

**City of Ypsilanti  
City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, September 7, 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 LaRue, Council Member  
Richardson and Council Member Gawlas.

Absent: No Council Members absent.

Mayor Farmer recessed the City Council Meeting at 7:32 p.m. to move the meeting to the Senior Citizen Center at 1015 Congress Street due to capacity limits.

Mayor Farmer reconvened the meeting at 7:50 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 Walter Norris, Executive Director of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission, Douglas Winters, Ypsilanti Township Attorney and Ruth Ann Jamnick, State Representative. She also introduced Joseph Dulin, Principal of Roberto Clemente Development Center and founder of National African American Parent Involvement Day.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Council Member Nickels requested to add a resolution appointing a new City Clerk.

Council approved the amended Agenda.

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

Approved by Council  
9/21/2004

## **PRESENTATION**

- A. TDS Metrocom Presentation, Jim Smoltz, Sales Manager SE Michigan Market.

Jim Smoltz presented information to Council regarding the telephone service TDS Metrocom will offer the City and answered questions from Council.

- B. Plan to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County, Joseph Dulin, Board Member and Founder of Roberto Clemente Development Center and Gary Bell, Executive Director of SOS Community Service.

Joseph Dulin, Board Member and Gary Bell, Executive Director of SOS Community Services presented facts and figures regarding homelessness in Washtenaw County and a plan to end homelessness.

- C. BP Gas Spill Update, James Roberts, Ypsilanti Fire Chief.

James Roberts presented a report on behalf of Terry Hiske from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and answered questions from Council.

- D. Friends of the Freight House Proposal Presentation, Lesley Chase.

Lesley Chase member of Friends of the Freight House provided Council with an overview of their accomplishments, history of the Freight House and plans for the future.

- E. Election Wrap-up, Cherry Lawson Interim City Clerk.

Interim City Clerk, Cherry Lawson presented the August 2004, Primary Election Report to Council and answered questions.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Karlene Gates a vender at the Ypsilanti Farmer's Market since 1979 requested the City keep the Farmer's Market open to vendor's even though the door are locked to the Freight House.

Henry Zellisse vendor at the Farmer's Market spoke in support of the Farmer's Market and the Freight House remaining open. He thanked Council Member LaRue for his willingness to meet with the Friends of the Freight House.

Margaret Johnston stated she agreed with the comments made regarding the Freight House and she spoke in support of the alley closure.

Ruth Spires read a statement to Council from Dorothy McCallan a mental health worker who works with a group of individuals who perform janitorial work for the

Ypsilanti Freight House. She asked Council to keep the Freight House open so her clients would be able work.

Norris Stephens a vendor at the Ypsilanti Farmers Market spoke in behalf of the Market Vendors Association. He stated the market is unique because it includes everyone in the City.

James Bates spoke about an article in the paper related to tax revenues in the City of Ypsilanti. He requested a report of the City's income and expenses.

Robert Doyle of 210 S. Washington congratulated COPAC for the wonderful picnic. He expressed his concern with the Water Street Project's density and being over budget.

Beth Bashert of 909 Grant said she is a guardian to her niece who is a part of the Roots and Shoots Project at the Farmer's Market. She expressed how important this project is for youth in the community.

Steve Pierce of 118 S. Washington expressed his concern with the Water Street Project and asked to see a copy of the development agreement.

Liz McGregor said her family recently moved to Ypsilanti and was upset over the Freight House closing. She stated the City's support is needed to keep the doors to the Freight House open.

Amanda Edmonds 409 Maple asked for support of Council regarding the Roots and Shoots Project and for the Women Infants and Children, Project Fresh Program for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Bill Fennel of 202 Huron said the Farmer's Market is a place to meet a broad cross section of people and purchase a variety of vegetables. He urged Council to keep the Freight House open.

Tyrone Wilson representing RAID alleged the Interim City Clerk is not qualified to receive the Clerk's position. He also alleged improper conduct of City Officials has taken place.

Steve Gross an auctioneer said he has received many compliments regarding the Ypsilanti Freighthouse.

Lee Tooson of Ypsilanti alleged the City Council has paid \$7,000 for a Michigan Municipal League report regarding the Clerk's Office. He also alleged the statement made by the Interim City Clerk during her presentation were not true.

Harvey Krage of 504 Pearl said he ran against Council Member Richardson during the August Primary. He stated his run for the Council seat had nothing to do with the

Clerk's Office or Council Member Swanson. He commended the Department of Public Works and Lesley Chase.

Carolyn McKeever spoke in support of the Ypsilanti Freight House.

Linda Philmore spoke in support of the Ypsilanti Freight House.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson motioned to extend the meeting until 11:30 p.m. and Council Member Nickels supported.

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

## MINUTES

**Resolution #2004-170**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Richardson and supported by Council Member Nickels-That the minutes of August 17, 2004 be approved with corrections.

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

## PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing to receive public input on the proposed expenditures of the 2004 Local Law Enforcement Grant Funds.

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.

No Audience Participation.

