

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Council Member LaRue

The absence of Council Member LaRue was approved by Council.

Council Member LaRue arrived at 7:31 p.m.

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 Vice President of University Relations, Juanita Reed. Ms. Reed introduced the new Interim President of Eastern Michigan University, Craig Dean Willis. City Manager, Edward Koryzno introduced the new Assistant City Manager, Robert Bruner.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Nickels added a new resolution for the Ypsilanti Auto Heritage Museum. City Manager Koryzno removed 8(h) to consider an attorney opinion from Closed Session.

Council Member Richardson offered and Council Member Nickels supported to approve the amended Agenda.

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

Approved by Council
9/7/2004

PRESENTATION

- A. City of Ypsilanti 2004 General Obligation Taxable Capital Improvement Refunding Bonds, Attorney Dennis Neiman.
1. **Resolution #2004-166**, authorizing the issuance of a series of taxable variable rate bonds for the purpose of refunding the City's 2002 General Obligation Taxable Capital Improvement Bonds in order to achieve interest cost savings for the City.

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

- B. Presentation of the City's Emergency Plan, Fire Chief, James Roberts.

Fire Chief, James Roberts said the Emergency Plan started one year ago due to the 2003 Blackout. As a result the City decided to make an official emergency plan. Each Department and Council Member will have a booklet and receive an Emergency Procedures Flipchart and undergo a mandatory training.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Leslie Chase of 807 N. Congress and a member of Friends of the Frieghthouse asked for the support of Council to keep the Frieghthouse open past September.

Joseph Richardson of 466 Madison requested Council to install curbs and gutters on Bell Street.

Robert Lee of 455 Madison spoke about the need for curbs and gutters on Bell Street, a pedestrian crosswalk on Hamilton Street, and repair to a fence between Madison and Monroe.

Robert Doyle of 210 Washington stated he was in support of the changes to the Water Street Project. He requested the City to follow the ordinances with the new proposed changes.

Jim Fink of 206 Washington stated there are two properties for sale in the Historic Southside if the new Assistant City Manager is looking to purchase a home. He announced the 2004 Ypsilanti Heritage Fellow was awarded to Council Member LaRue. Fink commended the Ypsilanti Fire and Police Department on how the gas leak was handled on Washington Street.

Mary Krasan of 1471 King George and a member of the Friends of the Frieghthouse asked for support from Council to keep the Frieghthouse open.

Robert Hunter of 515 Ferris alleged Council Member Richardson's seat on Council was challenged due to the insistence of the Mayor and Council. He alleged the Mayor should not endorse candidates running for office in Ypsilanti Township.

Tyrone Wilson representing RAID and the National Action Network alleged the Interim City Clerk mistreats blacks. He alleged many problems had taken place during the August 3, 2004 Primary Election.

Ruby Bradley 1618 Washtenaw stated she was a Precinct Chairperson during the August Primary. She alleged her Inspectors had no prior election experience therefore she did not have the necessary help. She requested to be placed on the Agenda to discuss the alleged problems in her precinct.

Lee Tooson requested there be a meeting to resolve the issues with Ms. Bradley and her being fired. He alleged Ms. Bradley could not be fired and a member of the Clerk's Office had been discriminated against.

MINUTES

Resolution #2004-167, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson and supported by Council Member Nickels-That the minutes of August 2, 4 and 9, 2004 be approved with corrections.

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

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Resolution #2004-168**, authorizing the Mayor and Interim City Clerk to execute any grant and/or loan agreement resulting from the City's application to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Brownfield Grant/Loan Program in support of the Water Street Project

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

B. **Resolution #2004-168A**, approving the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum application to obtain a charitable gaming license for the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.

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

COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Schulze questioned why Spring Street was closed.

City Manager Koryzno said Spring Street had been closed due to Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority having to establish a water connection on Grove Street.

Council Member LaRue stated a constituent phone service on Railroad Street had been turned off due to construction in the area. He mentioned the Ann Arbor News had contributed \$500 on his behalf to be given to a non-profit of his choice due to his selection as the 2004 Heritage Fellow. LaRue requested all sidewalks removed during the road construction be replaced.

Council Member Gawlas spoke about the follow up report submitted by the Interim City Clerk. He stated he was pleased to see there will be a follow up meeting with Chairpersons. He questioned whether complaints were submitted to the County. Gawlas stated the party store on Congress Street has received positive feedback and he thanked the Building and Fire Department for their assistance in resolving the situation.

Council Member Richardson questioned whether anyone who resides in the City had been hired to work on the road construction projects in Ypsilanti. She asked to place a clause in the contracts regarding workers had to be hired must live within the City of Ypsilanti. She mentioned Richard Williams the former owner of Terry's Bakery had recently passed away and asked whether a card had been sent. Richardson stated there is still a need for clarification in the report that was given by the Interim City Clerk regarding the August Primary.

Council Member Nickels and Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson had no Council Proposed Business.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council Member Gawlas said the Local Development Finance Authority held a retreat to discuss ways to spur high tech development in the area and the role of the Local Development Finance Authority for Ypsilanti. He also mentioned the Business Accelerator Program was also discussed.

Council Member Richardson stated the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund third round of grants are due October 3rd. Grants will be given out ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koryzno said the Department of Public Works Director, Harry Hutchison has been notified regarding installing a crosswalk on Hamilton. Mr. Hutchison has contacted Michigan Department of Transportation because Hamilton is a part of the Michigan Trunk Line.

He said the Michigan Economic Development Corporation approved the Brownfield Plan for the Paper Mill and Normal Street stairs will be replaced. Koryzno mentioned the individual was apprehended during the Police chase with the Sheriff's Department on the Southside of Ypsilanti.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Farmer thanked Council for responding so quickly to setting up the Special Meeting. She said this evening a meeting took place regarding the Ypsilanti Frieghthouse. Mayor Farmer requested the evaluations from Council for the City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolutions #2004-169, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Schulze and supported by Council Member LaRue.

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

Adjourned at 9:29 p.m.