



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ONE SOUTH HURON STREET, YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005
7:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

II. ROLL CALL –

Mayor Farmer	Present	Council Member Richardson	Present
Council Member Gawlas	Present	Council Member Filipiak	Absent
Council Member LaRue	Present	Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson	Present
Council Member Nickels	Absent		

Council Member LaRue offered a motion to excuse the absence of Council Member s Nickels and Filipiak (Filipiak arrived at 7:55 p.m.). Motion was supported Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 (Nickels, Filipiak) Vote: 5

III. INVOCATION –

Mayor Farmer asked all to stand for a moment of silence in honor of all those who have suffered loses and those who have died as a result of the tsunami.

IV. 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.”

V. INTRODUCTIONS –

No introductions

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA (as Amended)
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005
7:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

II. ROLL CALL –

Mayor Farmer	P A	Council Member Richardson	P A
Council Member Gawlas	P A	Council Member Filipiak	P A
Council Member LaRue	P A	Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson	P A
Council Member Nickels	P A		

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V. INTRODUCTIONS –

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

- A. Jail Millage Proposal presentation, Judges Tabby, Simpson, and Conlin.
- B. Major Rick Carroll, Salvation Army. Update on Kroc Center Proposal

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

IX. MINUTES –

- A. Resolution # 2005-01, approving the Minutes of December 21, 2004.

X. RESOLUTIONS / MOTIONS -

- A. Resolution #2005-02A in support of millage increase for County jail.

XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

XII. LIAISON REPORTS –

- A. SEMCOG Update
- B. Recreation Commission
- C. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
- D. Washtenaw Development Council
- E. Ypsilanti Area Community Foundation

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

- A. Resolution No. 2005 – 02 appointing members to the Boards and Commissions

XV. ADJOURNMENT –

- A. Resolution

Mayor Farmer asked for an addition in the Agenda. Presentations B, Major Rick Carroll with the Salvation Army update on Kroc Center proposal, and Draft Resolution 2005-02A in support of the millage increase for the County jail.

Offered by: Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson
Supported by: Council Member Richardson

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Nickels, Filipiak) Vote: 5

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

- A. Jail Millage Proposal presentation, Judges Tabby, Simpson, and Conlin, and County Administrator Bob Guenzel.

Judge Cedric Simpson thanked Mayor Farmer and the Council for the invitation for all three District 14A Court judges to present at the same time. He gave an explanation of Proposition A and the recommendations of The Washtenaw County Criminal Justice Collaborative Council (CCJC): “Rebuilding Lives: A Responsible Commitment for a Safe and Just Community”. The presentation identified Community Problems, solutions to the problems, and their recommended solutions along with a Financial Proposal to cover the costs and maintenance of the solutions.

The CCJC’s recommendations include 1) Development of a local probation residential center as an alternative for non-violent offenders. 2) Provision for training of law enforcement officers to recognize and safely respond to offenders with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities. 3) Provision for 18 additional crisis bed alternatives to stabilize offenders with serious mental illness and addiction disorders who are at risk to themselves or others. 4) Secure in-home, intensive supervision and treatment for serious mental illnesses and addiction disorders. 5) Incorporate a secure 14A District Court into a jail, reducing security risks for victims, defendants, Court staff and the public at large. 6) Bring the existing jail up to code and eliminate risky, early releases by increasing capacity to a maximum of 532 beds, phased in over ten years.

Bob Guenzel spoke briefly about the proposed Master Plan for the new facilities, and the suggested financing of the proposal. The proposal is for a requested millage increase of 0.75 mills for 20 years. This would cover the costs for constructing the jail, probation residential center, mental health diversion services and District Court integration. He said it would also cover increases in programming and operating costs. The CCJC estimates the increase would result in approximately \$93 per year (\$0.26 per day) for an owner of a \$250,000 home. Additional information is available at their web site at cjcc.washtenaw.org

Questions were taken by Council.

Mayor Farmer thanked everyone for the presentation.

