



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 2, 2023
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 6:00 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, and Council Member Michelle King

ABSENT: Council Member Roland Tooson

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

II ROLL CALL

Council Member Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Sweet, to excuse the absence of Council Member Tooson.
On a voice vote, the motion carried.

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)

Two members of the public spoke.

VI PRESENTATIONS

a) Management Proposed Budget for Amended Budget FY 22-23 & FY 23-24 - City Manager Frances McMullan, Finance Director/Treasurer Rheagan Basabica, DPS Director Bonnie Wessler, & John Kaczor, Municipal Analytics

VII ORDINANCES FIRST READING

a) Ordinance 1411, An Ordinance entitled, "2023-2024 Tax Levy Ordinance"
1. Resolution No. 2023-079, determination

2. Public Hearing
3. Resolution No. 2023-080, closing the public hearing

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-079

That the proposed ordinance entitled “2023-24 Tax Levy Ordinance”, be approved on First Reading.

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

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2023-080

That the public hearing on the proposed ordinance entitled “2023-24 Tax Levy Ordinance”, be officially closed.

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

- b) Ordinance 1412, An Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and major Organizational Unit for FY 2022-2023 & FY 2023-2024"
1. Resolution No. 2023-081, determination
 2. Public Hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2023-082, close the public hearing

[Amended Budget FY 22-23](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-081

That an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 and 2023-24, be approved on First Reading.

FUND	FUND NAME	FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24		FUND BALANCE END
		FUND BALANCE BEG	REVENUE	EXPENDITURE	REVENUE	EXPENDITURE	
101	General Fund	10,040,450	19,130,814.00	(17,757,378.00)	16,198,634.00	(18,073,200.00)	9,539,320
202	Major Street	3,924,761	2,332,622.00	(3,426,980.00)	1,904,983.00	(2,314,066.00)	2,421,370
203	Local Street	1,702,819	642,960.00	(757,859.00)	653,835.00	(767,792.00)	1,473,963
205	Public Safety	216,173	430,000.00	(430,000.00)	430,000.00	(430,000.00)	216,173
226	Garbage and Rubbish Collection	1,180	1,674,814.00	(1,669,263.00)	1,381,157.00	(1,377,048.00)	10,840
248	West Cross	100,834	144,328.00	(87,353.00)	148,321.00	(87,053.00)	219,077
265	Police Special Revenue	64,874	903.00	(11,265.00)	813.00	(11,265.00)	44,060
275	Depot Town Development	307,738	129,729.00	(88,168.00)	133,178.00	(88,852.00)	393,625
304	2016 GOLT Bonds	429	893,580.00	(893,580.00)	900,895.00	(900,895.00)	429
342	2012 UTGO Refunding Bonds	9,963	32.00	0.00	29.00	0.00	10,024
364	2002B W&S Debt \$485 DWRP	0	-	0.00	-	0.00	0
413	Down Town Authority	338,109	445,087.00	(456,377.00)	421,108.00	(309,987.00)	437,940
414	Capital Improvement	475,460	1,159,552.00	(1,274,432.00)	1,190,590.00	(1,186,014.00)	365,156
415	Economic Development Authority	33,173	36,533.00	0.00	37,567.00	0.00	107,273
469	2003D W&S \$3.5M DWRP	0	337,313.00	(337,313.00)	334,125.00	(334,125.00)	0
471	2003C W&S \$785K DWRP	0	51,875.00	(51,875.00)	50,625.00	(50,625.00)	0
473	2004 A Series DDA Cons \$995K	0	162,090.00	(87,360.00)	83,680.00	(83,680.00)	74,730
474	2004B W&S Sew \$6.3M DWRP	0	390,081.00	(390,081.00)	387,166.00	(387,166.00)	0
479	2007 W&S Rev DWRP \$375K	0	17,044.00	(17,044.00)	21,672.00	(21,672.00)	0
480	2008 W&S Disp. Rev \$435K	0	29,044.00	(29,044.00)	28,419.00	(28,419.00)	0
481	2009 W&S Bonds 7249-01	0	11,601.00	(11,601.00)	11,351.00	(11,351.00)	0
482	2012 W&S Factory Pump	824,706	186,000.00	(186,000.00)	182,500.00	(182,500.00)	824,706
483	2013 Rev Refunding Bond	1,625,141	342,650.00	(342,650.00)	335,750.00	(335,750.00)	1,625,141
485	Water Main DWRP 7320-01	0	26,116.00	(26,116.00)	25,616.00	(25,616.00)	0
486	2016 W&S Rev Refunding Bonds	0	1,262,700.00	(1,262,700.00)	1,275,200.00	(1,275,200.00)	0
495	Sidewalk Improvement	153,615	117,623.00	(147,417.00)	117,361.00	(147,889.00)	93,293
514	Parking Fund	34,683	398,403.00	(349,169.00)	360,032.00	(291,858.00)	152,091
588	Public Transit	7,152	322,863.00	(322,863.00)	332,548.00	(332,548.00)	7,152
641	Motorpool	1,014,315	1,295,220.00	(686,533.00)	1,296,773.00	(1,280,740.00)	1,639,035
677	Worker's Compensation Fund	338,058	144,656.00	(233,313.00)	148,408.00	(244,965.00)	152,844
732	Fire and Police Pension	24,328,857	5,034,440.00	(4,632,820.00)	5,036,218.00	(4,632,820.00)	25,133,875
736	Retiree Benefits	9,147,424	1,245,725.00	(1,331,187.00)	1,238,147.00	(1,331,187.00)	8,968,922
477	2006 GO LTD	1,150,450					1,150,450
Grand Total		55,840,365	38,396,398	(37,297,691)	34,666,701	(36,544,283)	55,061,490

