



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:01 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, Mayor Nicole Brown, Council Member Desirae Simmons, Council Member Evan Sweet, Council Member Roland Tooson, and Council Member Michelle King

ABSENT: None

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: Ordinance 1408 was removed from Section VIII ORDINANCES FIRST READING, and added as a discussion under Section IX RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

V CLOSED SESSION 6:00 - 6:30 PM

- a) Closed Session to discuss negotiations of a collective bargaining unit - MCL 15.268 (c)

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to adjourn to Closed Session

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 and reconvened at 6:25 pm

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

- b) Resolution No. 2023-071, approving the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) union contract.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-071

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti does hereby approve the IAFF 2022-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement as amended and authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to execute the agreement upon approval by the City Attorney as to form.

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

VI PRESENTATIONS

- a) 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. **(Postponed March 21)**

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-059

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has a rich history of equality from the underground railroad to girls playing baseball, and

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has an extensive system of 95 acres of parks and recreation spaces, and

Whereas, the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League was formed in 1953, one of the first chartered in Michigan, and

Whereas, the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League continued the history of equality in Ypsilanti when league president, William F. Anhut allowed Carolyn King, a 12-year-old girl to try out for and earn a spot on the formerly all boy league team, and

Whereas, the late attorney William F. Anhut and his law firm brought legal action to allow girls to play on Little League teams, and as a result the national rules were changed to allow girls to play on little league teams, and

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission supported the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League in its efforts to allow girls to play little league baseball, and,

Whereas, the Ypsi-Arbor American Little League raised more than \$12,500, including donations of \$10,000 from the family of William F. Anhut and \$1,500 in kind from Deluxe Rental and together with the City of Ypsilanti and 140

volunteers donating hours of work, completely renovated the little league baseball field in Ypsilanti Waterworks Park, and

Whereas, the Bill Anhut Memorial Field in Waterworks Park and other baseball fields in the City of Ypsilanti serve little league teams and players from the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, Pittsfield Township and the City of Ann Arbor, and,

Whereas, the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association recently awarded the Outstanding Park Design Award to the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsi-Arbor Little League for their work on the Bill Anhut Memorial Field in Waterworks Park,

NOW THEREFORE, the Ypsilanti City Council gives 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, his family and all the officials and volunteers who work tirelessly to improve the city parks, make little league baseball a reality and the City of Ypsilanti a wonderful place to live.

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

- b) Proclamation in honor of Worker's Memorial Day - Mayor Brown
- c) Presentation regarding the Day Time Warming Shelter - Dan Kelly, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County

VII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Five members of the public spoke

VIII ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- a) ~~Ordinance 1408, an Ordinance Entitled "Amending Chapter 7 of the Ypsilanti City Code". (Postponed March 21) (Removed and added as a discussion under discussion Section IX)~~
 - 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". **(Postponed March 21)**
 - 1. Resolution No. 2023-051, determination.
 - 2. Open Public Hearing
 - 3. Resolution No. 2023-052, close the public hearing

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve 2023-052

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing for an emergency ordinance entitled “An ordinance to impose a moratorium on issuance of new marihuana permits for sale or dispensing of marihuana in the City of Ypsilanti for 60 days” be officially closed.

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-051

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing for an emergency ordinance entitled “An ordinance to impose a moratorium on issuance of new marihuana permits for sale or dispensing of marihuana in the City of Ypsilanti for 60 days” be officially closed.

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

IX RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2023-072, approving the minutes of April 4, 2023.

Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-072

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of April 4, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

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

- b) Resolution No. 2023-073, approving the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) application for 845 Frederick.

Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2023-073

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE NEW CERTIFICATE FOR CHARLES RICHMOND LOCATED AT 845 FREDERICK ST, YPSILANTI MI

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti established a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone on April 16, 2016 as required under PA 147 of 1992 after a public hearing held on April 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the homeowner Charles Richmond is not delinquent on any taxes related to the home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti and hereby is granted a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone New Facility Exemption for property located at 845 Frederick Street, Ypsilanti MI 48197 for a period of 15 years, beginning December 31, 2023, and ending December 30, 2038, pursuant to the provisions of PA 147 of 1992, as amended.

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

- c) Resolution No. 2023-074, approving MDOT Contract #23-5077 for Huron River Drive.

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-074

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 for the road reconstruction of Huron River Drive; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation has received bids for this project in which the scope of work includes hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavement full-depth reconstruction, concrete sidewalk ramp, concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer, pavement marking work, and all other necessary related work; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to enter into a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the implementation of this project; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti approve MDOT contract # 23-5077 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 Evan Sweet
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King

- d) Resolution No. 2023-075, removing members of the Bicentennial Committee.

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-075

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS; The Bicentennial Committee was created through approval of Resolution No. 2022-061, and

WHEREAS; The Committee mission was to plan and coordinate a series of events in celebration of the City of Ypsilanti Bicentennial, and

WHEREAS; The Committee by resolution was to be not fewer than seven members and not more than fifteen members; and

WHEREAS; Members Arieona Klaus and Jeff Guyton, as a result of time constraints, have not been able to meet their obligations to the Committee, leading to issues of quorum.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED; That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti remove Members Arieona Klaus and Jeff Guyton from the Bicentennial Committee under Council Power provided by Section 9.03 of the City Charter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; That City Council direct the City Clerk to notify Arieona Klaus and Jeff Guyton of their removal.

