



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, March 15, 2022  
Council Chambers

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The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, Council Member Anthony Morgan, Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, and Council Member Annie Somerville

ABSENT: Mayor Lois Richardson, Council Member Steve Wilcoxon

### 1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

### 2 ROLL CALL

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Mr. Brian Jones-Chance to excuse Mayor Lois Allen-Richardson and Council Member Steve Wilcoxon. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### 3 AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Annie Somerville to approve the agenda as submitted. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### 4 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

7 members from the public spoke.

### 5 PRESENTATIONS

- a) Proclamation in honor of Habbs Restaurant - Mayor Richardson
- b) Audit Presentation for the City of Ypsilanti - Daniel Clark, Rehmann.

### 6 ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- a) Ordinance 1387, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1 "GENERAL PROVISIONS" OF THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE, BY AMENDING SECTION 1-14 "ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE CODE" TO INCLUDE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 17 INSPECTION AND CONTROL OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS TO ALLOW FOR THREE YEAR CERTIFICATES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND CALCULATE HOW CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED; AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 71

"ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS BUREAU", SECTION 71-2 "DEFINITIONS", TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR AUTHORIZED LOCAL OFFICIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO ISSUE BLIGHT VIOLATIONS." ), of the City Code of Ordinances.

1. Resolution No. 2022-057, determination
2. Public Hearing
3. Resolution No. 2022-058, closing the public hearing

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No.2022-057**

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

**That an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1 "GENERAL PROVISIONS" OF THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE, BY AMENDING SECTION 1-14 "ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE CODE" TO INCLUDE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 17 INSPECTION AND CONTROL OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS TO ALLOW FOR THREE YEAR CERTIFICATES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND CALCULATE HOW CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED; AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 71 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS BUREAU", SECTION 71-2 "DEFINITIONS", TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR AUTHORIZED LOCAL OFFICIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO ISSUE BLIGHT VIOLATIONS." Be approved on first reading.**

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

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2022-058**

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

**That the public hearing for "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1 "GENERAL PROVISIONS" OF THE YPSILANTI CITY CODE, BY AMENDING SECTION 1-14 "ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE CODE" TO INCLUDE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 17 INSPECTION AND CONTROL OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS TO ALLOW FOR THREE YEAR CERTIFICATES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND CALCULATE HOW CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED; AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 71 "ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS BUREAU", SECTION 71-2 "DEFINITIONS", TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR AUTHORIZED LOCAL OFFICIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO ISSUE BLIGHT VIOLATIONS." Be officially closed.**

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| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>CARRIED.</b>                   |
| <b>MOVER:</b>  | Council Member Brian Jones-Chance |

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

## 7 RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2022-059, approving the minutes of March 1, 2022.

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2022-059**

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

**THAT the minutes of March 1, 2022 be approved.**

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

- b) Resolution No. 2022-260, denouncing the Russian invasion of the Ukraine.

**Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2022-260**

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

**WHEREAS; on February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a “special military operation” in the Ukraine, and soon after the Russian military launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbor, including sending troops into the country and bombing major cities; and**

**WHEREAS; the unjustified invasion has already caused needless anguish and loss of life. Ukrainian soldiers have been killed or wounded, and thousands of refugees have fled to neighboring countries to escape danger; and**

**WHEREAS; the attack is unprovoked and demonstrates a blatant violation of the Budapest Memorandum, a 1994 agreement between the United States, Russia, and Great Britain; and**

**WHEREAS; President Putin has continued to demonstrate a dangerous disregard of international law and chilling indifference to the unnecessary loss of life, and has indicated that Russia remains a powerful nuclear threat; and**

**WHEREAS; it is vital that we remain united in our condemnation of statements and actions that portend a global nuclear threat.**

**BE IT RESOLVED; THAT the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti join the world community condemning the Russian invasion of the Ukraine and urge the world community to join in the sanctioning of Russia.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; THAT the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti direct the City Clerk to forward this resolution to President Biden and The US House and Senate.**

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

- c) Resolution No. 2022-061, approving the creation of a City Bicentennial Committee and that the City will act as a fiduciary of that committee.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to amend to add a line between the description of the Commission and the open meetings act that "3 members of Council, one from each ward should act as liaison."**

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

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to amend not fewer than 7 and not more that 15 members be nominated by the Mayor or 2 members of City Council, and approve by City Council.**

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

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution as amended**

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

**Whereas, Ypsilanti was founded in 1823 and 2023 will mark the bicentennial of the settlement, and**

**Whereas, Ypsilanti has a rich history, and**

**Whereas, it is right and proper and in the public interest that the history of Ypsilanti, and its bicentennial be remembered, publicized and celebrated, and**