Further, that in accordance with Section 19(2) of Public Act 621 of 1978, also known as the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, parameters are hereby given to allow the City Managers' authority to approve budget transfers between programs within the same fund, and only Council may authorize transfers between funds. Department Heads may transfer funds between accounts within a specific program under their direction with the exception of personnel and capital expenditures, which must be approved by the City Manager.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-082

The Public Hearing for "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 and 2023-24, be officially closed.

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

- c) Ordinance No. 1413 - An 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 180 days".
1. Resolution No. 2023-083, determination.
 2. Open Public Hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2023-084, close the public hearing

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-083

That an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to impose a moratorium on issuance of marihuana permits for sale or dispensing of marihuana in the City of Ypsilanti for 180 days” be approved on first reading.

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-084

That the public hearing for an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to impose a moratorium on issuance of marihuana permits for sale or dispensing of marihuana in the City of Ypsilanti for 180 days” be officially closed.

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

VIII RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2023-085, approving the minutes of April 18, 2023.

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-085

THAT the minutes of April 18, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

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

- b) Resolution No. 2023-086, approving the sponsorship of the Juneteenth Celebration in the amount of \$2,500.

Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-086

Whereas, the Ypsilanti's Annual Juneteenth Celebration will occur on June 17th and 18th located at 107 Ferris; and

Whereas, the Planning Committee has made a request of sponsorship in the amount of \$2,500 for entertainment; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the request to be a sponsor of the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration in the amount of \$2,500.

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

- c) Resolution No. 2023-087, designating "No Mow May" in the City of Ypsilanti and suspending enforcement on grass and weeds for the duration of the month of May.

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Michelle King, to approve Resolution No. 2023-087

Whereas, The City Council of the City of Ypsilanti recognizes that bees and other pollinators are integral to pollination of a wide diversity of native vegetation and food crops;

Whereas, Pollinator populations and water resources are threatened due to habitat loss, pathogens, parasites, and widespread use of pesticides, including neonicotinoids and other toxic chemicals;

Whereas, Research suggests that bees and other pollinators make use of less-intensively maintained lawn spaces;

Whereas, Reduced frequency of mowing has been shown to have direct and indirect benefits to pollinator species, including: availability of more floral resources, less production of emissions from fossil fuel powered equipment, reduced noise from powered equipment, reduced compaction of soil, and associated improved stormwater infiltration;

Whereas, Research suggests that pollinators and other invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and on hollow stems of native plants for cover and insulation from the elements during winter months;

Whereas, Pollinators and floral resources have a positive relationship, in which an increase in pollinator populations can increase the amount of flora and food, and vice versa; and

RESOLVED, That City Council of the City of Ypsilanti directs the City Administrator to encourage property owners to reduce mowing frequency and to maintain lawn heights between 6 and 12 inches on their properties during the month of May;

RESOLVED, That City Council directs the City Administrator to encourage property owners to reduce raking and clean-up of leaves on their properties during the fall months, while preventing leaf build-up in roadways; and

RESOLVED, That City Council directs the City Administrator to encourage property owners to increase diverse native plantings on their properties;

RESOLVED, City Council directs the City Administrator to prepare a communication plan to disseminate via the city's website and social media platforms, to provide information in support of pollinator habitat. And encourage residents to participate in "No Mow May; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; That the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti direct the City Manager not to enforce Chapter 110. Article IV, Section 110-81 (b) during the month of May.

