



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:01 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns(6:14), Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, Mayor Nicole Brown, Council Member Evan Sweet, Council Member Roland Tooson, and Council Member Michelle King

ABSENT: Council Member Desirae Simmons

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

The agenda was approved as amended

Change:

- Remove Resolution No. 2023-059 and place it on the April 18, 2023 agenda.
- Remove Ordinance No. 1408 and place it on the April 18, 2023 agenda.

V WORK SESSION 6:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

- a) Water Street development presentation, Derric L. Scott J29:7 Planning and Development Corporation
- b) Water Street development presentation, Renovare Development

VI PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Five members of the public spoke.

VII ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- a) Ordinance 1408, an Ordinance Entitled "Amending Chapter 7 of the Ypsilanti City Code". (Removed and postponed until April 18, 2023)
1. Resolution No. 2023-041, determination
 2. Public Hearing

3. ~~Resolution No. 2023-042, closing the public hearing~~
- b) ~~Ordinance No. 1409 – An Ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to impose an emergency moratorium on issuance of new marihuana permits for sale or dispensing of marihuana in the City of Ypsilanti for 60 days". (Removed and postponed until April 18, 2023)~~
1. ~~Resolution No. 2023-051, determination.~~
 2. ~~Open Public Hearing~~
 3. ~~Resolution No. 2023-052, close the public hearing~~

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Symanns to postpone this ordinance until April 18, 2023. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

- c) Ordinance 1410, an Ordinance Entitled "206-210 N Washington PILOT".
1. Resolution No. 2023-053, determination
 2. Public Hearing **Two members of the public spoke.**
 3. Resolution No. 2023-054, closing the public hearing

**Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-054
IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:**

That the public hearing for an ordinance entitled "City of Ypsilanti Tax Exemption Ordinance – 206 N Washington" be officially closed.

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

**Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-053
IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:**

The certain ordinance entitled: "City of Ypsilanti Tax Exemption Ordinance – 206 N Washington" be adopted on first reading.

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

VIII CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2023-055, approving the Consent Agenda.

**Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-055
RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

That the following items be approved:

- 1. Resolution No. 2023-056, approving the minutes of the March 7, 2023 City Council Meeting.**
- 2. Resolution No. 2023-057, approving the tying of teal ribbons on city trees in the downtown during the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

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

- b)** Resolution No. 2023-056, approving the minutes of March 7, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of March 7, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

- c)** Resolution No. 2023-057, approving the tying of teal ribbons on city trees in the downtown during the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the 1970s saw a significant growth for prevention and awareness of sexual violence across the county, following the general trend of social activism throughout the decade;

WHEREAS, as early as 1976, Take Back the Night marches rallied women in organized protest against rape and sexual assault, these marches protested the violence and fear that women encountered walking the streets at night; and

Whereas, by the late 1990s many advocates began coordinating activities and events throughout the month of April, advancing the idea of a nationally recognized month for sexual violence awareness and prevention activities; and

Whereas, in 2001 April was first observed as Sexual Assault Awareness month; and

Whereas, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) and the Resource Sharing Project (RSP) polled the preferred color for sexual assault awareness and prevention determining the color blue, the teal ribbon was then adopted as a symbol of sexual assault awareness and prevention; and

Whereas, the SafeHouse Center (SHC) was requested teal ribbons be tied to city trees in the downtown, with small cards attached providing statistics to raise awareness in our community at no cost to the city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Council supports this national campaign and approves of teal ribbons being tied to city trees throughout downtown from April 1st - April 30, 2023, to raise awareness of sexual assault.

IX RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2023-058, approving the submission of a grant application for the construction of the Cross Street Bridge.

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-058

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the bridge on Cross Street over the Huron River in the City of Ypsilanti needs superstructure replacement to extend the life of the bridge; and,

Whereas, OHM, consulting engineers for the City of Ypsilanti, completed the inspection of the bridges in the City and prepared inspection reports and other information on the above-mentioned bridge; and,

Whereas, based on the findings and recommendations of OHM, the Director of Public Services recommends that the City make application to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program for superstructure replacement; and,

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has the 50% portion of the project financing available;

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti authorizes the Director of Public Services and OHM to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program with the application seeking financial assistance to perform superstructure replacement on the Cross Street Bridge.

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

- b) Resolution No. 2023-059, giving tribute, honor, respect and appreciation to the City of Ypsilanti, the Ypsilanti Parks Commission, the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League, the late league president William F. Anhut. **(Removed and postponed until April 18, 2023)**
- c) Resolution No, 2023-049, approving a policy to govern the youth Mini-Grants provided by the city. **(Tabled 3-7-23)**

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve 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 Roland Tooson
SECONDER:	Council Member Evan Sweet
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns and Desirae Simmons

- d) Resolution No. 2023-060, approving the appointment of Tobias Lipski as Assist City Attorney.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-060

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that upon the recommendation of John M. Barr, Ypsilanti City Attorney, the appointment of Tobias J. Lipski as an Assistant City Attorney is hereby confirmed and ratified.

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

- e) Resolution No. 2023-061, approving appointments to boards and commissions.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-061

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT, the following residents be appointed to the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions as indicated below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOARD</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>
Brian Jones-Chance 504 Maus Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority	7/1/2026

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

- f) Resolution No. 2023-062, approving the allocation of funds for the operation of the Earth Day Event on April 16, 2023. (added)

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-062

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Annual Earth Day Event will be April 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, members of the Sustainability Commission are requesting \$1,100 to assist in covering expenses of the event; and

WHEREAS, the funds will be used promotion, vendors, and prizes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti allocate \$1,100 to assist in covering costs for the event.

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

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. - Council Member Sweet state they have chosen a date for the Fall Days event at Frog Island. The Commission will also be accepting a Community Service award from Mparks.
5. Sustainability Commission. - None
6. Historic District Commission. None
7. Planning Commission. - Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon stated the commission is moving forward with the site plan review of 599 S Mansfield. Dylan Goings informed the commission about the projects of the Non-Motorized Commission.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals - None

XI LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - None
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
3. Urban County - None
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - Mayor Brown stated the DDA discussed beatification and overall landscaping of the downtown. They are also discussing how to become involved with the Bicentennial, potentially hanging banners from the downtown light poles.
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - None
6. Bicentennial Committee - None

XII COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

- a) **King**
 - 1. None
- b) **Wilcoxon**
 - 1. Thanked DPS Director Wessler for providing a list of projects in the city to provide to Ypsilanti state leadership to earmark funds.
- c) **Sweet**
 - 1. None
- d) **Symanns**
 - 1. Stated it is important for the city to know how the development of Water Street would impact potential Native American artifacts on the site.
 - 2. Thanked DPS for their quick response to the storm through the collection of branches that felled as a result.
- e) **Tooson**
 - 1. None

XIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- 1. Thanked DPS Director Wessler and Planning Department/DDA Director Jacobs for their acquisition of Community Development Block Grant funds.

XIV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XV PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

one member of the public spoke.

XVI REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVII ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-063, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 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.