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

- e) Resolution No. 2023-076, approving appointments to boards and commission. (added 4/14/2023)

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2023-076

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>
Nancy Heine 214 S. Washington St Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Sustainability	5/1/2026
Jesse Miller 93 Oakwood Ypsilanti, MI 48197	AAATA	5/1/2028

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

- f) Resolution No. 2023-077, declaring Saturday, April 22, 2023 Ypsilanti's 200th Founder's Day. (added)

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-077

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti was founded on April 22, 1823 as "Woodruffs Grove" on land belonging to the Anishinaabe people, which includes the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi; and

WHEREAS, the year 2023 marks the City of Ypsilanti's Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti is known as the first settlement in Washtenaw County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti was named after the Greek General Demetrius Ypsilanti, a hero in the Greek War of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti, Michigan has a proud record of abolition prior to the Civil War, being a part of the underground railroad to help free enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, The Asher Aray family, who had been free for generations, were willing to risk their lives to help fugitive slaves as conductors; and

WHEREAS, Over seventy black men from Ypsilanti fought in the Civil War in the 102nd United States Colored Troops Infantry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti was home to Helen McAndrew, who established herself as the first female doctor in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti was home to Mary Ann Starkweather, whose charitable generosity contributed to much of the city's growth; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti was home to Elijah McCoy, who developed 57 patents, including the "Real McCoy" engine lubrication device for railroad and factory engines; and

WHEREAS, in 1849, Ypsilanti was selected to host the location of a State Normal School, which later became Eastern Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, in 1868 Ypsilanti opened the first public library, which was established by six women who chose the name the Ladies' Library Association of Ypsilanti; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti played an important role in the Women's Suffrage Movement; and

WHEREAS, Estelle Downing was the first woman elected to the City Council in 1921, one year after the federal suffrage amendment was ratified; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti boasts one of the largest historic district in Michigan, including Downtown, Depot Town, and West Cross; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti has a proud place in the history of fighting against bigotry in the successful passing of an inclusive Non-Discrimination Ordinance in 1998.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti declare Saturday, April 22, 2023 Ypsilanti's 200th Founder's Day.

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

- g)** Discussion regarding Boards and Commissions.
- h)** Discussion Regarding Chapter 7 of the City Code (Added)

X BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. - Council Member Tooson stated the next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th.
2. Human Relations Commission. - None
3. Arts Commission. - None
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. - Council Member Sweet stated the commission is currently working on plans for the River Day event, and discussing nominations for Mpark Community Service Awards.
5. Sustainability Commission. - Council Member Simmons stated the commission didn't meet, however, they are currently working on EPA grants to establish resiliency hubs. The Commission also held their annual Earth Day event and thanked Commissioner Bayha for all of her work on the event.
6. Historic District Commission. - None
7. Planning Commission. - Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon stated the next meeting will be held tomorrow, April 19, 2023.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals - None

XI LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - None
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
3. Urban County - Mayor Brown stated their next meeting is Friday, April 21st.
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - Director Jacobs stated the DDA is currently reviewing special events applications.
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - None
6. Bicentennial Committee - None

XII COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

a) King

1. Stated double trash week will be held May 1st through 5th.
2. Stated there will be an event this Friday, April 21st at 3011 E Michigan Ave, at the Men Like Us headquarters.

b) Simmons

1. Stated she is interested in holding a "No Mow May", and asked how Council could enact it, and informed all the good that the practice has on pollinators.
2. Stated she will be holding office hours on Founder's Day, April 22nd from ~~4 to 3 pm~~ 4 to 5:30 pm.
3. Asked how it can be determined how the city can assist in funding boards and commissions and other entities that request funding for events.

c) Wilcoxon

1. Stated a grant application has been submitted for the Pen Dam engineering for rehabilitation, after it is removed. Princes are continuing to increase and the Huron River Watershed is looking for additional funding sources. There will be meetings with the engineers to discuss the sediment around the dam, and a video is being created on what the area will look like once the dam is removed.

d) Sweet

1. Stated that residents want to plant a tree in memorial of a resident at one of Ward 3's tot lots.
2. Stated there is excessive speed on River Street and is interested in hearing strategies on how to reduce that.

e) Symanns

1. None

f) Tooson

1. Stated that residents have raised concerns about street lights that were damaged during the ice storm.
2. Parkridge Park cleanup will be held this Saturday, April 22nd.
3. Stated also on Saturday, from 12 through 2pm at 3011 E Michigan Ave there will be a panel he is a part of, that will focus on what young black men have overcome to become successful.

XIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Stated that the Kiwanis Club will be holding a pancake breakfast from 7 am until 1 pm at the Methodist Church, this Saturday, April 22nd.
2. Stated also this Saturday, the Brotherhood Banquet will be held at Eastern Michigan University.
3. Stated that she will be giving the commencement speech this spring for Eastern Michigan University.

XIV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- a) Determine a date to discuss the Community Benefits Ordinance, or how to proceed with 206-210 Washington.

XV COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Request for financial sponsorship for the Juneteenth Celebration.
- b) **Budget Sessions**
 - 1. 1st Reading of the Budget May 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm
 - 2. May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm Discussion and Questions regarding budget with potential for amendments.
 - 3. 2nd Reading of the Budget June 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm
- c) Historic District Commission Annual Report

XVI PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Two members of the public spoke

XVII REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVIII ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-078, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 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.