



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns (7:07), Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, Mayor Nicole Brown (6:10), Council Member Desirae Simmons, Council Member Evan Sweet, and Council Member Roland Tooson

ABSENT: Council Member Michelle King

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

II ROLL CALL

Council Member Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Tooson to excuse the absence of Mayor Brown, Council Member Symmans, and Council Member King

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the absences were excused.

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 submitted

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

One member of the public spoke.

VI PRESENTATIONS

a) Water Street development presentation from Carlisle Wortman Associates Inc. and Resolution 2023-064 to approve the contract.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-064

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

WHEREAS, The City is desirous of developing the Water Street Property; and

WHEREAS, The City has received two development proposals; and

WHEREAS, The City Manager desires professional help in evaluating the proposals and has identified Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc. as a firm well suited to help evaluate the proposals and assist in the development process; and

WHEREAS, Carlisle Wortman has provided an acceptable proposal for the services.

NOW THEREFORE, The City Manager is authorized to enter a contract with Carlisle/ Wortman for professional services to evaluate development proposals for Water Street and other services as needed, and sign the contract, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

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

VII RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2023-065, approving the minutes of the March 21, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-065

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of March 21, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

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

- b) Resolution No. 2023-066, approving Ordinance 1410, an ordinance entitled "206-210 N Washington PILOT". **(Second Reading)**

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-066

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 second and final reading.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Evan Sweet
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon

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

- c) Resolution No. 2023-067, approving an Embracing our Differences art installation in Riverside Park.

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-067

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

The certain contract for art project in City parks with EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES SE MICHIGAN, INC., and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City of Ypsilanti

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

- d) Resolution No. 2023-068, approving an amendment for the Bicentennial Budget.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-068

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, The City of Ypsilanti has created a Bicentennial Commission for the purposes of planning the 2023 Bicentennial celebrations; and

Whereas, the Bicentennial Committee has identified several events that require a budget amendment to receive funds and expend funds; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approve the budget amendment as provided to support the Bicentennial Committee efforts.

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

- e) Resolution 2023-069, approving a request for proposal of 756 and 856 Harriet Street.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-069

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, Unsold properties 756 and 856 Harriet Street were conveyed by Washtenaw County to the City of Ypsilanti; and

WHEREAS, the unfinished foundations on these properties pose a health and safety risk, and the city is responsible for the demolition of these foundations to prepare them for sale in the sidelot program.

Whereas, the City is seeking to release the RFP and acquire qualified bidders for the demolition project and site restoration.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the release of the RFP for 756 and 856 Harriet Street.

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

VIII BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. - Council Member Tooson stated that the Police Advisory Commission hosted a Meet and Greet with potential hires for the city's next Police Chief.
2. Human Relations Commission. - None
3. Arts Commission. - None
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. - None
5. Sustainability Commission. - Council Member Simmons stated that the Commission is preparing for the upcoming Earth Day event and working towards receiving a grant for the creation of resiliency hubs.
6. Historic District Commission. - None
7. Planning Commission. - None
8. Zoning Board of Appeals - None

IX LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - None
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
3. Urban County - None
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - DDA/Planning Department Director Jacobs stated the DDA is working on events planning for the upcoming months.
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool -0 Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon stated the board meets tomorrow and is working on applying for the second round of DNR Grants.
6. Bicentennial Committee - None

X COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

a) Tooson

1. Informed the public that Washtenaw Community College would be holding a free college week this week.

b) Sweet

1. Thanked the Department of Public Services for their work in Ward 3 repairing sidewalks.

c) **Wilcoxon**

1. None

d) **Simmons**

1. Asked how and when the questions regarding the Water Street Development should be provided.
2. Asked how to provide edits to Chapter 7 for the upcoming 1st reading on April 18th.
3. Asked if a discussion could be included on the next agenda regarding Boards and Commissions.
4. Commented residents have contacted Council about the Police Department not being open for people to bring issues to the department.
5. Asked if there were exit interviews involved when a commissioner or board member resigns from a Board or Commission,
6. Stated an intern has reached out who is working on gathering data on the practices of local landlords. It would be a good idea to understand what the baseline of rent is in the city.

XI COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Brought the attention of Council to the commission reports provided in the packet.
2. Stated she will be attending the EMU Regents meeting on April 20th.
3. Reminded Council that the City and EMU event at the Presidents House will be April 25th and start at 5:30 pm.

XII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XIII COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Police Advisory Commission Annual Report
- b) Planning Commission Annual Report

XIV PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Six members of the public spoke

XV REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVI ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-070, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 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.