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

IX BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. **Police Advisory Commission** - Chief Moore reported in Council Member Tooson's absence. The Commission reexamined their purpose in their original ordinance. The police department and the human resources department discussed adding members of the commission to the hiring process for future police personnel, and Chief Moore wants the commission to head up a "report card" for the police based on community feedback gathered by the commission.
2. **Human Relations Commission** - No update.
3. **Arts Commission** - No update.
4. **Parks and Recreation Commission** - No update.
5. **Sustainability Commission** - Meeting was cancelled.
6. **Historic District Commission** - No update.
7. **Planning Commission** - A towing company on S Mansfield (south of Michigan Ave) needs a water runoff plan since water empties into state storm sewers and ultimately into the Huron River. The company provided a minimal plan to prevent debris but not liquid hazards (gasoline, antifreeze, etc...) from entering the drains. Mayor Pro Tem Wilcoxon brought up concerns regarding state environmental regulations and giving the business more time to come up with a better plan.
8. **Zoning Board of Appeals** - No update.

X LIAISON REPORTS

1. **SEMCOG Update** - No update.
2. **Washtenaw Area Transportation Study** - Meeting occurred, no update.
3. **Urban County** - No update other than the next meeting is next week.
4. **Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority** - All 15 submissions for assistance from local businesses were approved in small amounts. Funds were allocated upfront as part of the YDDA's effort to be proactive.
5. **Friends of Rutherford Pool** - No update other than the next meeting is tomorrow.
6. **Bicentennial Committee** - The Ypsi 200 history books are being printed. The committee plans to gather community feedback regarding the contents of a time capsule to be reburied. There will likely be funding requests for an August 19th event.

XI COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

1. **Council Member D. Simmons** -
 - The Michigan Alliance for Justice in Climate, a statewide part of the Green New Deal Network, has a relaunch meeting on Thursday May 4th. Their campaign this year focuses on utility justice, including such topics as water, energy, and housing.
 - There will be a community conversation regarding reparations on May 13th from 1-2:30 at the Ypsilanti Library (downtown location). This will be hosted by REDY (Rising for Economic Democracy in Ypsi) and include presentations from Survivors Speak, time for community discussion, and preparing the city for county-level work around reparations.
 - REDY will be hosting a discussion regarding the Community Benefits Ordinance on Sunday June 4th from 12-1:30 at Riverside Park.
2. **Council Member Sweet** -
 - Looking forward to new recycling bins being issued next week.
 - Public thanks to Detective Annette Coppock for her nearly 30 years of service.
3. **Council Member J. Symanns** -
 - Public thanks to Detective Annette Coppock for her nearly 30 years of service.
 - Excited for the new recycling bins and hopes for something similar for trash in the future.
 - Circulate anti-speeding signs in specific neighborhoods.

XII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Parkridge Park cleanup this Saturday 12-4 featuring music and food, hosted by Supreme Felons and Heritage Park Neighborhood Association.
- Thanks to all who attended the City EMU event last week.
- Congratulations to EMU's recent graduates, especially local youth. Honored to be the commencement speaker.
- Community Violence Intervention Summit happened yesterday at WCC with over 275 in attendance. Would like Council to adopt at least one point from the 14-point plan.
- Attending a community conversation with the Detroit Pistons tomorrow, invited Chief Moore. The topic is mental health and law enforcement. There is a lot of

overlap between Detroit, Inkster, and Ypsilanti down the Michigan Avenue corridor.

XIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Inquired with Head of Public Services Bonnie Wessler when speed bumps will be installed.
- There will be a presentation at the May 16th meeting regarding solid waste contracts.
- There will be a work session update regarding Water Street cleanup on June 6th starting at 6 PM.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Congratulations to the mayor for being the EMU commencement speaker and for receiving an honorary doctorate degree.
- Encourage council members to examine the budget and come up with questions.

XIV COMMUNICATIONS

1. 2nd Budget Session - May 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM
2. Final Budget Session - 2nd Reading, June 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM
3. Chapter 7 Work Session - June 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM

XV PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

XVI REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVII ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-088, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or three (3) members of Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 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.