

**City of Ypsilanti
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2004
7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: No Council Members absent.

INVOCATION

Mayor 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

Mayor Farmer introduced Jim Vick, Vice President of Student Affairs and Juanita Reid, Vice President of Governmental Affairs of Eastern Michigan University.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Nickles added two resolutions 2004-24A and 2004-24B to the Agenda. Council Member Nickels offered and Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson supported a motion to approve the amended Agenda.

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

PRESENTATION

A. State Representative Ruth Ann Jamnick update on legislative issues and Governor Granholm's Budget Message.

State Representative Ruth Ann Jamnick congratulated Council on the increase in property values in the City of Ypsilanti. She stated no specific information regarding the budget had been presented yet. Jamnick mentioned a possibility of some action will be taken in Lansing regarding Proposal A. She mentioned Governor Granholm is

in support of full funding of Fire Protection.

- B. Presentation on the proposed LeForge Street Station apartment complex to be located at LeForge and Huron River Drive by the Edward Companies.

Rick Kirk a Development Partner of Edwards Companies and President of K and E Construction presented plans for the LeForge Street Station Student Housing and answered questions from Council.

- C. Presentation on current programming at Parkridge Community Center by Shannon Stumbo Bellers, Assistant City Manager.

Shannon Stumbo Bellers updated Council on the progress of the Recreation Department. She mentioned various organizations have held fundraisers to raise money for the Rutherford Municipal Pool and the Freighthouse. She stated Ms. Eaglin has raised money to fund the Senior Citizen Center and Eastern Michigan has also collaborated with the Center to continue to provide a variety of programming. Stumbo-Bellers mentioned new expanded activities were provided for Parkridge Community Center during the holiday break. She also mentioned various businesses had made donations to Parkridge Community Center.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tyrone Wilson representing RAID and the National Action Network stated he did not want to see Mr. Slone retire but improve. He expressed concern with the Deputy Clerk assuming the position of City Clerk.

Steve Pierce of Ypsilanti stated he was pleased with the presentation regarding the proposed LeForge Street Station Student Housing however he is quite concerned over the amount of parking spaces proposed.

Lee Tooson of Ypsilanti expressed concern with the Deputy Clerk assuming the position of Interim City Clerk.

MINUTES

Resolution 2004-21, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue-That the Minutes of February 3, 2004 be approved with corrections.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2004-21A, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Gawlas and supported by Council Member LaRue to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Resolution 2004-22, approving a refinancing agreement for the Huron Trade Center located on Michigan Avenue.
- B. Resolution 2004-23, accepting the retirement letter of City Clerk Robert A. Slone, Jr. and approving a retirement agreement.
- C. Resolution 2004-24, approving a request from Marion Campbell to transfer ownership of Class C Licensed Business with Dance-Entertainment Permit, located at 901 Huron River Drive (Wooden Nickel) from Eagle Landing, Inc, to remain in escrow.

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

Resolution 2004-24A- attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Nickels and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson.

Retirement Congratulations

WHEREAS, Robert A. Slone, Jr., informally known as Bob, has served the City of Ypsilanti for 28 years; and

WHEREAS, Bob has been an invaluable assistant to 5 Mayors and approximately 40 Council Members during his tenure with the City; and

WHEREAS, Bob has presented a friendly smile to all, which made him an excellent ambassador for the City of Ypsilanti for all these years; and

WHEREAS, Bob has informally represented the City of Ypsilanti with the Chamber of Commerce, served many years on the City of Ypsilanti Zoning Board of Appeals, holds membership on the Eagle Crest Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Bob has served as City Clerk, City Manager, Acting Personnel Director, twice as Interim Public Housing Director, Interim City Manager; and

WHEREAS, Bob has formally represented the City of Ypsilanti in both State and National Professional Municipal Clerk's Associations. He served as President of the Washtenaw County Municipal and Township Clerk's Associations, Chair of the Michigan Council of Elections Officials, and President of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. He represented the State of Michigan for the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, was awarded City Clerk of the Year Award for 2001-2002 by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti will miss Bob's institutional memory which has helped Council plan for the future,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Robert A. Slone, Jr. enjoy the time that he will now be able to spend with his family and in pursuit of his other interests; and FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti City Council offers congratulations to Robert A. Slone, Jr. for his accomplishments and thanks for his service.

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

Resolution 2004-24B- attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member LaRue and supported by Council Member Nickels.

Interim City Clerk

WHEREAS, Robert Slone will be retiring from his position as City Clerk on March 19, 2004; and

WHEREAS, City Council would like the recommendations of the MML Study of the Clerk's Office implemented and a smooth transition to a new Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Cherry Lawson has earned certification from the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks; and

WHEREAS, Cherry Lawson is very familiar with the recommendations in the MML Study of the Clerk's Office,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council appoint Cherry Lawson to the position of Interim City Clerk beginning March 22, 2004 while Council undertakes a national search that will result in the hiring of a new clerk. As Interim Clerk, she will have all of the Clerk's authority to manage and will continue the implementation of the MML Study. During her time as Interim Clerk, Ms. Lawson will report to City Manager, Edward Koryzno weekly (more often if needed). Periodically, the Council Subcommittee on the Clerk's Office will also meet with Ms. Lawson to review the operation of the office and implementation of the MML Study. She will have a formal evaluation at 30 and 60 days (more often if needed).

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT compensation will follow the guidelines in the City of Ypsilanti nonunion handbook.

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

COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Schulze mentioned the information included in the Council Packet regarding the Detroit Water and Sewage System was very useful. She also questioned why the Ypsilanti Fire Department did not reduce their spending as much as other Departments. Schulze stated she was pleased to be informed by Representative Ruth Ann Jamnick there is a possibility of having full fire funding.

Edward Koryzno stated he recently spoke with Government Consultant, Kirk Profit regarding Fire Protection Reimbursement. He stated the methodology of figuring out how much each municipality will be reimbursed is quite complicated. He mentioned the Fire Department cuts were so minimal due to contract negotiations.

Council Member LaRue requested more information on the possibility of selling the triangular parcel of land on the corner of Prospect and Grove Street.

Mayor Farmer said Council was assessing the possibility of selling the land on the corner of Prospect and Grove Street. Ms. Haab should be consulted first because it was given to the City as a gift in memory of her late husband.

Council Member Gawlas had no Council Proposed Business.

Council Member Richardson mentioned there are mice in the Clerk's Office.

Council Member Nickels questioned whether the Human Resource Department could assist Council by circulating an advertisement for the City Clerk position.

Mayor Pro-Tem had no Council Proposed Business.

LIAISON REPORT

Council Member Gawlas mentioned the Washtenaw Metro Alliance discussed a proposed April 1, 2004 Recreation Summit and a proposed meeting of Human Resource Staff to share information and ideas on how to effectively reduce cost. He mentioned the Land Use Task Force is currently creating a map that can be used by Washtenaw County.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Edward Koryzno mentioned a crack in the roof at the Police Department will need to be repaired or replaced. He stated a structural engineer will examine the damage and make a determination. Koryzno said a more aggressive approach should be taken to collect seriously delinquent personal property taxes.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Resolution 2004-25, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson and supported by Council Nickels.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

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

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>BOARD</u> | <u>TERM TO EXPIRE</u> |
|-----|--|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Frederick I. Davis 524 Marion Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 2. | Peter Fletcher 25 South Huron Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 3. | Dr. James Hawkins 2144 Collegewood Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 4. | Christian W. Overland 119 So. Washington Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 5. | Deborah D. Strong 921 Pleasant Drive Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 6. | Paul E. Tait 1737 Roosevelt Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 7. | Timothy S. Robinson 504 E. Forest Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 8. | Lynda Hummel 407 ½ E. Forest Ave. Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 9. | Steve Pierce 118 So. Washington Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 10. | Thomas D. Biggs 1402 W. Cross Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |
| 11. | Ingrid L. Kock 308 Maple Ypsilanti, MI 48198 | Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances (New Appointment) | |

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| 12. | Mark Namatevs 619 E. Forest Ave Ypsilanti, MI 48198 | YCUA Board (New Appointment) | 12/31/2005 |
| 13. | Edward Koryzno 1110 Pearl Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | YCUA Board (Reappointment) | 12/31/2004 |
| 14. | Jennifer Albaum 42 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Downtown Development Authority (New Appointment) | 03/01/2008 |
| 15. | Ronald Rupert 421 N. Huron St., Ste.1 Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Historic District Commission (Reappointment) | 01/31/2006 |
| 16. | Mary Beth Strassel 1304 Kingwood Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Depot Town DDA (New Appointment) | 07/01/2006 |
| 17. | Helen Vick 206 N. Huron Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Zoning Board of Appeals (Reappointment) | 05/01/2004 |
| 18. | Henry J. Prebys 301 N. Grove Ypsilanti, MI 48198 | Historic District Commission (Reappointment) | 01/31/2005 |

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

Mayor Farmer questioned whether any Council Members would be available Friday, March 19, 2004 to host an Open House for City Clerk, Robert A. Slone Jr., in the City Council Chambers for his 27 years of service to the City of Ypsilanti. Mayor Farmer questioned Council regarding any activities they would like to include for Mayor Exchange Day and possible dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #2004-26, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue to adjourn the meeting.

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

Adjourned at 10:55 p.m.