



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Zoom Meeting

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The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 7:00 PM, in the Zoom Meeting, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Council Member Jennifer Symanns (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Steven Wilcoxon (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Lois Richardson (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Anthony Morgan (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Annie Somerville (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), and Mr. Brian Jones-Chance (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti)

**ABSENT:** None

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

### II. ROLL CALL

### III. AGENDA APPROVAL

The Mayor would like to move item D below item F.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns would like to add an item to the end of the agenda to discuss evaluations.

The agenda was approved as adjusted. Mayor Lois Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Steve Wilcoxon. On a voice vote the motion carried.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Nine members from the public spoke.

### V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation in honor of Women's Month - Mayor Richardson.

**The City Clerk read a proclamation from the Mayor regarding Women's Month.**

- B. Presentation regarding Medicare for All Act of 2019 - Eli Ruben.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. Request to approve an Off-Premises Tasting License for Ann Arbor Distilling Co., located at 102 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
1. Resolution No. 2021-037, determination
  2. Public Hearing **None**
  3. Resolution No. 2021-038, close the public hearing.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-037.

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, Robert Cleveland, representative of the Ann Arbor Distilling Co., has applied to the City of Ypsilanti and Michigan Liquor Control Commission requesting the following:**

**Approval of an Off-Premises Tasting Room License, MCL 436.1536, as defined, a Distiller or Small Distiller licensee may have an approved tasting room at a location off its licensed manufacturing premises where it may sell spirits it makes. The off-site location is 102 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, Washtenaw County; and**

**WHEREAS, a public hearing to consider the application for an Off-Premises Tasting Room License was duly noticed and held on March 2, 2021.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the request of Robert Cleveland, representative for the property located at 102 W. Michigan Ave be approved contingent upon Building Department approval and Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy as well as Washtenaw County Health Department approval.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Annie Somerville, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, and Brian Jones-Chance
<b>NAYS:</b>	Anthony Morgan

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-038.

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That the public hearing to consider an Off-Premises Tasting Room**

**License for Ann Arbor Distilling Co. be officially closed.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Jennifer Symanns, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Resolution No. 2021-039, approving the Consent Agenda.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve resolution No. 2021-039.**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That the following items be approved:**

1. **Resolution No. 2021-040, approving the minutes of February 16, 2021.**
2. **Resolution No. 2021-041, approving Ordinance 1374, an ordinance to amend city code, Chapter 122, Zoning Ordinance. (Second Reading).**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Anthony Morgan
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Anthony Morgan, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville

- B. Resolution No. 2021-040, approving the minutes of February 16, 2021.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021- 040**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**THAT the minutes of February 16, 2021 be approved.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Anthony Morgan
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Anthony Morgan, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville

- C. Resolution No. 2021-041, approving Ordinance 1374, an ordinance to amend city code, Chapter 122, Zoning Ordinance. **(Second Reading)**

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-041**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, the City has an interest in protecting the health, safety, and**

welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City has an adopted Master Plan that reflects the policy goals of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission from time to time reviews the zoning ordinance performance with relation to these goals and general functionality; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has recommended the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance changes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the ordinance entitled Zoning Periodic Update 2021 on Second and Final Reading.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Anthony Morgan, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville

## VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Resolution No. 2021-042, approving Ordinance 1373, An Ordinance to Add Parks to the Street Name Ordinance by amending Ypsilanti City Code Chapter 94, Article VI, Section 94, Section 161 et seq. **(Second Reading)**

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-042.**

**IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:**

**Whereas, there is presently no City ordinance regarding the names or naming of parks, and**

**Whereas, City Council determines it in the best interest of the City to have a standard, stated procedure for the naming of parks, and**

**Whereas, there presently exists a City ordinance, 94-161, et seq. for naming streets, and**

**Whereas that ordinance is suitable to amend to include naming of parks,**

**NOW THEREFORE, the ordinance entitled "An ordinance to Add Parks to the Street Name Ordinance" is adopted on Second and Final Reading.**

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Brian Jones-Chance, Jennifer Symanns, Lois Richardson,

and Anthony Morgan  
**NAYS:** Nicole Brown and Annie Somerville

- B. Resolution No. 2021-043, approving the allocation of funds to the Washtenaw Housing Alliance for the Re-entry Mitigation Fund.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-043.**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**Whereas, City Council’s adoption of Ordinance 1344 in 2019 and Ordinance 1371 in 2020 requires that \$1,000 from each marijuana facility application be used for criminal justice issues related to marijuana prohibition; and**

**Whereas, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance will be administering a Re-entry Fund created by the Washtenaw County Community Stakeholders Re-Entry Committee; and**

