

**City of Ypsilanti
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 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 Schulze, Council Member Richardson 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 Washtenaw County Commissioner, Ronnie Peterson. Representing Eastern Michigan University; Juanita Reid, Vice President of University Relations, Rita Abent, Executive Director of University Marketing and Communications, Anthony Cantor of Business and Finance and John Beeghan, Interim Vice President of Finance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Gawlas removed Item C from the Consent Agenda approving the Peninsular Park PUD Development Agreement and building use restrictions. City Manager, Edward Koryzno requested Council to have a Closed Session per Section 8(d) to consider the purchase of property per the Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson offered and Council Member Nickels supported to approve the amended Agenda.

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

Approved by Council
7/6/2004

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Interim Report Findings by the Blue Ribbon Finance Committee and Paul E. Tait, Chairperson.

Blue Ribbon Finance Committee Chairperson, Paul Tait presented a ninety day report to Council including an examination of the City's revenues and possible revenue options and reductions.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Michael Dodd, 1209 W. Cross Street, a Firefighter for the City of Hamtramck spoke regarding the future of the Ypsilanti Fire Department and the changes to the level of service.

Dana Taylor, a Maintenance Worker for Towne Center stated he was concerned about the cuts to the Ypsilanti Fire Department and the change in the level of service.

Former Ypsilanti Mayor, John Calder, representing Cross Street Village Apartments requested Council to maintain the current level of service in the Fire Department.

Tyrone Wilson, representing RAID, thanked Council Member Richardson for her assistance in getting the turn signal on Huron Street. He also spoke regarding the Fire Department and City Clerk's Office.

Lee Tooson of Ypsilanti alleged there are some issues in the City Clerk's Office and spoke in support of the Ypsilanti Fire Department employees.

Nancy Davis stated she was against cuts in the City's Fire Department.

Raymond Taylor of Ypsilanti credited the Ypsilanti Fire Departments quick response for saving his life when he recently suffered a massive heart attack.

Ken Hobbs, Union President for the Ypsilanti Fire Department alleged the Department may face some potential challenges due to the cuts.

Dave Alber, 308 Maple, expressed his concern with the cuts to public service in the City of Ypsilanti.

Steve Pierce, 118 S Washington, spoke regarding staff reductions in the Ypsilanti Fire Department.

MINUTES

- A. **Resolution #2004-95**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Richardson and supported by Council Member Nickels—That the minutes of June 1, 2004 be approved with corrections.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Public Hearing regarding the proposed vacation of College Place between Forest and Cross Street, and Forest between College Place and Perrin Street.

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.

Juanita Reid, Vice President of University Relations for Eastern Michigan University spoke regarding the proposed vacation of College Place. Reid stated the purpose of the vacation will allow the area to be converted into a pedestrian mall. Reid provided Council with a map of the area where the vacation request is being considered.

Robert Barnes Jr., 215 N. River and co-owner of Barnes and Barnes Rentals, stated he was against the vacation of College Place.

Steve Pierce spoke against the vacation of College Place and Forest Street, stating it would be a detriment to the businesses in the area.

Judith Morey, 1205 Whittier said she was against the vacation of College Place and Forest Street.

Barbara Hale, 310 N. Hamilton stated she was against the vacation of College Place and Forest Street and requested Council to prevent Eastern Michigan from encroaching on city property.

Arka Shanks, 630 N. Adams referenced a map that was given to Council by Juanita Reid, Vice President of University Relations. Shanks stated she was against the proposed vacation of College Place.

Andrea Linn, 618 N. Adams discussed her concern over losing the access to College Place and Forest if the City decides to vacate College Place.

Yvonne Abdo, 2028 Collegewood spoke against the vacation of streets within the City.

Bob Doyle, 510 N. Washington discussed his concern with the vacation of College Place.

John Beeghan, Interim Vice President of Finance at Eastern Michigan University spoke in support of the recommendations of the study which was a joint effort between the City of Ypsilanti and Eastern Michigan University.

Kathleen Conat, 204 N. Wallace expressed here concern over the alleged encroachment of Eastern Michigan University over the past several years she has been residing in Ypsilanti.

Resolution #2004-111, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Richardson and supported by Council Member Nickels to close the Public Hearing.

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

ORDINANCE—FIRST READING

A. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 of the Code of Ordinance to increase the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and sewer service bills.

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.

Steve Pierce questioned Larry Thomas, Executive Director of Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority regarding whether the proposed Ordinance will also cover the expansion of the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority Administrative Office.

Yvonne Abdoo expressed concern over the water rate increase surcharge and property taxes.

Resolution #2004-112, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Nickels and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem to close the Public Hearing.

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

Resolution #2004-113, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Nickels and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Public Hearing to consider the proposed Ordinance to Amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-499 of the Code of Ordinance to increase the restricted debt retirement and capital improvement fund surcharge on water and service bills," be approved on First Reading.

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

ORDINANCE--SECOND READING

- A. An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for Fiscal Year July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, be approved on Second and Final Reading.

Resolution #2004-114, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson and supported by Council Member Nickels.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson stated she is against the cuts in the Fire Department by one staff person.

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, 2003 through June 30, 2004," be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

- B. An Ordinance to Adopt Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005, be approved on Second and Final Reading.

Resolution #2004-115, attached and made apart 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 Adopt Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005," be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

- C. An Ordinance in Truth in Taxation (Tax Levy) for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005, be approved on Second and Final Reading.

Resolution #2004-116, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member LaRue and supported by Council Member Gawlas.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That proposed Ordinance entitled, "2004-2005 Tax Levy Ordinance," be approved on Second and Final Reading.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #2004-117, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue- That the following Consent Agenda be approved.

- A. Resolution #2004-118, approving the distribution of the City's Master Plan text amendments to surrounding communities.
- B. Resolution #2004-119, authorizing the contract with A.F. Smith Electric for improvements to the Ypsilanti Historic Freighthouse.
- C. Resolution #2004-120, removed by Council Member Gawlas.

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

Resolution #2004-120, approving the Peninsular Park PUD Development Agreement and building use restrictions.

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

COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Richardson stated she was approached by a few business people on Michigan Avenue who informed her since the demolition of property has begun for Water Street, business has declined. Two of which asked about signage on Michigan Avenue regarding Water Street. Richardson inquired as to whether a card could be sent to Ypsilanti Firefighter, Jeffery Davis who had been injured in a motorcycle accident. She mentioned she had received some complaints regarding the presence of heavy equipment on Hawkins Street, but no work is being done.

Mayor Farmer requested flowers and a card be sent to Ypsilanti Firefighter, Jeffrey Davis.

Council Member Nickels reminded staff about our obligation to the community to review the City's parking plan around campus this summer.

Council Member Schulze said she would email City Manager Koryzno regarding a question about Cross Street. Schulze mentioned how helpful an Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority employee was during a tour at the Water Tower on Mayor Exchange Day.

Council Member LaRue requested someone to look into the matter of contractors parking their vehicles on lawns. He mentioned City Attorney Barr responded to

Councils request for more information regarding abstentions. LaRue said this should be a topic for Council to discuss further.

Council Member Gawlas questioned whether Council would be interested in a sub-committee to address future Council Policies. Council Members Schulze, Richardson and Gawlas volunteered to serve on the committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson complimented the Mayor Exchange Sub-Committee, Interim City Clerk and Clerk's Office staff on Mayor Exchange Day.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council Member Gawlas spoke about the Washtenaw County Metro Alliance, regarding improvements to the Washtenaw County dispatch system and the installment of an 800 MHz transmitter tower. He stated he is expecting to hear additional information from Robert Guenzel, County Administrator. Gawlas mentioned the Washtenaw Metro Alliance acknowledged the City of Ypsilanti for the Cool Cities Grant.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Koryzno stated recently Council had requested some information in regards to tree planting and 120 have been planted and 212 have been removed.

City Manager, Edward Koryzno stated he had recently spoken to the owner of Club Divine regarding crowd control and discussed several solutions to minimize crowds on Washington Street.

Koryzno mentioned he would be in town, but on vacation Friday, June 19, 2004.

Closed Session per Section 8 (d) to consider the purchase of property per the Open Meetings Act.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Farmer stated the City received a donation of \$6,000 from Ypsilanti Township Board and \$5,000 from St. Joseph Hospital for the Rutherford Municipal Pool.

Mayor Farmer requested thank you letters be sent.

Mayor Farmer introduced the flag that was displayed during the Mayor Exchange Day Program as a potential choice for the City's flag. She also stated she would like to approach Biltmore about producing a sign to market the Water Street Development Project.

She mentioned Basile has been notified regarding the quality of work on Hawkins Street in the Gateway South Neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #2004-121, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member LaRue and supported by Council Member Gawlas.

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

Adjourned at 10:50 p.m.