**Whereas, State Law MCL 123.851 authorizes municipal expenditures for centennial celebrations,**

**Now, therefore be it resolved that, the Ypsilanti Bicentennial Commission is hereby established to plan a Ypsilanti Bicentennial Celebration for the City.**

**The Bicentennial Commission shall have not fewer than 7 and not more than 15 members be nominated by the Mayor or 2 members of City Council, and approved by City Council.**

**The Commission members shall include representatives from the City, Charter Township of Ypsilanti, Eastern Michigan University, the Ypsilanti DDA, and the Ypsilanti Visitor's and Convention Bureau (Ypsi Real) and interested members of the community.**

**There should be 3 members of Council, one from each ward, act as a liaison.**

**All meetings of the Commission shall be in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.**

**The Commission shall adopt by-laws, subject to the approval of the City Council.**

**The Commission shall work under the direction of the Ypsilanti City Manager or designee and give monthly reports to City Council.**

**The Commission shall submit a budget for approval by City Council.**

**The Commission, for the City, shall solicit and accept monetary and in-kind donations that will be deposited with the City and accounted for by the City.**

**The City shall budget funds for the Bicentennial that may be released upon order of the City Manager and approved by the Finance Director.**

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

- d) Resolution No. 2022-062, granting a request for the city's residential lot program for property addressed 21 Briggs.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No.2022-2062**

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

**WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti has been successfully selling City owned residential properties under its property disposition program since 2016; and**

**WHEREAS, the program allows residents to build equity in their own neighborhoods and provides tax revenue while eliminating the cost of maintenance for the City; and**

**WHEREAS, the property identified as 21 Briggs meets the qualifications of a side lot to be sold under the property disposition program; and**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the addition of 21 Briggs to the side lot program to be sold per the Property Disposition Policy.**

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

- e) Resolution No. 2022-063, approving the Embracing our Differences Art Installation at Parkridge and Riverside park.

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2022-063**

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

**WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti Arts Commission has reviewed and recommended approval of the Embracing of Differences Art Installation project and provided leadership to help curate local submissions; and**

**WHEREAS, 15 works will be displayed total at Riverside and Parkridge Park beginning in April 2022 and ending in August 2022 with 9 total at Riverside Park and 6 total at Parkridge Park; and**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the Embracing our Differences Art Installation project at Parkridge and Riverside Park between April 2022-August 2022.**

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

**8 BOARD AND COMMISSION - NOMINATIONS**

- a) **Ypsilanti Housing Commission**  
Lakesha Williams  
803 Armstrong Dr.

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

- b) Appointing an Ad hoc Community Benefits Agreement Committee for the proposed 220 N Park Development.

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to suspend the rules.**

**On a voice vote, the motion carried**

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED.</b>                 |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Council Member Annie Somerville |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Council Member Jennifer Symanns |

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to nominate Brian Foley**

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

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to nominate Jack Lark**

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

**Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to nominate Amanda Smith**

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

**Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to nominate Jen Eastridge**

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

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to nominate Tyler Weston**

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| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>DEFEATED.</b>              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>  | Council Member Anthony Morgan |

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

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to nominate Roderick Johnson**

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

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to nominate Marc Arthur**

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

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to nominate Grant Tillman**

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

**Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to nominate Amber Fellows**

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

**9 BOARD AND COMMISSION - COMMUNICATIONS**

**10 BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS**

1. Police Advisory Commission. **Next meeting is March 24th. On the agenda is the annual report of the committee. There will be a presentation.**
2. Human Relations Commission. **Did not meet quorum**
3. Arts Commission. **None**
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. **None**
5. Sustainability Commission. **None**



6. Historic District Commission. **None**
7. Planning Commission. **Meets tomorrow**
8. Zoning Board of Appeals **None**

## 11 LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update **None**
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **Meets in person tomorrow**
3. Urban County **None**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **None**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool **None**

## 12 COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

### Morgan

- Made a comment on the recent resignation. Thanked those who had done great work in the city

### Symanns

- None

### Somerville

- None

### Jones-Chance

- Glad to have nominated someone for the housing commission. Nice to see someone live and is active in housing. Apologized for overlooking the application back in December.

### Brown

- Echoed Mr. Jones-Chance. She will be an asset to the community.

## 13 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

## 14 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1 member from the public spoke

## 15 ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2022-064, adjourning the City Council Meeting.  
Council member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Jennifer Symanns to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 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.