**Whereas, the purpose of the fund is to assist those previously incarcerated to find housing.**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council allocates \$5,000 to the Washtenaw Housing Alliance for the purpose of assisting in the funding of the Re-Entry Mitigation Fund, specific to those being released as a result of marijuana charges, to be drawn from Account #101-7-2150-835-00.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Annie Somerville, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Brian Jones-Chance

- C. Resolution No. 2021-044, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Senior Center.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-044.**

**IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:**

**The certain” Lease, Operations and Management Agreement” between the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Senior Center, a Michigan Non-profit Corporation is approved, and the mayor and city clerk are authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City, subject to the approval of the Ypsilanti City Attorney.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Jennifer Symanns, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville

- D. Resolution No. 2021-046, requesting that MDOT pursue design for reconfiguration of the intersections of Huron/Cross and Hamilton/Washtenaw to improve overall safety.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-046.

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti has the health, safety, and welfare of Ypsilanti’s residents, workers, and guests as their driving concern;**

**WHEREAS, the current design of the intersections of Huron/Cross and Hamilton/Washtenaw encourage drivers to travel at speeds unsafe for an urban area;**

**WHEREAS, these streets are under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT);**

**WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti understands that a safer reconfiguration of these intersections is feasible and could be integrated into the planned road rehabilitation project;**

**WHEREAS, the 2018 Road Safety Audit noted that a road diet would likely improve the safety of these roads for all users, and**

**WHEREAS, the proposed reconfiguration at Washtenaw/Hamilton could provide bicycle lanes on Washtenaw from West Cross to Hamilton, and Hamilton from Washtenaw to Pearl, and safer pedestrian crossings, both goals of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (2010);**

**WHEREAS, the public will be invited to provide feedback on proposed designs;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Ypsilanti City Council hereby requests that MDOT pursue design for reconfiguration of the intersections of Huron/Cross and Hamilton/Washtenaw to improve overall safety, particularly pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and improve pedestrian and bicyclist network connectivity.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Annie Somerville
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Annie Somerville, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Brian Jones-Chance

E. Resolution No. 2021-047, supporting the Medicare for All Act of 2019.

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-047.

**Resolution in Support of the Medicare for All Act of 2019**

**WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance is still**

nearly 30 million, while more than 40 million Americans remain underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, every person in the City of Ypsilanti deserves high quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the never-ending rising costs of health care add challenges to our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses, which keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare-for-All; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 will guarantee that all residents of the City of Ypsilanti will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of the City of Ypsilanti will vastly improve because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources;

WHEREAS, the burden placed on local governments such as the City of Ypsilanti by health benefits for employees and public health programs would be significantly alleviated by having a federal single payer Medicare for All program in place;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic recession has left tens of millions more Americans without health insurance at the very moment in time that all Americans should be able to seek medical help at little to no cost, thus exposing the riskiness and unsustainability of a health insurance system based primarily around employment;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ypsilanti City Council enthusiastically supports the Medicare for All Act of 2019 (House Bill H.R. 1384 and Senate Bill S.1129) and calls on our federal legislators to work toward its immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti expresses its enthusiastic support for House Bill 6285, which establishes a state level single payer program known as MICare and is sponsored by Representative Yousef Rabhi, and calls upon our state legislators to work toward its immediate enactment.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Brian Jones-Chance, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- F Resolution No. 2021-045, approving banners submitted by the Ypsilanti Community Schools to be placed on City Streetlights. (Moved)

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-045.**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, Ypsilanti Community Schools and the Ypsilanti Rotary Club supports and sponsors this public art installation project; and**

**WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Rotary Club has fundraised to cover installation costs associated with this project; and**

**WHEREAS, all banner images have been reviewed against the City of Ypsilanti Banner Policy; and**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the provided banner images for the banner installation project with the elimination of Banner 37 and with any change orders to be approved by the City Manager.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
<b>AYES:</b>	Nicole Brown, Annie Somerville, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Brian Jones-Chance

- G. Resolution No. 2021-048, requesting that the State of Michigan increase the amount of Vaccines to Washtenaw County and allocate them for the 48197 and 48198 area codes. (added)

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2021-048.**



**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in more than 500,000 deaths throughout the United States; and**

**WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has had 17,179 Laboratory Confirmed Cases, with a total of 235 total deaths, with the majority falling in the 48197 and 48198 zip codes; and**

**WHEREAS, data shows the majority of vaccines are being distributed to Northern Michigan versus Southern Michigan; and**

**WHEREAS, additional vaccines were distributed to Detroit, a predominately African American Community, and the same consideration should be provided to Washtenaw County, with the highest population of African Americans living in the 48197 and 48198 zip codes; and**

**WHEREAS, several churches located in the 48197 and 48198 zip codes have offered to act as distribution centers for vaccines; and**

**WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is receiving less vaccines because of the Social Vulnerability Index, causing African Americans to be penalized for living near a more affluent community; and**

**WHEREAS, only 6.6% of vaccines have been administered to African Americans living in Washtenaw County, even though African Americans are 48% of the diagnosed cases of COVID-19; and**

**WHEREAS, there have been reports that African American Senior Citizens, that are eligible for the vaccine, have been denied; and**

**WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has two major healthcare facilities and its employees require a large amount of vaccines distributed to the county, putting African Americans in the 48198 and 48197 at a further disadvantage.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti implore the State of Michigan to increase the amount of vaccines to Washtenaw County and allocate them for the 48197 and 48198 area codes.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti direct the City Clerk to forward this resolution to the Office of the Governor.**

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxen
SECONDER:	Council Member Annie Somerville

<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Annie Somerville, Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Brian Jones-Chance
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**H. Discussion regarding evaluations. (added)**

**Evaluations are completed. Council Member Symanns would like to know how to proceed.**

**IX. LIAISON REPORTS**

1. SEMCOG Update
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **Discussion of regional transportation**
3. Urban County **No meeting**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **Approved budget**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool **Meeting tomorrow**

**X. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

**Mr. Jones-Chance:**

- **Mentioned that the turnout of the Black History Month Program was good. Learned a lot about the history and even his own history.**
- **Mentioned that the turnout of the COVID 19 Town Hall was also good. Also, mentioned that the public can view the recording online.**

**Council Member Morgan:**

- **Congratulated Commissioner Heather Berkovitz and Commissioner Gail Wolkolf for being elected as Chair and Vice-Chare respectively for the Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission.**
- **Mentioned the discussion during the YPAC meeting with Eli Savit.**
- **Mentioned a meeting from last wee with Chief DeGuisti. Discussed components of the police program.**
- **Shared concerns on the sell of individual cigarettes.**
- **Received four emails regarding residents landlords. Would like to provide these individuals with the proper channels dealing with low quality living in some of the apartments within the City.**
- **Stated that the City has a responsibility as well as residents. Residents feel like they are getting stiffed. Council Member Morgan suggested that residents should get the help they need in a respectful way.**
- **Mentioned a statement from NPR news, that the number one threat to security of the Homeland is White Supremacy on the national, state, and local level. He also stated to be safe and stay woke.**

**Council Member Morgan moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 P.M. Council Member Somerville supported the motion. On a voice vote the motion carried.**

**Council Member Symanns:**

- **Discussed concerns from constituents in Ward 2 regarding road patching on Cornell. There is a big sink hole North of Ainsley Street. Council**

Member Symanns will provide more information regarding the location. Council Member Symanns asked about the process of how residents can address road concerns.

- Council Member Symanns stated to the City Manager that barking dog on Congress street is still an issue. Council Member Symanns suggested that this issue should be escalated. In addition, there are other issues that could possibly be hazardous.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown:

- Mentioned the positive feedback received regarding the approval of the Black Lives Matter Resolution from the last meeting.
- Received correspondents from Doug Jones who had done previous murals around the community. Doug Jones had questions and concerns regarding the proper tools and paint to be used. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown will share the information received from Doug.
- Mentioned the turnout was great for both the Black History Program and the Town Hall. The Black History Program was very informative.

## XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Thanked all of the City staff who attended the Black History Program.
- Mayor had spoken to Mr. Jones-Chance about possibly having a quarterly Black History event. Another Black History Program will be done soon.
- The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is working on a project to increase and enlarge the Black History display, information, and artifacts.
- Mentioned the registration about the MML Conference.
- Discussed the changes regarding the location of COVID vaccinations.

## XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Calendar.

- The City Clerk will send a poll by Friday regarding two possibly dates for department presentations.
  - Week of April 12th and April 26th

B. Special events (added)

- City Manager mentioned that the City is starting to receive applications for festivals and would like to get the Council's input before making a decision.
- Received an application for a festival in May.
- City Manager will provide a resolution and documentation for next meeting.
- Thanked the Mayor, Council Member Mayor Pro-Tem, and Mr. Jones-Chance for the Black History Program.

Council made a motion to extended the meeting until 10:40 P.M.

**Moved by Mr. Jones-Chance, seconded by Council Member Symanns, and opposed by Council Member Wilcoxon. On a voice vote the motion carried.**

**XIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Board of Ethics 2020 Annual Report

**XIV. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 P.M.**

- A. Resolution No. 2021-049, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 P.M.**

- B. Please click [here](#) to access the City Council Contact Form. This form can be used to submit any comments/concerns you might have about this agenda