- B.** Major Rick Carroll with the Salvation Army. Update on Kroc Center proposal. Forty eight applications were submitted and four were approved and did not find in our favor. He said the Salvation Army is committed to providing recreation space and a recreational facility for Ypsilanti. He is meeting with his divisional office on January 20 to discuss how they will proceed. He said they do need the community support and will probably be before Council again with some ideas. He talked about the fine letters of recommendation and support for a good proposal. They are in the process of finding out why it was not approved and they will move on from here.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Tyrone Bridges spoke on behalf of his friend, Rhonda Green, who he said was assaulted by the Ypsilanti Police Department (YPD). He also talked about the issue of building another jail, but he expressed his belief that there needs to be more facilities to help work with people to keep them out of jail.
2. John Powers - (signed in – did not speak)
3. Bob Doyle, 210 So. Washington, advocate we take a broader look of what Water Street could be. He said that while we are in the process of re-issuing an RFP, he suggests it be restructured so it could go to both residential and non-residential developers.
4. Jim Fink, 206 So. Washington, would like to speak about Water Street. Complimented the DPW on a great job of removing the snow. With the end of the street project in his neighborhood some equipment had been left in front of his house. His call to the DPW and a request to Mr. Curtin were quickly taken care of. He expressed his appreciation. Mr. Fink agreed with the comments Mr. Doyle made and said we also need to think about the cost.
5. Joe Lawrence, 212 So. Huron Street, supported his neighbors regarding Water Street. He also mentioned that yesterday we honored the life and works of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.
6. Tyrone Wilson, RAID, NAN, citizen in the community and said he is asking for response to the citizens needs. He talked about the City Clerk's office full time employees who left the City employment.
7. Lee Tooson spoke regarding the evidence on Ms. Green by the YPD. He said George Basar needs to be held accountable for his actions and those of his department.
8. Steve Pierce, 118 S. Washington, spoke about Water Street. He talked about his concern with the contract with Biltmore being stopped and the possibility of a lawsuit and the related costs.

IX. MINUTES –

A. Resolution # 2005-01, approving the Minutes of December 21, 2004

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Minutes of December 21, 2004 be approved.

OFFERED BY: Council Member LaRue

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Filipiak

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1 (Nickels) Vote: 6

Council Member Gawlas asked if the agenda included in the minutes could be the agenda as amended. Mayor Farmer asked that the minutes be noted as 'draft' rather than 'proposed'.

X. RESOLUTIONS / MOTIONS -

Resolution #2005-02A

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Resolution of Support for Proposal A for the 0.75 Mill Increase in County Taxes Proposed for the Purpose of Expansion of our County Jail and Associated Public Safety Initiatives

Whereas, the Washtenaw County Jail was built in 1978 with a capacity of 215 inmates, and was expanded over the years to a capacity of 332 inmates, and

Whereas, the County has experienced an explosion in growth since the 70's, and with that growth, unfortunately, an increased number of potential candidates for incarceration. This growth has led to a situation of chronic overcrowding, resulting in the periodic release of sentenced felons and misdemeanants, and

Whereas, police officers in the city of Ypsilanti have documented that those accused/convicted of non-violent crimes such as theft tend to be the first released from jail during times of over-crowding. These same perpetrators tend to return to the same activities in the same neighborhoods immediately upon release, leading to local crime waves requiring our officers to pick up the same suspects over and over. This vicious cycle of arrest/release/re-arrest erodes respect for the law among the offenders, even as it challenges and frustrates our thinly staffed police force and terrorizes neighborhoods, and

Whereas, following the closure of the Ypsilanti State Mental Hospital, the percentage of the residents in the County Jail at any given time who are

mentally ill exceeds 25%. These people could be better treated in a different setting, and

Whereas the proposed millage would not only expand the capacity of the jail, but would also enable the creation of a probation residential center, and the alternative treatment of individuals with mental illness, and

Whereas the Ypsilanti City Council recognizes that taxes are required to pay for services, and that the services proposed to be provided by this modest millage are definitely valuable to our residents and to the mentally ill, now

