



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, April 6, 2021  
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 6:10 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Council Member Jennifer Symanns (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Steven Wilcoxon (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Lois Richardson (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Anthony Morgan (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Annie Somerville (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), and Mr. Brian Jones-Chance (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti)

**ABSENT:** None

### I. CALL TO ORDER

**The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M.**

### II. ROLL CALL

### III. AGENDA APPROVAL

**The agenda was approved as submitted. Moved Council Member Symanns, seconded by Mr. Jones-Chance. On a voice vote the motion carried.**

### IV. CLOSED SESSION

A. Closed Session for Employee Evaluations, *MCL 15.268, Section 8(a)*

**The meeting adjourned at 6:23 P.M. Council Member Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mr. Brian Jones Chance.**

**The meeting reconvened at 7:01 P.M. Council Member Symanns moved, seconded by Mr. Jones Chance. On a voice vote the motion carried**

### V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation honoring the 200th anniversary of Greece's Independence.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Three members from the public spoke.

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2021-064, approving the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-064

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

**That the following items be approved:**

1. **Resolution No. 2021-065, approving the minutes of March 16, 2021.**
2. **Resolution No. 2021-066, approving the purchase of Election Equipment.**
3. **Resolution No. 2021-067, approving the display of teal ribbons for sexual assault awareness month in the City of Ypsilanti.**

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

- B. Resolution No. 2021-065, approving the minutes of March 16, 2021.

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

**THAT the minutes of March 16, 2021 be approved.**

- C. Resolution No. 2021-066, approving the purchase of Election Equipment.

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

**Whereas, during the 2020 Election Cycle the City of Ypsilanti was approved for a grant of \$105,969 by the Center of Tech and Civic Life; and**

**Whereas, the city has been awarded an extension until June 30, 2021, to expend the remaining funds of \$37,207.12 and**

**Whereas, in order for the Absentee Voter Count Board to more efficiently process the increase in absentee ballots caused by no**

**reason absentee ballots, the Clerk Department requests to expend the remaining funds to purchase four additional scans in the amount of \$22,180.00, and service maintenance for years six through ten in the amount of \$11,280, for a total of \$33,460.**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approve the purchase of four tabulators and associated maintenance agreements from Hart Intracivic.**

- D. Resolution No. 2021-067, approving the display of teal ribbons for sexual assault awareness month in the City of Ypsilanti.

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

**Whereas, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and**

**WHEREAS, most sexual assaults are not committed by strangers, at least 84% of survivors knew their perpetrator prior to the assault; and**

**Whereas, SafeHouse has requested tying teal ribbons around trees and/or poles in the City of Ypsilanti; and**

**Whereas, SafeHouse provides 1-on-1 Counseling, support groups, legal Advocacy, Shelter, and friend and Family support for sexual assault survivors who live, work, and school, or were assaulted in Washtenaw County; and**

**Whereas, SafeHouse intends to hang ribbons in Depot Town, West Cross, near the water tower, and Michigan Ave, near the library; and**

**Whereas, the ribbon will be placed along with an information sheet, providing information on sexual assault and the contact information for SafeHouse.**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Council supports this campaign and approves of teal ribbons being tied in the specified location from April 1st - April 30, 2021, along with the proposed information sheets.**

## **VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

- A. Resolution No. 2021-068, declaring Juneteenth, June 19th, as a holiday in the City of Ypsilanti.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-068**

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

**Whereas, communities of color, and especially Ypsilanti, Michigan are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and Black Americans continue to face the lingering effects of racism, and**

**Whereas, we must work together to continue to build a just Ypsilanti, free from prejudice, bigotry and racism, and**

**Whereas, Ypsilanti, Michigan has a proud record of fighting bigotry, slavery and racism, including, prior to the Civil War being a part of the underground railway to help slaves to freedom, and sending soldiers, black and white to fight and die for the Union in the Civil War to free the slaves, and passing ordinances to prohibit discrimination, and**

**Whereas, June 19, 1865 marks when the final group of Black Americans understood that they were free, when Union Army General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, where he read General Order #3, stating that all slaves were free, and that former masters and slaves were absolutely equal in personal and property rights. and**  
**Whereas, Juneteenth, June 19, 1865, acting as the date of emancipation, became a long-standing day of celebration, meant to honor Black Americans resilience and the end of slavery, and**  
**Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the City of Ypsilanti to honor and celebrate June 19 of every year as Juneteenth,**

**NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL, that June 19th of every year beginning in the year 2021 and continuing for every year thereafter, in perpetuity, be and the same is hereby declared as JUNETEENTH, an official Ypsilanti City Holiday**

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns

B. Resolution No. 2021-069, declaring a state of emergency in the City of Ypsilanti.

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2021-069**

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

**Whereas, the United States of America, the State of Michigan, the County of Washtenaw and the City of Ypsilanti, and indeed, the world, are in the midst of a medical Covid 19 virus pandemic, and**

**Whereas, the pandemic is a severe threat to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Ypsilanti, and the Covid 19 virus is spread by close physical proximity of persons, and**

**Whereas, the City Council and City boards and commissions have been meeting virtually because of the danger of contracting the Covid 19 virus during in-person meetings, and**

**Whereas, virtual meetings were authorized by Act 254 of the Public Acts of 2020, and**

**Whereas, Act 254 of the Public Acts of 2020 allows virtual meetings in case of a local emergency, and**

**Whereas, Washtenaw County has declared a local, state of emergency, and,**

**Whereas, the Washtenaw County Health Department statistics show that the City of Ypsilanti, zip codes 48197 and 48198 have the highest rates of Covid 19 virus infection in the county, and**

**Whereas, Ypsilanti Mayor Lois Richardson has declared a local state of emergency in the City of Ypsilanti because of the continued Covid 19 virus pandemic risk and danger,**

**NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti does hereby approve and adopt the State of Emergency declared by the Mayor and in accordance with Act 254 of the Public Acts of 2020 determine and order that meetings of Ypsilanti City Council and all boards and commissions shall be virtual until December 31, 2021, or until further action of the Mayor and City Council.**

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

- C. Resolution No. 2021-070, approving an application to MDOT Local Bridge Program for the Factory Street and Leforge Street Bridges.

