

**City of Ypsilanti
Study Session
Tuesday, March 11, 2003
7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cheryl Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, One South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Cheryl Farmer, Council Member Nickels, Council Member Richardson, Council Member Gawlas and Council Member Schulze.

Absent: Mayor-Pro Tem Swanson, Council Member LaRue

Council Member Richardson offered and Council Member Gawlas supported a motion to excuse the absence of Council Member LaRue and Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson. Unanimous.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Farmer introduced Karen Lovejoy Roe, Ypsilanti Township Supervisor to the joint study session and thanked everyone for coming.

Larry Thomas, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority Director introduced his staff Jim Bellers, Water Superintendent, Barbara Kreger, Finance Director, Fred Davis, Financial Consultant and Attorney Tom Daniels.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tyrone Wilson, representing RAID, complimented Mayor Farmer and the Council for looking into the issues in the Clerks Office through an investigation by the Michigan Municipal League. He also expressed concern with websites accessed from the city's computers and questioned if Deputy Clerk, Cherry Lawson used her own password and user name when accessing information from computers. Mr. Wilson also informed Council that Ms. Patricia Mills, Clerk Secretary had just received a negative evaluation which he alleged is an act of retaliation.

Lee Tooson of Ypsilanti, complimented Ypsilanti Township for treating him so nicely. He stated, we already know what the problem is in the Clerk's Office so why are we wasting money for an investigation when we can just handle the problem. The Ypsilanti Currier recently published an article about the bad customer service in City Hall. He also mentioned that it is not the entire staff at City Hall just a particular person that has poor customer service skills.

Steve Pierce an Ypsilanti resident, commended Ypsilanti Township and the City of Ypsilanti for coming together for a meeting. He questioned if the City of Ypsilanti could re-negotiate a new contract with the Detroit Water and Sewerage for better rates. He stated that the City of Detroit residents would not put up with a 30% increase on their water.

PRESENTATION

- A. Presentation by Raphael Chirolla, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, on the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 water rate for the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority.

Raphael Chirolla discussed the fundamental steps Detroit Water and Sewerage uses to set water rate for the area by determining the operational and maintenance expenses, depreciation and the return on rate base. He also mentioned how expenses that are common to all, are allocated back to the customer. The allocated proportional share of expenses is based on the projected annual volume of water used, peaking factors -the amount of water used on the hottest day of the year and distance between the Detroit Distribution Center to Ypsilanti and elevation. For 2003-2004 rates the peaking factors were based on: past historical data made up 75% and 25% of the data was taken from 2002 peaking factors. Mr. Chirolla distributed Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority sample rate calculation sheets to explain the entire process of setting rates and answered questions from Council.

Adjournment, Offered by Council Member Gawlas and supported by Council Member Nickels to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: Swanson, LaRue Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

