn't sure if they knew and he did not ask that they attend. His understanding was this meeting would involve a discussion from Council regarding public safety staffing. Staff will need to examine a variety of data to identify optimal staffing levels for those departments. Ms. Bashert responded the concern is what type of officers are needed and the costs if those officers. It would have been helpful if they were present to discuss this agenda item.

Council Member Murdock stated this agenda item was requested at the beginning of January and staff had ample time to perform an analysis. Mr. McClary responded staff must first know what Council's priorities are prior to completing the

analysis. The budget must be thought of broadly to understand how to allocate funds. Mr. Murdock stated all of Council can agree public safety is a priority.

Council Member Robb stated if he were to design goal setting a list of goals would be created along with the cost to implement that goal. Then Council can begin to prioritize what goals can actually be accomplished that fiscal year.

XIII. LIAISON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update - None
- B. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – Council Member Murdock stated during the last meeting he requested a representative from the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to provide an update. That meeting will be held on February 21st. It does not appear the RTA is having much success in Macomb and Oakland Counties and another option should be examined.
- C. Urban County - None
- D. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - None
- E. Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance - None
- F. Friends of Rutherford Pool - None
- G. Housing Equity Leadership Team - None
- H. Economic Development Coordinating Committee - None

XIV. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Robb

- Asked for a status of the Washington St. lights. He said seventeen of the lights are out and he wants a date for when the will be fixed.
- 13 N. Washington received an OPRA, however, they owners of the building have not been abiding by the property maintenance code. He asked why they are not being cited.

Vogt

- He asked when the hidden driveway signs on Hewitt will be replaced.

Murdock

- He asked for the status of the union contract negotiations.

Mr. McClary stated at this time he would not discuss this in an open session. Council Member Murdock suggested holding a Closed Session to discuss the progress of those contracts.

- He asked about the DPS Directors review of an application for a Frog Island Community Garden, and why is was outside the community guidelines.

Mr. McClary asked for the contact information for the applicant. Council Member Murdock stated he believes there might have been an issue with the liability insurance. Mr. McClary replied if the group is performing volunteer work in city parks, normally they would be covered by the city's liability insurance.

- He asked that Council be provided with the date the new tax assessments would be mailed and the Board of Review schedule.

Mr. McClary responded tax assessments are usually mailed by the end of February. Council Member Murdock stated the information would be for the public's benefit. He would also like instruction on how to appeal an assessment on the Assessor's page on the city website.

Bashert

- She is frustrated DPS is no longer accepting blue recycling bins and did not inform the residents of this change. She does not understand the issue with a resident using a blue recycling bin.
- She asked for an update on 205 Summit.

Richardson

- She asked what is being done about the garbage at the home on Second St. She explained this home has been an issue for the past five years.
- She asked Council issue a proclamation recognizing Black History month. She added all are invited to the Black History Program held at Parkridge Community Center on February 23rd.
- The annual Brotherhood Banquet will also be held on February 23rd at 6:00 pm.
- Stated Washington St. has some road issues that are in need of repair.

Council Member Bashert stated she attend the Black History exhibit at Riverside Arts Center and it was very well done. The art and presentation were both amazing. Council Member Richardson stated the exhibits will be held each Friday at the Riverside Arts Center.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR PRO-TEM

- Echoed the comments of Council Member Richardson regarding the home on Second St.

Nomination:

Tax Board of Review

Craig Hupy - reappointment
1124 N. Congress
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Stated staff will follow up on the Frog Island Community Garden issue.
- Provide an update on the status of the contract negotiations with the collective bargaining unit.
- The labor attorney recommends not including a section on sexual harassment in the employee handbook. However, training will be provided to employees during annual employee training.

Council Member Richardson asked why the labor attorney did not recommend including it in the employee handbook. Mr. McClary responded he would rather not discuss that in open session. Ms. Richardson asked why. Mr. McClary responded because it was legal advice.

- He provided an update on citations, warnings, and abatement for snow removal.
- A link was sent today requesting availability for meetings with individual Council Members. He would like to schedule two meetings a month.

— He provided a list of upcoming agenda items to Council.

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS –

HDC Annual Report
Goal Setting Report
Letter from Washtenaw County Board of Public Works
Traffic Review Commission Minutes of January 25, 2018

Council Member Murdock asked if a presentation could be given from the county regarding solid waste during the recycling work session. Mr. McClary replied if Council wishes he can schedule that for the March 6th meeting. Mr. Murdock made the suggestion because the presentation is pertinent to that work session and a resolution could be on the March 6th agenda.

Council Member Murdock stated some time ago there was a request about the timing of the pedestrian lights at the Michigan and Huron intersection. He did not see a resolution of that issue in the Traffic Review Commission minutes. He suggested delayed lights for that intersection be delayed so people can cross safely. Mr. McClary responded the Traffic Review Commission forwarded recommendations to MDOT for consideration.

XVIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Sue Melke, 330 Chidester #409, stated two years ago Council made the determination to not issue warnings for snow removal tickets. She asked why that practice has changed. She agreed goals cannot be determined without an estimation of the cost to implement those goals. She did understand how the SAFER grant is applied. She asked about the progress of the Border to Border Train.
2. Cheryl Farmer, 214 N. Huron, encouraged that Council allocate all the funds collected through the county public safety millage to the Police and Fire Departments. That is why people voted for it and that is what the people expect to be done with it.
3. Kyle Hunter, 430 S. Adams, stated the bridge going into Depot Town need repair. The corner of Washtenaw and North Summit has a raised platform by the bus stop and the railing is rusted through. He did participate in the vote for public safety and he would like there to be greater community input to police and fire staffing.
4. Brook Fries, 113 Ballard, stated a couple of months ago one of her friends was stabbed near her residence. If Council was more constructive in the discussion of goals it could have accomplished more tonight.
5. Desiree Simmons, stated she would like to hear how more police would equate to more public safety. She asked how the city could try to make local hires. She agrees goals should have estimated costs included.
6. Amber Fellows, Ward 3, agreed with Mr. Hunter and Ms. Simmons that the public safety millage is not specifically for police and fire.

Mr. McClary stated the SAFER grant's purpose is to hire additional firefighters not to fund existing employees. The grant provides the greatest amount of funding in the first year, and then decreases. In the past the SAFER Grant has required the positions resulting continue for a period after the grant expires. However, during the recession that requirement was lessened, it would

need to be examined. He added the Fire Chief will be submitting an application to Council for approval.

XIX. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR –

Recycling Work Session scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Spark East

XX. ADJOURNMENT –

Resolution No. 2018-027, 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 Vogt

SECONDED BY: Council Member Bashert

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.