

**City of Ypsilanti
Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 2003
7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cheryl Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, One South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Cheryl Farmer, Mayor-Pro Tem Swanson, Council Member Richardson, Council Member Gawlas, Council Member LaRue, Council Member Nickels and Council Member Schulze.

Absent: No Council Members Absent

Invocation

Mayor Cheryl Farmer asked for a moment of silence.

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."

INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson offered and Council Member Gawlas supported a motion to approve the Agenda as written.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATION

A. Presentation on Weed Cutting Program, by City Building Official, Charles Boulard.

Charles Boulard, City Building Official discussed the revised procedures for enforcement of 110-81 Weeds, Brush and Grass due to the concerns of citizens. He mentioned wild flowers areas and landscape beds will not be cut unless it impairs visibility. He also mentioned that when vegetation is obstructing the view of the

driveway or roadway a notice will be issued to the owner or occupant. Photographs will be taken whenever practical with a measuring device to serve as a reference. All appeals of fees shall be directed to the City Manager. If a citizen would like to appeal the decision of a City Manager the appeal is then forwarded to the Sidewalk Board of Appeals for determination.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tyrone Wilson, representing RAID alleged the Deputy Clerk position was changed without the consent of Council. He stated that previously Council voted to change the Deputy City Clerk position to Office Manager. The decision to change the City Clerk's Office Manager Position back to Deputy Clerk has never gone before City Council.

Scott Street of Ypsilanti, mentioned he saw an article on the City Clerk, Robert Slone in the Ann Arbor News. He stated, "Mr. Slone has been providing service for the City of Ypsilanti for many years. In my dealings with Mr. Slone, I have found him to be honest and very helpful. He should be commended for his service."

Lee Tooson of Ypsilanti, alleged that the job descriptions for the Deputy City Clerk had been changed. He also mentioned the Gateway Community Action Project of cleaning-up Harriet Street and asked if someone could address the problem of abandoned building and trash on Hawkins Street.

Bob Fields of 1302 Grant Street, commented that he has spent over 12 years serving on the Economic Development Corporation and he is also an avid car collector. He was told the Automotive Heritage Collection Museum is facing some financial challenges. He also mentioned that Jack Miller has done an excellent job with the museum. "The reviews I have received have been excellent. The Orphan Car Show and the Automotive Heritage Collection Museum attracts over 10,000 visitors a year to Ypsilanti and it would be a loss to see the museum close. Members of the community are organizing to find ways to raise funds to help the museum."

McDonna Street of Ypsilanti, stated that she was shocked to see an article in the Ann Arbor News about the City Clerk, Robert Slone. She said the few critics should not be catered to.

MINUTES

Resolution #2003-51, approving the Minutes of March 4, 11 and 18, 2003, with corrections was offered by Council Member Richardson and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Vote: Unanimous

MOTION, RESOLUTIONS & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Resolution #2003-52, approving a Special Downtown Development Authority Class C Liquor License, for Yiannis Christodoulou, to be located at 517 W. Cross St.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Vote: Unanimous

- B. Resolution #2003-53, urging full funding of fire protection payments, per Public Acts 289 of 1977 for municipalities having State of Michigan facilities within their boundaries.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Vote: Unanimous

- C. Resolution #2003-54, supporting the Head Start Program remaining under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Vote: Unanimous

- D. Resolution #2003-55, approving a proposal to conduct an operational review of the City Clerk's Office.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Vote: Unanimous

- E. Resolution #2003-56, Pulled approving a brochure concerning rules for speaking during public participation at City Council Meetings.

COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Richardson mentioned that she recently attended a Chidester Place resident meeting. The resident complained of a loud noise within the walls that can be heard throughout the entire building. She said a building inspector is needed to come in to inspect the entire building. Council Member Richardson stated the Gateway Community Action Project on Harriet Street Project is going well. Hawkins Street is currently being addressed along with some other abandoned houses in the area.

Council Member Nickels mentioned he attended the meeting concerning the future of the Automotive Heritage Collection Museum. It appears the grant approved by Council is not enough to cover the updates required by MDOT and the added expense of hiring an engineer. He said citizens are concerned about the future of the museum; therefore, a meeting has been scheduled for April 21, 2003 at 9:00 to search for funding for the Automotive Heritage Collection Museum.

Council Member Schulze mentioned that Council Members Richardson, Gawlas and Swanson attended the Michigan Municipal Leagues Legislative Conference. Several items were discussed such as the new appointment of MDOT Director, Gloria Jeff. She

stated 72 million dollars will be available for communities to apply for Economic Development Projects.

Council Member Gawlas mentioned on April 3, 2003 a Land Use Forum will take place at 7:00 p.m. at Washtenaw Community College in the Student Center Building. He also mentioned that the Gateway Community Action Project is in the process of starting a youth T-Ball League and will be looking for sponsors.

Council Member LaRue mentioned that he received a note from a Citizen in regards to an assessment he received on his property located on College Place that is questionable and should be looked into.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council Member Gawlas mentioned at the last Planning Advisory Board Meeting their was discussion about a new provision set by the state regarding Master Plans. It is now required that each neighboring community receive a copy of any new Master Plan as apart of the new notification process.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MANAGER

City Manager, Edward Koryzno mentioned that an offer has been received for the Renaissance Building. He said the second meeting (originally scheduled for April 15, 2003) will be cancelled and moved to April 22, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Closed session per section 8 (d) Property of the Open Meeting Act.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

Resolution No #2003-57, offered by Council Member LaRue and supported by Council Member Gawlas to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

