



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Zoom Meeting

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:00 PM, in the Zoom Meeting, 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 7:03 P.M. (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: Council Member Anthony Morgan

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M.

2 ROLL CALL

Council Member Wilcoxon moved to excuse the absences of Council Member Morgan and Mayor Richardson. Seconded by Mr. Brian Jones-Chance. On a voice vote the motion carried.

3 AGENDA APPROVAL

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

4 CLOSED SESSION - 6:00 - 7:00 PM

- a) Closed Session for Employee Evaluations, MCL 15.268, Section 8(a)

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to adjourn the meeting to enter into a closed session. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 P.M.

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

ABSENT: Lois Richardson and Anthony Morgan

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to reconvene the meeting from a closed session at 6:31 P.M.

On a voice vote the motion carried.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns

The meeting recessed until 7:03 P.M. Mayor Richardson called the meeting back to order.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

One member from the public spoke.

6 PRESENTATIONS

- a) Proclamation for Worker's Memorial Day 2021 - Mayor Richardson

7 CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2021-076, approving the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-076

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

1. **Resolution No. 2021-077, approving the minutes of April 6 and 13, 2021.**
2. **Resolution No. 2021-078, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.**
3. **Resolution No. 2021-079, accepting the City Manager evaluation.**

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

- b) Resolution No. 2021-077, approving the minutes of April 6 and 13, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of April 6 and 13, 2021 be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2021-078, approving appointments to Boards and Commissions.

**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:**

NAME **BOARD**
EXPIRATION
Caryn Charter (Reappointment) LDFA – Smartzone
6/30/2025
EMU – 200 Boone Hall
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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

Keith Michalowski (Reappointment) Sustainability
5/1/2024
514 N Huron
Ypsilanti, Mi 48197

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

- d) Resolution No. 2021-079, accepting the City Manager evaluation.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City Manager reports directly to the City Council and is supervised by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has evaluated City Manager Frances McMullan for her performance over the evaluation period; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Ypsilanti City Council hereby accepts the report on Ms. McMullan by the Evaluation Committee.

8 RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2021-080, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Growing Hope.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2021-080

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City owns the Freight House Plaza, located adjacent to the Ypsilanti Freight House 100 Market Place; and

WHEREAS, Growing Hope has operated a farmers market in the plaza since 2013 and has expressed interest in cooperating with the City to establish a long-term plan to continue the market; and

WHEREAS, the City is interested in cooperating with Growing Hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the city enter the attached Memorandum of Understanding with Growing Hope for use of the Freighthouse Plaza for the Saturday Farmers Market.

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

- b) Resolution No. 2021-081, revoking the previous 2013 OPRA tax exemption for 52 54 56 E. Cross.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2021-081

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti City Council approved a PA 148 of 2000 Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act Abatement for property improvements at 52 54 56 E. Cross in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the 52 54 56 E. Cross had until December 2019 to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, the owners of 52 54 56 E. Cross have requested the city revoke the OPRA due to not being able to complete the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council revoke the previous 2013 OPRA tax exemption for 52 54 56 E. Cross due to the lack of construction of in timeframe previously allotted.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxen

AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Brian Jones-Chance, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Anthony Morgan

- c) Resolution No. 2021-082, revoking the previous 2014 OPRA tax exemption for 6 & 12 S. Washington

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2021-082

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti City Council approved a PA 148 of 2000 Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act Abatement for property improvements at 6 & 12 S. Washington in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the 6 & 12 S. Washington had until December 2018 to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, the owners of 6 & 12 S. Washington are in active violation with the Historic District Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council revoke the previous 2014 OPRA tax exemption for 6 & 12 S. Washington due to the lack of construction of in timeframe previously allotted.

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

9 BOARD AND COMMISSIONS - NOMINATIONS

a) Planning Commission

Michael Simmons - Reappointment (Exp. 5/1/2024)
128 Bell St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Jessica Donnelly -Reappointment (Exp. 5/1/2024)
757 Mildred
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

b) Human Relations Commission

Yvonne Abdoo - New Appointment (Exp. 7/1/2024)
2028 Collegewood Dr.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

c) Zoning Board of Appeals

Georgina Hickey - Reappointment (Exp. 5/1/2024)
1001 Pearl St

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

- d) **Sustainability Commission (added)**
Julia Bayha - Reappointment (Exp. 5/1/2024)
401 W. Michigan Ave. #614
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

10 BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

Wilcoxen

- **Rutherford Pool update, how to provide lesson during COVID. Fundraising is a loss, without a full season of revenue.**
- **Park & Rec - interested in Candy Cane Park. Pickleball court and Gaga Ball. There is a Group interested in doing a community garden, however the proposed location does not have a water source.**
- **Sustainability Commission - Chair & 2 other members were absent.**

Mr. Brian Jones-Chance

- **Planning - meet tomorrow night.**
- **ZBA - Not met yet.**

Symanns

- **ZBA - Not met yet.**

Brown

- **HRC did not have a quorum.**

Somerville

- **None**

11 LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update **None**
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **None**
3. Urban County **vaccine rollout. Fair housing alliance**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **Event sponsorship.**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool

12 COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Somerville

- **None**

Brown

- **Commented on the Derek Chauvin Verdict**
 - **A reminder that bridging racial gaps and promoting social equity is important.**
 - **This is just one of many situations that today they got it right, but there's still a lot of work that needs to be done.**

- **Accountability is important. It is Council's job to work towards creating spaces and opportunities for creating accountability and for those who will serve in these important.**

Symanns

- **Thanked Mayor Pro-Tem for sharing.**
- **Issues with utilities and street repairing on Cornell street between Collegewood and Kingwood street.**
- **Pavement job on Cambridge street between Collegewood and Kingwood street, closer to Collegewood was done poorly.**

Jones-Chance

- **Seconded everything that Mayor Pro-Tem Brown and Mr. Foley said.**
- **Scheduling a small work group on issues of violence in the city.**
- **Small working group with Council Member Somerville and Wilcoxon about affordable housing. Another meeting will be this week.**
- **Question for DPS Director Akers about ruts in Rec Park. They are deep and can stand in them. Can see someone potentially getting hurt. What should be done?**

Wilcoxon

- **Question for DPS Director Akers- Update about sinkhole at 1820 Whittier.**

13 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- **Commented on the Derek Chauvin Verdict**
 - **We did see justice but it is only the beginning.**
 - **Quoted Professor Eddie Glaude that Justice is a practice, not an end.**
 - **The only way to see real change in this country is to be accountable as individuals.**
 - **Mentioned the George Floyd and Policing ACT of 2020 that needs to be voted on.**
 - **There has been 65 people killed by police since the trial began.**
 - **Asked Clerk Hellenga for a resolution on March 4th to declare gun violence a public health crisis in the City of Ypsilanti. There were two homicides within a week in the City of Ypsilanti.**
 - **There is a lot of work to do.**

14 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- **Commented on the Derek Chauvin Verdict**
 - **Thanked Mayor Pro-Tem, Mr. Jones-Chance, and the Mayor for their comments.**
 - **City Manager is committed to pressing forward into looking for solutions for the City of Ypsilanti.**
 - **There is a lot of work that needs to be done, starting locally.**
- **Will have a discussion with the Chief regarding the homicide.**

- **City Manager McMullan agreed that there needs to be improved communication. The issues should be assisted through the hiring of a Communications Director.**

15 COMMUNICATIONS

- a) May 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm - First Reading of the Budget.
- b) May 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm - Second Reading of the Budget.

16 ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2021-083, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Richardson at 8:19 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