



Resolution No. 2009-026  
February 3, 2009

**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 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 2009-2010 using the following organizational values, goals and action strategies:

Organizational Values

Three fundamental values continue to underlie our work together on behalf of the citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Ypsilanti.

***1. Open, transparent and accessible decision-making***

We are committed to openness and transparency in our decision-making, doing whatever we can to ensure that information is available to the public in a timely fashion and in a manner that is easily understood, and providing opportunities for public engagement and participation in decision-making.

***2. Fiscal solvency and sustainability***

We are committed to ensuring the long-term financial stability of the City. Our budget decisions must reflect a balance between short and long term considerations, and we will work to reduce the costs of city services to the extent we can while maintaining effective city services and a sound infrastructure.

***3. Customer Friendly Service***

We are committed to providing services to residents and visitors in a customer friendly fashion, ensuring that service processes are effective and understandable, being responsive to requests for service to the extent we can consistent with procedures and resources, and ensuring that people recognize the limits of our ability to respond.

Goals and Action Strategies Fiscal Year 2009-2010

**Goal A            Create a vibrant downtown as a hub for activity in Ypsilanti and larger community**

*Strategies/Tasks*

1. Identify and Implement strategies for developing the downtown
  - a. Continue utilizing and expand, if resources permit, a range of incentives and support for physical property improvements, such as OPRA (obsolete property renovations), façade improvements, Brownfield or historic property programs
  - b. Include residential development as part of the coherent development plan for the commercial areas
  - c. Encourage through ordinance changes as appropriate additional uses of upper floors of commercial/office facilities
  
2. Safety
  - a. Seek funding for special police patrols in commercial areas through the DDA's or business associations
  - b. Explore and secure a partnership agreement with AATA to improve security and safety at the transfer terminal in downtown Ypsilanti

**Goal B            Increase employment and strengthen the economic base of the City**

*Strategies/Tasks*

1. Water Street development
  - a. Implement special monitoring/reporting program to keep council informed of status
  - b. Conduct special work sessions with council to explore possible development prospects and opportunities
  - c. Exercise care in selecting potential developers to ensure that development is consistent with the City's vision for the area
  
2. Redevelopment
  - a. Continue to offer appropriate incentives as needed to foster redevelopment, obsolete property renovations and façade improvements
  - b. Take advantage of all appropriate external funding sources to support redevelopment efforts, including HUD, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and Stimulus Package

3. Development processes
  - a. Enlist business associations as partners in reviewing and implementing development processes and applying peer pressure to secure compliance
  - b. Identify impediments to redevelopment and modify development processes as needed and appropriate to ensure that they are streamlined and user friendly
  - c. Review and update as appropriate ordinances that affect businesses—e. g., signs—striking an effective balance between control and opportunity
4. Collaborate with SPARK and others to integrate Ypsilanti’s assets in broader marketing efforts
  - a. Collaborate with SPARK to retain existing businesses and to effectively recruit new investment and development to the region
  - b. Identify and implement specific strategies for ensuring that Ypsilanti’s assets are included in the regional message; e.g., inserts in brochures and material at local hotels
  - c. Work with partners to update and strengthen the City’s website as a medium to enhance the City’s marketing efforts in tandem with SPARK and the VCB (it was noted in the discussion that the VCB will be undertaking efforts to “brand” Ypsilanti and to update their website, and perhaps some efficiencies can be achieved in partnering with them)

Goal C        **Ensure diversity in the Ypsilanti community**

*Strategies/Tasks*

1. Housing opportunities
  - a. Ensure diverse housing opportunities as plans are developed and proposals for development or redevelopment take shape
  - b. Explore partnerships with others to minimize the impact of foreclosures in the City (e.g., neighborhood stabilization program)
  - c. Identify and implement to the extent resources permit strategies for redeveloping the public housing complex
  - d. Examine and modify as needed code enforcement strategies to promote housing improvements and high quality rental units

Goal D        **Develop a reliable and effective transportation system serving the Ypsilanti community**

*Strategies/Tasks*

1. Bus System
  - a. Stable Financing Arrangements
    - 1) Support with others the feasibility of countywide/regional funding through a sales tax or regional property tax funding
    - 2) Seek partners—e.g., St. Joseph Hospital and EMU—in financing AATA routes that serve the City and such institutions
    - 3) Explore opportunities for a joint contract with AATA with Ypsilanti and Superior Townships
    - 4) Shift, if necessary, additional costs to riders through rate increases to maintain service levels
2. Rail
  - a. Participate with others the emerging rail links to Detroit Metro Airport
  - b. Identify a location and develop a plan for a rail stop in Ypsilanti
3. Non-motorized transportation—biking and walking
  - a. Explore the feasibility and cost of adding pedestrian access across the I94 bridge at the south end of the City

Goal E      **Establish an effective partnership with EMU**

*Strategies/Tasks*

1. Service partnerships
  - a. Explore opportunities for cooperative or consolidated service delivery arrangements
  - b. Explore opportunities for cooperative marketing or branding of downtown and the City
2. Formal relationship
  - a. Develop a framework for long-term collaboration and joint policy direction between the City and the University

Goal F      **Nurture and support neighborhood associations and citizen groups across Ypsilanti**

*Strategies/Tasks*

1. Neighborhood Associations
  - a. Utilize neighborhood associations as communication conduits to and from residents

- 2. Friends Groups and others
  - b. Secure formal contracts with partners for the delivery of services

Goal G        **Continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of city services**

*Strategies/Tasks*

- 1.     Develop and implement a set of strategies to address the police and fire employee pension and health obligations
- 2.     Develop bargaining strategies for the three labor agreements that will come up for negotiation in the first six months of the calendar year
- 3.     Develop and implement a plan for improving code enforcement services
- 4.     Review and clarify the role of the City Recreation Commission, identifying responsibilities with respect to the joint agreements in place for providing recreational services through partnership agreements

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

YES:                      NO:                      ABSENT:                      VOTE: