

**City of Ypsilanti  
Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 3, 2003  
7:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council meeting was moved to the Riverside Arts Center due to over capacity.

Mayor Cheryl Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. at the Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, 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**

Pastor S.L. Roberson of Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church conducted the Invocation.

**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 Nickels supported a motion to approve the amended Agenda.

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

**PRESENTATION**

- A. Presentation of Washtenaw County HOME Consortium renewal agreement, by Mark Roby, Washtenaw County Community Development Manager. He stated that the HOME program goal for the City of Ypsilanti would be home ownership

assistance. Some of the funds could be used towards down payment assistance, rehabilitation of older homes as well as new construction.

1. **Resolution #2003-107**, attached and made a part hereof offered by Council Member Nickles and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires submission of certain documentation provided under the Act; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti, Michigan City Council has an interest in joining in a consortium with another local unit of government for purposes of participating in the federal Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) in order to increase affordable housing opportunities for citizens of the city and surrounding consortium area; and

WHEREAS, the regulations and requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides for passage of a resolution authorizing the chief executive officer of the City to execute a Cooperation Agreement to create a HOME Consortium; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Ypsilanti, Michigan City Council to execute said Cooperation Agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the Cooperation Agreement in the form attached, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

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

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Tyrone Wilson, representing RAID and the National Action Network, urged Council to keep the Recreation Centers open and asked that the Recreation Supervisor, Harold Wimberly position be spared.

Dwayne Noble of Ypsilanti asked Council to keep the Recreation Department open.

Damario Noble of Ypsilanti asked Council to keep the Recreation Center open.

Aaron Washington of Ypsilanti asked Council to keep Parkridge Community Center open.

Alana Nanney of Ypsilanti stated that she did not want anything to close.

Nanci Nanney of Ypsilanti stated that her family was drawn to Ypsilanti because of the community and the proximity of the Rutherford Municipal Pool to her home. She stated that taking away the Recreation Department is taking away the things that draw people to Ypsilanti to live.

Latisha Copeland a resident of Ypsilanti for 50 years discussed Parkridge Community Center and what it meant to her as a child and the importance of the center for future generations.

Lee Tooson of Ypsilanti, expressed concern over Parkridge Community Center and the Senior Citizen Center closing. He questioned \$11,000 being wasted in the Clerk's Office and alleged that the misuse of funds be stopped at City Hall.

Ethel Pittman stated that should the Senior Citizen Center close, many elderly people will perish.

Harold Wimberly, Recreation Supervisor for Parkridge Community Center stated that politicians get votes by using children and seniors. He said that you can always tell what is important by looking into the checkbook of the City of Ypsilanti.

Paul Schreiber of Ypsilanti discussed the importance of Fire and Police protection for the City of Ypsilanti. He also thanked Council for keeping the Recreation Department open until Labor Day.

Pastor S.L. Roberson of Ypsilanti said that he will not allow children and the seniors to suffer. He questioned why Council would put seniors and children out in the streets.

Jessica Jefferson of Ypsilanti stated that closing the Recreation Department is wrong because children and seniors will have no place to go.

David Harding of Ypsilanti said he is demanding that the Recreation Department remain open. He mentioned the activities provided at the centers keep our community thriving.

Andy Morales a visitor of Ypsilanti urged Council to keep the Parks and Recreation Department open.

Rodney Nanney of Ypsilanti stated that Ypsilanti is a great place to live due to the Recreation Department and its small town environment. If the Recreation Department closes, it will not be a great for children to live anymore. He stated that closing the Recreation Department is taking the easy way out.

## **MINUTES**

**Resolution #2003-108**, approving the Minutes of May 7, 12, 13, 20 and 22, 2003, with corrections was offered by Council Member Richardson supported by Council Member Nickels.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- A. That the Public Hearing to consider the proposed 2003-2004 Fiscal Year Operating Budget and Property Tax Rates.

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.

Tyrone Wilson questioned the need for two administrators for two employees in the City Clerk's Office. He also questioned the qualification of City employees and the necessity of the Michigan Municipal League's study of the Clerk's Office.

Lee Tooson stated that a millage is the easy way out to solving the Recreation Department troubles. He asked Council to make further changes to save the Recreation Department.

Alana Nanney of Ypsilanti stated that it is not fun playing at home. All people are in need of the Recreation Department.

Rodney Nanney of Ypsilanti questioned why the price of the family pass to the Rutherford Municipal Pool had gone down from \$60 to \$40 when the department is in need of money. He asked whether Council could review the budget to find other possible solutions.

Pastor S.L. Roberson questioned whether the city is in the process of purchasing new vehicles and to look at the possibility of fixing what we already own.

Carla Vicks of Ypsilanti stated that residents are fighting for its Recreation Department the same way we fought for you to get elected. She asked Council to show that they care by keeping the Recreation Department open.

Nanci Nanney of Ypsilanti questioned why the City of Ypsilanti is limiting services to the elderly when they are already limited. She expressed the importance of the elderly to the community.

David Harding of Ypsilanti demanded that the budget be done with integrity and he stated he is holding the Council accountable.

- 2. **Resolution 2003-109**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Gawlas and supported by Council Member LaRue to close the Public Hearing.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING/ ORDINANCE-FIRST READING**

- A. That the Public Hearing to consider an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Add the Name of Pastor Harvey E. Leggett, Sr. Boulevard, to the Block of Monroe Street Between Brooks Street and Hawkins.

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.

David Harding of Ypsilanti expressed support of changing Monroe Street to Pastor Harvey E. Leggett Sr. Boulevard, because he was an asset to the community and he touched the lives of so many.

Pastor S.L. Roberson mentioned that Pastor Harvey E. Leggett, Sr. was a former member of Metropolitan Baptist Church. He stated that he had a positive affect on people from all over the world.

Tyrone Wilson of Ypsilanti stated that he supported the name change to Pastor Harvey E. Leggett Sr. Boulevard. He mentioned in 2001 he came before Council to discuss the condition of the streets on the southside of Ypsilanti and asked that Blacks be represented in the awarding of construction bids.

Lee Tooson of Ypsilanti stated that Pastor E. Leggett Sr. was concerned with mankind and led a march against drugs in the community.

Latisha Copeland a member of St. John's Baptist Church thanked Council and others who spoke in support of changing Monroe Street to Pastor Harvey E. Leggett Sr. Boulevard. She inquired of Council whether the sign would be available for a memorial service that will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2003.

**Resolution #2003-110**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson and supported by Council Member Richardson to close the Public Hearing.

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

- B. That the Public Hearing to consider an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003."

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing  
No comments from the audience.

1. **Resolution 2003-112**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Gawlas and supported by Council Member LaRue to close the Public Hearing.

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

2. **Resolution 2003-113**, attached and made a part hereof offered by Council Member Gawlas and supported by Council Member LaRue.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003," be approved on First Reading.

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

- C. That the Public Hearing to consider an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Adopt Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2003-2004."

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.

Rodney Nanney asked Council to look at the budget again to see if it is possible to save the Recreation Department.

Lee Tooson asked Council to consider keeping a full staff at Parkridge Community Center. He stated that relationships have been established between the children and the staff.

Phyllis Graham spoke about the sense of despair at the Senior Citizen Center with the prospect of the center closing. She expressed concern over the well-being of the seniors if the center closes.

Chana Hawkins an employee at the Ypsilanti Senior Citizens Center asked Council to say no to the proposed budget. She stated that the staff has made so much progress and the work they perform at the center is important to the community.

David Harding urged Council to go back and revise the budget. He said, the centers are pillars of the community, some for over sixty years.

Dorothy Diggins expressed concern over the abolishment of the entire Recreation Department.

1. **Resolution 2003-114**, attached and made a part here of offered by Council Member LaRue supported by Council Member Gawlas to close the public hearing.

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

2. **Resolution 2003-115**, attached and made a part hereof offered by Council Member LaRue supported by Council Member Gawlas.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Adopt Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2003-2004," be approved on First Reading.

Ayes: 6      Nays: Richardson      Absent: 0      Vote: Carried

D. That the Public Hearing to consider proposed ordinance entitled, "2003-2004 Tax Levy Ordinance."

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.  
No comments from the audience

1. **Resolution 2003-116**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Nickles supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson to close the Public Hearing.

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

2. **Resolution 2003-117**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Nickles supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That proposed ordinance entitled, "2003-2004 Tax Levy Ordinance," be approved on First Reading.

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

E. That the Public Hearing to consider an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to prohibit parking in front of a driveway or encroaching on the driveway or interfering with or inhibiting ingress, egress, or use of such driveway."

Mayor Farmer Opened the Public Hearing.  
No comments from the audience.

1. **Resolution 2003-118**, attached and made a part hereof offered by Council Member Schulze supported by Council Member LaRue to close the Public Hearing.

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

2. **Resolution 2003-119**, attached and made a part hereof offered by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an ordinance to "Prohibit parking in front of a driveway or encroaching on the driveway or interfering with or inhibiting ingress, egress, or use of such driveway," be approved on First Reading.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson offered to extend the City Council Meeting until 11:30 p.m.; Council Member LaRue supported.

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

**ORDINANCE- SECOND READING**

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454, 106-499, 106-455 and 106-464 of the Code of Ordinances (1.) to increase water rates within the City of Ypsilanti (2.) to increase the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer service bills (3.) to eliminate the discount for prompt payment of water and sewer service bills and to provide for a late payment fee for late payment of water and sewer service bills," be approved on Second and Final Reading.

**Resolution #2003-120**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson supported by Council Member Nickels.

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

**Resolution #2003-120A**, offered by Council Member Richardson and supported by Council Member Gawlas a resolution (to keep recreational programs and public owned facilities be maintained indefinitely.)

Tabled by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue.

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

**Resolution #2003-121**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue- That the following Consent Agenda be approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Resolution #2003-122, amending the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year Operating Budget.

- B. Resolution #2003-123 Removed
- C. Resolution #2003-124, approving a Police Department Vehicle Maintenance Agreement, with Bill Crispin Chevrolet.
- D. Resolution #2003-125, approving special assessments and charges for the summer 2003 tax bills.
- E. Resolution #2003-126, approving a downtown employee parking system in the South Huron St. parking lot.
- F. Resolution #2003-127, removed until next meeting.

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

**Resolution #2003-123**, adopting the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year Operating Budget offered by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue.

Ayes: 6      Nays: Richardson      Absent: 0      Vote: Carried

### **COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

Council Member Richardson stated the trip to Holland, Michigan was encouraging.

Council Member Nickels questioned whether Council could receive the latest reports from the Washtenaw County HOME Program.

Council Member Schulze commented on the Community Foundation Organization meeting. She said a meeting had taken place on June 2, 2003 with Jennifer Goulet and Ruth Ann Jamnick regarding the need for a Financial Crisis Commission.

Council Member LaRue commented on the progress of 510 West Cross Street by Mr. Barnes.

Council Member Gawlas mentioned the School Board Election will take place on June 9, 2003. He said, there is an article on the Michigan Municipal League's website about the Headley Act.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Council Member Gawlas stated that he will be updating Council at the next Council Meeting about the upcoming LDFA Board Meeting that will take place on June 4, 2003.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

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City Manager, Edward Koryzno mentioned a meeting will take place June 10 and 24, 2003 at Washtenaw Community College in the Morris Lawrence Building with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality concerning incinerators.

Council went into Closed Session per section 8(d) to discuss property purchase.

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

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Farmer had no communications.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution #2003-128**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Richardson and supported by Council Member Nickels.

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

Adjourned at 11:25 p.m.