



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, Council Member Desirae Simmons, Council Member Roland Tooson, and Council Member Michelle King

ABSENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Mayor Nicole Brown, and Council Member Evan Sweet

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm

II ROLL CALL

III PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- a) 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.

IV AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member D. Simmons Moved, Seconded by Council Member Tooson to approve the agenda as amended.

Change:

- Section V Public Comment was moved following Section VI Work Session.
- Section VII Ordinances First Reading was removed from the agenda.

V WORK SESSIONS 6 PM - 7 PM

- a) Police Chief Search Update - Frances McMullan, City Manager & Joyce Parker, MML

VI PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES) - MOVED

Five Members of the Public Spoke

VII ORDINANCES FIRST READING - REMOVED

- a) ~~Ordinance 1408, an Ordinance Entitled "Amending Chapter 7 of the Ypsilanti City Code".~~
- ~~1. Resolution No. 2023-041, determination~~

2. ~~Public Hearing~~
3. ~~Resolution No. 2023-042, closing the public hearing~~

VIII CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2023-043, approving the Consent Agenda.

**Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Michelle King, to approved Resolution No. 2023-043
RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

That the following items be approved:

1. **Resolution No. 2023-044, approving the minutes of the February 21 & 28, 2023 City Council Meeting.**
2. **Resolution No 2023-045, approving an Ordinance Entitled "Zoning Text Amendment: Supportive Housing" (Second Reading)**

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Desirae Simmons
SECONDER:	Council Member Michelle King
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, and Evan Sweet

- b) Resolution No. 2023-044, approving the minutes of February 7th and 28th, 2023.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of February 21 and February 28, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2023-045, approving an Ordinance Entitled "Zoning Text Amendment: Supportive Housing" (Second Reading)

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas the City of Ypsilanti recognizes the importance of establishing equity in zoning; and

WHEREAS the City of Ypsilanti recognizes that the policy for treating *supportive housing* the same as other residential dwellings adheres to the Fair Housing Amendments Act laws that apply to zoning and planning; and

WHEREAS the City of Ypsilanti recognizes that eliminating the potential for adverse impacts or harm to a community as a result of discriminatory language and / or the perpetuation of segregation fully improves the broader community's economic conditions; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approve the Zoning Text Amendment provision in the zoning ordinance to remove

Supportive Housing Conditions and Permissible Uses; and to remove Supportive Housing Definition on Second and Final Reading.

IX RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2023-046, approving the updated Community and Artist Survey, and the Request for Qualifications for the Community and Artists Survey outreach Consultant.

**Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-046
RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti desires to cultivate a community culture and environment that embraces and nurtures artistic and creative assets; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti desires to promote and further diversity, equity and inclusion of all of Ypsilanti in the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desires to collect information from the community about the arts to inform the Commission in its role with the City, share this information with local, state and national arts organizations and provide insight on the current state of the arts in Ypsilanti, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti City Council approved the Community and Artists Survey Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan, and the Request for Qualifications for the Community and Artists Survey Outreach Consultant in October of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the grant of \$4,000 from the Tremaine Foundation for the implementation of this survey was received by the City of Ypsilanti on November 22, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission identified questions on the approved survey that are no longer relevant or valuable due to the time elapsed between approval and receiving of the funds; and

WHEREAS, the \$4,000 received by the City of Ypsilanti for this survey needs to be rolled over into the appropriate budget, and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission has reviewed updated the Community and Artists Survey questions, included translation services Artists Survey Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission wishes to recommend implementation of the Community and Artists Survey Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan, and the Request for Qualifications for the Community and Artists Survey Outreach Consultant as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Ypsilanti approve the updated Community and Artists Survey, Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan, and the Request for Qualifications for the Community and Artists Survey Outreach Consultant and approve the budget amendment as provided to implement this survey.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Michelle King
SECONDER:	Council Member Roland Tooson

AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, and Evan Sweet

- b) Resolution No. 2023-047, approving the budget amendment to fund the Youth Poet Laureate Program.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Desirae Simmons, to approve Resolution Number 2023-047

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti desires to cultivate a community culture and environment that embraces and nurtures artistic and creative assets; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti desires to promote and further diversity, equity and inclusion of all of Ypsilanti in the arts; and

