



Approved

**CITY OF YPSILANTI  
COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ONE SOUTH HURON STREET, YPSILANTI, MI 48197  
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019  
4:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER -**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL -**

Council Member Brown	Present	Council Member Symanns	Present
Council Member Morgan	Present	Council Member Wilcoxon	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Bashert	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Present		

**III. INVOCATION -**

Mayor Bashert asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL -**

**Council Member Brown moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson to approve the agenda.**

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved as submitted.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT -**

1. Jim Roberts, 5950 Plum Hollow, stated he is a former Ypsilanti Fire Chief and is here in favor of Ken Hobbs becoming Ypsilanti’s next Fire Chief.
2. James Hawkins, 2144 Collegewood, spoke in favor of Ken Hobbs and that it is disrespectful to all city employees Mr. Hobbs is not being provided an opportunity to advance.
3. John McMillan, 504 N. Huron, stated he is a Civil Service Commissioner and the Commission supports the hiring of Ken Hobbs as the city’s next chief. Those working in the Fire Department are in support of Mr. Hobbs being appointed.
4. Sammone Dixon stated she is a city employee and is concerned with the hiring and promoting practices of the city. She has concern for this city’s leadership. She also spoke in favor of Ken Hobbs being promoted to Fire Chief.

5. Lee Tooson asked for the banners on the Council Chamber walls to be removed. He spoke about the diminished morale of city staff, and is disappointed the City Manager was hired.
6. Kyle Hunter supported the promotion of Ken Hobbs and asked for the removal of the City Manager.
7. Brian Geiringer supported the promotion of Ken Hobbs and is confused about decisions being made by the City Manager. He stated the City Manager is making it difficult for communications between city boards and commissions. He asked that the City Manager be removed.
8. Dave Hiekenen, business owner 133 W. Michigna, stated the people are the strength of this city and asked that Ken Hobbs be appointed Fire Chief.
9. Valerie Brown Tooson, 107 Middle, voiced her support for the appointment of Ken Hobbs to Fire Chief. She stated she did not know why the City Manager wanted to hire from outside the city.
10. Shoshana DeMaria, NAACP President, stated the city shouldn't need to look outside the city when there is a qualified applicant in the ranks of the department. She supports equal rights and the appointment of Ken Hobbs to Fire Chief.
11. Morie Thomas, Congress, spoke about white privilege and how the communities views this as a racist act.
12. Tru Ajani, National Representative THECREAM, stated he is from a generation that has lost its faith in the political process. Stated there need to be more African American role models like Ken Hobbs.
13. Ken Hobbs thanked everyone for their support.
14. Ricky Jefferson, 113 Devonshire, Washtenaw County Commissioner, stated was happy when he heard Ken Hobbs wanted to become Fire Chief. He has great faith in Ken Hobbs and was disappointed he was not appointed.
15. William Simmons stated he would like the City Manager removed from his position.

**VI. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR -**

None

**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 -**

None

**VI. CLOSED SESSION –**

1. Resolution No. 2019-050, adjourning to Closed Session pursuant to section 8(a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 8(a)

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

**City Council go into closed session to discuss personnel evaluation of City Manager Darwin D.P. McClary, at his request, pursuant to section 8 (a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 8 (a).**

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson  
SECONDED BY: Council Member Wilcoxon

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2019-050 was as follows:

Council Member Brown	Yes	Council Member Symanns	Yes
Council Member Morgan	Yes	Mayor Bashert	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Council Member Wilcoxon	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

**The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 4:37 p.m.**

**Council Member Brown moved, supported by Council Member Symanns to reconvene to open session.**

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting reconvened to Open Session.

**The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 4:54 p.m.**

**VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSOINS –**

1. Resolution No. 2019-051, approving the resignation and separation agreement with Darwin D.P. McClary.

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

**The resignation of Mr. Darwin D. P. McClary as City Manager of the City of Ypsilanti, is accepted and his separation agreement (copy attached hereto), and all its terms and conditions are hereby approved, and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign said separation agreement for and on behalf of the city, subject to approval by the City Attorney.**

OFFERED BY: Council Member Brown  
SECONDED BY: Council Member Morgan

City Council Special Meeting  
March 7, 2019

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2019-051 was as follows:

Council Member Brown	Yes	Council Member Symanns	Yes
Council Member Morgan	Yes	Mayor Bashert	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Council Member Wilcoxon	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

2. Resolution No. 2019, 054, approving Police Chief Tony DeGiusti as Temporary Action City Manager until Frances McMullan returns to work and assumes position of Acting City Manager.