1. **Resolution #2004-171**, 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

B. Public Hearing to consider closing the north/south alley between West Cross and Sheridan Streets.

Mayor Farmer opened the Public Hearing.

KaRhonda Jefferson of 956 Sheridan asked Council to close the alley for the safety of the residents who live along the alley.

Tom Bagwell of 98 Westview Street asked for Council's support to close the alley.

Harvey Krage of 504 Pearl spoke in support of closing the alley and the enforcement

of the Ordinance.

Karen Jefferson of 956 Sheridan spoke of the danger of the alley and requested Councils support.

An unknown resident stated she has been living on this street since 1971 and more children live in the area. She expressed concern with the potential for an accident.

Gennie Josie of 947 W. Cross stated an alley is not a playground and parents must take responsibility for their own children.

Kim Dowell co-owner of 947 W. Cross urged Council to consider sending the issue back to the Planning Commission and asked could a survey be done.

Heidi Dziak of 954 Sheridan said 54 people signed a petition to vacate the alley and urged Council to support the closing of the alley.

Jill Clouse of 22 S. Normal expressed her concern with the safety of the alley.

Sharon Guyton of 24 S. Normal Street said the alley is unsafe.

1. **Resolution #2004-172**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Nickels and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson to close the Public Hearing.

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

2. **Resolution #2004-173**, 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:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti City Council passed a resolution on January 6, 2004 to request that Planning Commission hold a Public Hearing and provide a recommendation on whether to close the Sheridan/Cross north/south alley; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and provided a recommendation on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004 against closure of the alley; and

WHEREAS, the City Council scheduled a Public Hearing within four weeks of receiving the Planning Commission recommendation, as required by Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the guidelines for closing alleys (Sec. 94-271) and determined that the alley should be closed due to various concerns; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council approves an ordinance to close the public alley at the midpoint of said alley where adjoining rear property lines meet on First Reading.

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

**Resolution #2004-175**, 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 #2004-176, authorizing Chief George Basar as its official representative to file with the Bureau of Justice under the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program, provide additional information as may be required to obtain the grant, and to accept the grant on behalf of the City.
- B. Resolution #2004-177, authorizing Edward Koryzno, City Manager to approve payment to Michigan Municipal League and Property Pool for insurance for coverage year August 1, 2004 through July 31, 2005.
- C. Resolution #2004-178, authorizing the Mayor and Interim City Clerk to execute Deeds from the City to land owners of two properties for two rods of property on Michigan Avenue vacated years ago by the City.
- D. Resolution #2004-179, approving the agreement for telephone and DSL line service with TDS Metrocom.

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

**Resolution #2004-179A**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member Nickels and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson.

Council Member Gawlas motioned to table the resolution and Council Member Richardson supported.

Ayes: Richardson, Gawlas      Nays: 5      Absent: 0      Vote: Failed

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City began a selection process earlier this year to fill the City Clerk's position vacated with the retirement of Robert Slone in May, and

WHEREAS, the City established minimum requirements for the position including a bachelor's degree and Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) certification, and

WHEREAS, Deputy City Clerk, Cherry Lawson posses the requisite bachelor's degree and CMC certification, and has performed admirably as the Interim City Clerk, therefore, be it.

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the appointment of Cherry Lawson as the new full-time City Clerk, at an annual salary of \$56,524.

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

### **COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

Council Member Richardson asked when building will start for the Water Street Project. She asked made a second requested for a Public Meeting regarding the Water Street Project with the community. Richardson questioned the process of receiving a certificate of occupancy from the Building Department.

Council Member Nickels asked to receive a report from the Blue Ribbon Finance Committee detailing the progress they have made to date.

Council Member Schulze asked that corrections to the minutes be turned in to the City Clerk to avoid using a lot of time. She also mentioned looking further at Audience Participation.

Council Member LaRue stated the outdoor Market will continue. He asked the Council to consider having a historic preservation report and structural analysis for the Farmer's Market. LaRue expressed interest in looking into a city income tax to determine whether this option would be appropriate for the City.

Council Member Gawlas said a development agreement could not be signed until the PUD is completed. He asked whether the City could explore how we partner with other organizations who may want to use our facilities for programming by providing insurance coverage.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson stated the COPAC City Wide Picnic was a success at Parkridge Community Center and Parkridge Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Swanson motioned to extend the meeting until 12:30 a.m. and Council Member Nickels supported.

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

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

No Liaison Reports.

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

Approved by Council  
9/21/2004

A. Closed Session per Sec. 8(d) to consider the purchase of property.

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Absent:      Richardson, Schulze      Vote: Unanimous

B. Public Housing Commission Payment in Lieu of Taxes proposal.

Council discussed the proposal submitted by the Ypsilanti Housing Commission and agreed to have a resolution prepared for action by Council.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Farmer asked Council to look at some dates for the upcoming Vision Study Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolutions #2004-180**, attached and made a part hereof, offered by Council Member LaRue and supported by Council Member Gawlas.

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Absent:      2      Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned at 12:15 a.m.