WHEREAS, Youth voice and community engagement are vital for empowering young people to effect positive change in their community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti Arts Commission, whose purpose is to act as an advisory body to the mayor, city council and city manager for all things art in the City, identified that the Youth Poet Laureate Program satisfies the Commission's key objectives; and

WHEREAS, they have recognized Ciatta Tucker's work, passion, and expertise in Washtenaw County's Spoken Word Community and in Youth Poet Laureate programming; and recommend Ciatta Tucker to implement the inaugural Youth Poet Laureate program as outlined in the proposal between May 2023 and 2025; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2023, they enthusiastically recommended that the City Council approve the Youth Poet Laureate program as presented; and

WHEREAS; The City of Ypsilanti Youth Poet Laureate Program requires a minimum budget of \$6,500 for staffing and programming.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Ypsilanti City Council approve the budget amendment as provided for the City of Ypsilanti Youth Poet Laureate Program

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Roland Tooson
SECONDER:	Council Member Desirae Simmons
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, and Evan Sweet

- c) Resolution No. 2023-048, approving Michigan Department of Transportation Contract 22-5550, for the asphalt for Michigan Ave.

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Michelle King, to approve Resolution No. 2023-048

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, funding has been programmed in the major streets fund pavement capital maintenance in the City of Ypsilanti; and,

Whereas, MDOT has solicited sealed bids and awarded the work for the project; and,

Whereas, MDOT standard practice is to request local participation on projects where work is performed outside of travel lanes and has requested \$8,200 from the City;

Now therefore be it resolved THAT the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti approve MDOT contract # 22-5550 and the Mayor Nicole Brown and City Clerk Andrew Hellenga are authorized to sign this contract, subject to review by the City Attorney.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Desirae Simmons
SECONDER:	Council Member Michelle King
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, and Evan Sweet

- d) Resolution No. 2023-049, approving a policy to govern the Youth Mini-Grants provided by the city.

Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to Table Resolution No. 2023-049

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti wishes to provide financial assistance through mini-grants for local non-profits that work with youth; and

Whereas, for several Fiscal Years City Council has budgeted \$25,000, that would be allocated in \$5,000 increments to applicable organizations; and

WHEREAS, a written policy would both benefit the applicants and city officials in the allocation of these funds.

Now therefore be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti approves the attached policy with immediate effect.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Michelle King
SECONDER:	Council Member Roland Tooson
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Desirae Simmons, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, and Evan Sweet

X BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. - None
2. Human Relations Commission. - None
3. Arts Commission. - None
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. - None
5. Sustainability Commission. - None
6. Historic District Commission. - None

7. Planning Commission. - None
8. Zoning Board of Appeals - None

XI LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon attended the Green Taskforce meeting that was the mission of examining potential green infrastructure.
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
3. Urban County - None
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - None
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon stated they are still reviewing potential DNR Grants and contractors to resurface the pool.
6. Bicentennial Committee - None

XII COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

a) King

1. Thanks her fellow Council Members and City Manager McMullan for assisting residents during the recent snow and ice storms.

b) Simmons

1. Thanked DPS and Emergency Service Departments for their work during the recent storms.
2. she explained that residents have been bringing forward complaints about speeding. She asked about a recent petition submitted by residents of Miles Street for speedbumps. She added that the city needs to be creative in deterring speeding in the city.
3. She stated that a couple of meetings ago Council was encouraged to speed the meeting along and speak less, or shush. She then read allowed a poem bout the need to speak up in a democracy and not to be shushed.

c) Tooson

1. None

d) Wilcoxon

1. Asked about the status of a petition of speedbumps in Normal Park.
2. Stated the apartment building in front of 1928 Whittier has been pushing snow into the street making it very difficult for residents to traverse the area, he asked what could be done about it.
3. He stated that the recent power outages caused by the recent storm showed a need for resiliency centers.

XIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

XIV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XV COMMUNICATIONS

- a) March 21, 2023 Council Meeting - 6-7 work session – Water Street Development Presentation, Derric L. Scott J29:7 Planning and Development Corporation

XVI PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

To members of the public spoke

XVII REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon made comment regarding the recent power outages and stated that DTE provides the worst service in the country, yet has the highest rates. He stated Michiganders have draw the short end of the stick and it is time for the state to explore other options, that include emphasis on sustainable energy.

XVIII ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-050, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

- 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.