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

**Tony DeGiusti is appointed Temporary Acting City Manager to serve at the pleasure of City Council until such time as Frances McMullan returns to work and assumes the position and duties of Acting City Manager, to serve at the pleasure of City Council, until a regular City Manager is appointed.**

OFFERED BY: Council Member Morgan

SECONDED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2019-054 was as follows:

Council Member Brown	Yes	Council Member Symanns	Yes
Council Member Morgan	Yes	Mayor Bashert	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Council Member Wilcoxon	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

3. Resolution No. 2019-052, approving the appointment of Frances McMullan as Acting City Manager.

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

**Frances McMullan is appointed Acting City Manager to serve at the pleasure of City Council until a regular City Manager is appointed.**

OFFERED BY: Council Member Wilcoxon

SECONDED BY: Council Member Morgan

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2019-052 was as follows:

Council Member Brown	Yes	Council Member Symanns	Yes
Council Member Morgan	Yes	Mayor Bashert	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Council Member Wilcoxon	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

4. Resolution No. 2019-053, approving the appointment of Andrew Hellenga as Acting City Clerk.

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

**Andrew Hellenga is appointed acting City Clerk to serve at the pleasure of City Council in the absence of City Clerk Frances McMullan.**

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

SECONDED BY: Council Member Brown

On a roll call, the vote to approve Resolution No. 2019-053 was as follows:

Council Member Brown	Yes	Council Member Symanns	Yes
Council Member Morgan	Yes	Mayor Bashert	Yes
Council Member Murdock	Yes	Council Member Wilcoxon	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Yes		

VOTE:

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried

Mayor Bashert stated she plans to identify an Interim City Manager, and will be forth coming with that resolution. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the Charter provides that the City Clerk acts as City Manager until a regular City Manager is hired. Clerk McMullan has filled in as Interim City Manager on more than one occasion and did a stellar job. Ms. Bashert stated there was no intent of disrespect or lack of faith in her comment. This has more to do with the several projects the city is undertaking.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT –**

1. Sam Jones-Darling, 210 Brown Hall, stated if Council has such faith in Frances McMullan she should be given the position of City Manager permanently. The fact the City Manager has resigned causes the city to look good to the state and businesses. Council needs to decide what it wants, it needs a strategic plan. Council needs to know what it wants to do and do it.
2. Lee Tooson stated hopefully the city can begin to move forward without any obstructions. He warned Council that the Mayor wants to build her own team.

3. Brian Geiringer asked how Ken Hobbs will be appointed and supported the appointment of Frances McMullan to City Manager.
4. Valarie Brown Tooson stated her support for the appointment of Ken Hobbs to Fire Chief.
5. Ricky Jefferson stated the hiring process for the new City Manager should have a meet and greet in order for the public to meet the candidates prior to Council making a decision.

**IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR -**

— Addressed the importance of racism and homophobia in city processes, we are all steeped in racism and homophobia. The city must work to overcome them together not in separate silos. One of the most important aspect of being an elected official is transparency. She asked if this action was taken with adequate transparency was given for today's meeting. The issue of racism in hiring of the new Fire Chief was brought forward during Tuesday's regular Council Meeting. She asked if there had been any inquiries into that charge, or Mr. McClary approached about that issue. The answer is no, no City Council Member approached him. It is always the job of elected officials to do their due diligence in investigating these claims. She stated homophobic comments have been made against Mr. McClary and herself. She would have supported the responsible action of putting the Fire Chief hiring process on hold to investigate these claims. The city is on the cusp of several projects that need immediate action. The capacity to handle the projects is greatly diminished by this circumstance. She asked what the impact of the City Manager search will have on these projects. She would like to continue to address the systemic issues that allow implicit bias to enter into hiring. She wants to work to build a more fair and robust hiring process. She wonders how this will affect potential partners of the city for future projects. The Council Members that called this meeting might have set in motion unplanned repercussions. She asked that for all to work together in order for Ypsilanti to be all it can be.

Council Member Morgan responded he appreciates the need for transparency. He stated there were a host of issues that led to this meeting, not just the selection of Fire Chief. He does not believe there was a way that everyone agreed with, but this is how it happened. He said all of Council is accountable, and need to take responsibility for the state of the city.

**X. ADJOURNMENT -**

Resolution No. 2019-054, adjourning the City Council meeting.

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

**That the City Council Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or three (3) members of Council.**

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson  
SECONDED BY: Council Member Wilcoxon

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.