Therefore the Ypsilanti City Council does hereby endorse the 0.75 mill Jail Renovation and Public Safety Proposal, and encourages all of its residents to register and vote in support of this millage on February 22, 2005.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Gawlas

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Richardson

Council Member Gawlas offered his observation that the proposal seemed to include a little of everything to try to make it more attractive to all constituencies. He said his personal feeling was that building larger jails are not really the solutions to the situation that we have. To address the quality of life issues in a community, we have to look outside those typical reactions of simply building larger facilities to house them. He said he still feels he needs to support the Resolution because of the net benefit it provides to this community.

Council Member Richardson commented that she supports the millage. She said she felt this would help the mentally ill who are now being thrown into the general population at the jail. She said she has seen the need for improvement at the District Court, and the need to provide for residential probation.

Mayor Farmer suggests that paragraph 5, 3rd line, "at any given time people who are mentally ill exceed 25%" be changed.

Mayor Farmer asked for a vote.

Yes: 4 No: 2 (LaRue, Swanson) Absent: 1 (Nickels) Vote: Carried

XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS –

Council Member LaRue mentioned the Illegal Parking Ordinance does not cover large recreational and commercial vehicles parking in the street. There have been occasions where semi-trucks, passenger buses, and other commercial vehicles have been parked on City streets, raising concern with neighbors in the communities. He asked if we could look at what is covered and at the feasibility of adding additional vehicles that are not appropriate for residential neighborhoods.

Council Member Gawlas said he talked to the City Manager regarding abuses in the residential parking permit. He referred specifically to one neighborhood where a business owner and neighboring residences have been experiencing issues. This is happening on Owendale Street between Cross and Washtenaw.

Ed Koryzno elaborated on the parking issues. He said that staff is researching the issue brought up by Council Member LaRue and he hopes to have a report on that soon. The Traffic Review Committee will be meeting at the end of January to discuss the parking permit issue that Council Member Gawlas has mentioned. He said that Chief Basar or someone from the YPD would be talking to the residents about the petition process to follow within the City's ordinance. The City Attorney office is also involved.

Mayor Farmer asked how soon the residents could see a change. Ed Koryzno said the Traffic Review Committee meets at the end of the month. If the requisite number of signatures is provided for the implementation of resident parking only, and the Traffic Review Committee reviews that and approves it, then it would be a week or two after that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson asked where the City is in the investigation of the incident mentioned by Mr. Tooson. Mayor Farmer stated she spoke to Mr. Tooson on Saturday regarding the tape he spoke of and asked that it be turned over to the YPD. She said he told her he would turn the tape over to the Chief on Monday but that had not yet happened. Ed Koryzno said Chief Basar has turned the investigation over to the State Police Department.

XII. LIAISON REPORTS –

A. SEMCOG Update – nothing at this time

B. Recreation Commission – Council Member Richardson said the Friends of the Pool are working on their budget. The Recreation Commission is looking forward to the next joint meeting with the City Council on February 15, 2005. Council Member Filipiak will attend the next Recreation Commission meeting at the February 3, 2005 meeting.

C. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study – nothing at this time

D. Washtenaw Development Council - Council Member Gawlas said Ed Koryzno distributed a report from the WDC in one of the Council information packets.

E. Ypsilanti Area Community Foundation – nothing at this time

F. Smart Zone - Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) - Council Member Gawlas said he did distribute the annual report for the past year. The group has been meeting to put a local Ypsilanti focus to efforts that

could be done under the guise of the Smart Zone. One challenge is the lack of money to put toward specific Ypsilanti projects. They are working toward putting together focus group for businesses to identify what specifically they have in the way of needs that EMU and their resources may be able to provide. They are also putting greater emphasis on Ypsilanti based businesses, start up and emerging technology businesses. There will be another meeting of the LDFA on February 2, 2005. The Ypsilanti Smart Group will be meeting early February as well.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER –

- A.** Ed Koryzno provided copies of a financial report from Marilou Uy for the prior fiscal year.
- B.** A report was distributed to the Council Members provided by Chief Roberts regarding Emergency Medical Services. There have been no significant problems and runs are down.
- C.** A copy of the draft goals were provided for review by Council Members. The goals need to be adopted by the first meeting in February.
- D.** Vacant Building Ordinance will be on the agenda February 1st for consideration.
- E.** Election Consolidation report provided by City Clerk, Cherry Lawson. Local Clerks met earlier today regarding election consolidation. This new law is to take place January 31, 2005 and will affect not only the City of Ypsilanti, but also the State of Michigan. The Legislators had agreed to consolidate all of the elections under the City and Township Clerks. Although there have been continued requests for additional information on how each municipality will be affected, the Clerks were asked today to make a decision, with only 14 days left. The amount of payment for the election work is not clear and the impression given is that certain services provided by the County may end for the municipalities who do not opt in. There has been no time to meet with the Election Commission.

Council Member Gawlas talked about the uncertainty of reimbursement by the school district being a warning sign. He also said based on the characterization that there be agreement or we may not receive services from the County, brings up the thought that our machines process many County ballot questions.

Ed Koryzno stated that the State Legislature created this election consolidation bill last year which states there will be four elections during the course of the year and if you want to hold an election you get to pick one of those four dates. This eliminates the ability for school districts to handle elections. If we opt out, the responsibility for handling the Ypsilanti School elections falls on the county. Our responsibilities then are minimal from start to end.

Mayor Farmer stated that her sense from the Council is that we opt out for the time being.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR –

A. Resolution No. 2005 – 02 appointing members to the Boards and Commissions

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the following individuals 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.	Carolyn McPherson 965 West Cross Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Planning Commission (New Appointment)	5/1/2007
2.	Ambrose Wilbanks 305 Oak Street Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Recreation Commission (New Appointment) Ward 3	7/1/2006
3.	Eleanore Rhoden 121 Linden Court Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Recreation Commission (New Appointment) Ward 1	7/1/2005
4.	John Bailey 514 Fairview Circle Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Zoning Board of Appeals (New Appointment)	5/1/2007

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Filipiak

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1 (Nickels) Vote: 6

- B.** The Web page has a section called “Links”. Mayor Farmer sent out an email asking for suggestions of sites to link to. Ed Koryzno responded with the thought that an internal committee on the web page review this and develop a policy. His suggestion would be to have Council Member Gawlas and Council Member Filipiak work with Bob Bruner on this.
- C.** Mayor Farmer indicated that she, Ed Koryzno, Jennifer Goulet and Megan Gibb met last Thursday with David Hollister, MDEC, primarily regarding the Visteon plant and the repercussions of any potential plant closing. Megan had met with Visteon representative the day before and was told there are no plans to close

any plants at this time. If a decision is made it may occur within the first quarter of the year. Mr. Hollister said it would still be useful to contact some of the stakeholders in the community to share our concerns and ask them if they would be willing to participate in the BRFC to retain our plant. Out of that meeting we learned that a representative of MDEC was here nine years ago during the Renaissance City tour. He shared their plans of a meeting at the Visteon Plant that was scheduled for the very next day and we asked if we could attend. Ed Koryzno and Megan Gibbs attended the meeting.

Koryzno said the meeting focused on the changing auto market itself and globalization of manufacturing of automobiles. Mayor Farmer said when the City gave Visteon their latest tax abatement, part of the language of that agreement was that they would be adding 17 new jobs, that they would be retaining a certain number of jobs and it does not appear that they have lived up to that end of the agreement.

- D. Attorney Barr brought up a notice he received at his office that some insurance companies are beginning to increase fees for companies that have web sites due to an alleged increase in liability. He also cautioned putting anything in an email that you may wish to keep confidential.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT –

A. Resolution # 2005-03

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or two (2) members of Council.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Filipiak
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member LaRue

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Nickels) VOTE: 6

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.