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-070**

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

**Whereas, the bridges on Factory Street and LeForge Street over the Huron River in the City of Ypsilanti needs preventative maintenance repairs 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 bridges; 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 bridge preventative maintenance; and,**

**Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has available 5% 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 preventative maintenance work on the LeForge Street and Factory Street bridges.**

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

- D. Resolution No. 2021-071, approving an agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League to install a digital scoreboard in Recreation Park.

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-071**

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

**Whereas, the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League wishes to donate and install a digital scoreboard in Recreation Park.; and,**

**Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies, “working with the Little League to continue to provide opportunities for youth baseball, including maintaining and improving the ballfields”, as a priority project for Recreation Park; and,**

**Whereas, the City Attorney has prepared an agreement to allow the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League to donate and install the digital scoreboard;**

**Now therefore be it resolved that that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti authorizes the City Manager to sign the agreement with the Ypsi-Arbor Little League to allow them to install the digital scoreboard.**

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

- E. Resolution No. 2021-072, approving the purchase of a replacement grapple truck from Versalift Midwest.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2021-072

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

**Whereas, the removal of tree limbs and other debris from roadways and other public areas is an essential responsibility of the Department of Public Services; and,**

**Whereas, a grapple truck reduces employee injury and is necessary to remove these tree limbs and other debris safely; and,**

**Whereas, the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti has allocated the funds in the FY 2020-2021 budget for this purchase; and,**

**Whereas, the purchase price of the vehicle is less than the budgeted amount of \$222,000;**

**Now therefore be it resolved that that City Council authorizes the purchase of a replacement grapple truck from Versalift Midwest for a purchase price of \$158,608.00 with any change orders to be approved by the City Manager.**

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

- F. Resolution No. 2021-073, approving the purchase agreement for 206-210 N. Washington.

**Moved By Jones-Chance and supported by Morgan**

**Move to amend section 17 of the purchase agreement by adding “the purchaser may assign to an entity affiliated with Avalon Housing, an affiliated limited dividend housing association (as defined in Act 346 of Public Acts 1966, as amended)”**

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2021-073 (As Amended)

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

**Whereas, 206-210 N Washington Street was foreclosed on by the Washtenaw County Treasurer for nonpayment of property taxes; and**

**Whereas, The City of Ypsilanti purchased the property using its Right of First Refusal from the Country Treasurer in 2019; and**

**WHEREAS, the city accepted a proposal from Avalon Housing in September 2020 to create affordable housing in the city of Ypsilanti; and**

**NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approves entering into an agreement of purchase and sale with Avalon Housing for 206-210 N. Washington pending legal Counsel's final review.**

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

## **IX. BOARD AND COMMISSION - NOMINATIONS**

### **A. Local Development Financing Authority - SMARTZONE**

Caryn Charter - Reappointment (Exp. 6/30/2025)  
EMU - 200 Boone Hall  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

### **B. Sustainability Commission**

Bryan Foley - Reappointment (Exp. 5/1/2024)  
425 Ainsworth Cir  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Keith Michalowski - Reappointment (Exp. 5/1/2024)  
410 Maple  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

### **C. Human Relations Commission**

Richard Smith - New Appointment (Exp. 7/1/2024)  
24 N. Washington  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## **X. LIAISON REPORTS**

1. SEMCOG Update **None**
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **None**
3. Urban County **None**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **Looking to update landscaping and waste management contracts. Installing lights in Depot Town. Signage improvements for street closure.**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool **None**

## **XI. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

### **Mayor Pro-Tem Brown:**

- **When will speed bumps be added for the warmer months**

### **Council Member Symanns**

- **Cornell on Huron, pothole repair work does not appear to be permanent.**



**Mr. Brian Jones-Chance**

- **Violence reduction/ education**
- **Affordable housing**
- **A lot of constituents are getting COVID and dying. Difficult to get an appointment. Unfortunately, many are not wanting to take it.**
- **Thanked Ron for getting on the garbage truck issue at Rec Park.**

**Council Member Wilcoxon**

- **That is a problem for Candy Cane Park.**
- **Issue with a car speeding through the neighborhood. Commended YPD for pulling people over. Glad to see more of a presence.**

**Council Member Morgan**

- **Thanked those for the cleaning**
- **Thanked Fire Department for all the training they do**
- **Received 18 applications**
- **YPAC - Heather Berkovitz was elected Chair. Rescheduled NPR**

**Council Member Somerville**

- **None**

**XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- **Thanked- Clean up at Parkridge, those that cleaned up Parkridge.**
  - **Asking for more trash can at the pavilion. 2 cans at all of the pavilions.**
- **Thanked Council for supporting Juneteenth**
- **Rep Dingell, Rep Donna Lipinski- millions of dollars that should be allocated to Michigan. State Legislator has asked for people to reach out to Republican Legislator.**
- **Began to prepare now for winter warming centers.**

**XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

**XIV. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Resolution No. 2021-074, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 P.M.**

- 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.