



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6:01 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns (6:02), Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, Mayor Nicole Brown, Council Member Desirae Simmons (6:05), Council Member Evan Sweet (6:10), 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 submitted

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

One member of the public spoke

VI PRESENTATIONS

- a) Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority - Bob Davis

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to agree to review a Request for Proposal created by the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority for trash, recycling, and yard waste services.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
SECONDER:	Council Member Roland Tooson

AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Desirae Simmons, Evan Sweet, Roland Tooson, and Michelle King
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- b) Proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month - Mayor Brown

VII CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2023-089, approving the Consent Agenda.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

1. **Resolution No. 2023-090, approving the minutes of the May 16, 2023 City Council Meeting.**
2. **Resolution No. 2023-091, approving 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". (Second Reading)**

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2023-089

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

- b) Resolution No. 2023-090, approving the minutes of the May 2, 2023 City Council Meeting

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of May 2, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2023-091, approving 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". **(Second Reading)**

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

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 Second and Final Reading.

VIII RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2023-092, approving a State Revolving Fund Contract and Notice with the Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to acquire and construct certain improvements to the wastewater treatment plant, including improvements to the plant's ultraviolet disinfection system, headworks odor control system and influent well, together with all necessary appurtenances and attachments thereto (the "Project"), to serve the City and the Charter Township of Ypsilanti (the "Township"); and

WHEREAS, a contract (the "Contract") has been prepared among the City, the Township and the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (the "Authority") whereby the Authority will issue its bonds (the "Bonds") on behalf of the City and the Township to provide for the financing of costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body has carefully reviewed the Contract and finds that it provides the best means for accomplishing the Project and for providing the needed services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. The Contract is hereby approved and the Mayor and the City Clerk of the City are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Contract for and on behalf of the City; provided, however, that Contract shall not become effective until the expiration of forty-five (45) days after the publication of the attached notice as a display advertisement of at least ¼ page in size in the *Washtenaw Legal News*, a newspaper of general circulation within the City, which manner of publication is deemed by the Governing Body to be the most effective manner of informing the taxpayers and electors of the City of the details of the proposed Contract and the rights of referendum thereunder.

2. The City Clerk is directed to publish the attached notice in the newspaper above designated as soon as possible after the adoption hereof.

3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution be, and the same hereby are repealed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-092

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

- b) Discussion regarding An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and major Organizational Unit for FY 2022-2023 & FY 2023-2024.

- c) Resolution No. 2023-093, authorizing the submission of the Protecting MI Pension Grant Application.

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

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti is a “qualified unit” and operates the Ypsilanti Fire and Police Pension System, created under act 345 of 1937, and

Whereas, the Ypsilanti Fire and Police Pension System has a funded ratio below 60%, and

Whereas, The Protecting MI Pension Program was created to help Michigan’s underfunded municipal pension systems. Under the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget, the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury) was appropriated \$750 million to establish and operate a local unit municipal pension principal payment grant program for qualified retirement systems with a funded ratio below 60%, as defined in the Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act, Public Act 202 of 2017, and

Whereas, the grant application requires a governing body resolution authorizing the chief administrative officer to file a claim,

Now Therefore Be it Resolved, the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti does hereby authorize and direct Frances McMullan, Ypsilanti City Manager, to file a claim for a grant payment under the MI Pension Grant Program.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Michelle King, to approve Resolution No. 2023-093

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

- d) Resolution No. 2023-094, approving the proposal for Construction Engineering for the Huron River Drive Reconstruction.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has been allocated funds by the Michigan Department of Transportation to perform a reconstruction of Huron River Drive, from Cornell to Leforge, inclusive; and,

Whereas, the City engineer OHM has prepared a proposal to provide construction engineering services for the project; and,

Whereas, construction engineering is necessary to begin the project in the 2023 construction season;

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City of Ypsilanti approves the proposal from OHM for construction engineering services for an amount of \$584,895;

THAT the City Manager is authorized to sign this proposal and any change orders may be approved by the City Manager, to facilitate the completion of this work.

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-094

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

- e) Resolution No. 2023-095, approving a three-year contract with Clark, Schaefer, Hackett's for Professional Auditing Services.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti Council under the Ypsilanti City Code requires a change in auditing firm after a five-year continuous annual auditing of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City posted on January 10, 2023, a Requests for Proposals for Professional Services to conduct the annual audit for years ending on June 30, 2023 through June 30, 2027 was posted at www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn; and

WHEREAS, six bids were received and after review and evaluation of proposals, reference checks, and audit fees, the bids submitted by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett are lowest qualified bid to serve and meet the City needs, and it meets the best interest of the City; and

WHEREAS, Clark, Schaefer, Hackett's three-year contract includes audit of the City's comprehensive annual financial report including primary government and component units, audit of the City of Ypsilanti Fire and Police Retirement System including issuance of separate report on the system. Also, if required, compliance audit of the City's federal program in accordance with the Federal Single Audit Act and the Uniform Guidance if needed, required communication with those charged with governance, and advice and assistance with the implementation of new accounting and auditing standards, as applicable to the City; and includes assistance in the preparation of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report submission to Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting; and

NOW BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti City Council approve a three-year contract with Clark, Schaefer, Hackett's in the amount of \$167,100 for Professional Auditing Services beginning with fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, through June 30, 2025

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2023-095

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

f) Resolution No. 2023-096, recognizing the Juneteenth Holiday in the City of Ypsilanti.

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

Whereas, Juneteenth was recognized as a City Holiday, by passage of Resolution No. 2021-068, on April 6, 2021; 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; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL, that June 19th be recognized by the City of Ypsilanti, and display the Juneteenth Flag from a window in Council Chambers viewable from Huron St., through the duration of the month.

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Michelle King, to approve Resolution No. 2023-096

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

g) Resolution No. 2023-097, recognizing PRIDE Month in the City of Ypsilanti.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month" in June of 2000 to commemorate the June 1969 Stonewall riots in Lower Manhattan; and

Whereas, President Barack Obama expanded the commemoration further by declaring June Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month; and

Whereas, Pride Month is not only a time of celebration, it is also an opportunity to peacefully protest and raise political awareness of current issues facing the LGBTQ+ community, and

WHEREAS, much ground has been gained since the 1969 Stonewall Riots, however, injustice and negative attitudes remain that threaten the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ypsilanti has a proud place in the history of LGBTQ+ equality in the successful passing of our Inclusive Non-Discrimination Ordinance in 1998, a historic victory that received national attention and acclaim; and

WHEREAS, while the City of Ypsilanti has a long and proud tradition of being an inclusive community, it recognizes as long as injustice exists it threatens all that has been accomplished.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council of the City of Ypsilanti declare June as "Pride Month" and direct staff to fly the Pride Flag, from a window in Council Chambers viewable from Huron St., through the duration of the month.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-097

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

h) Resolution No. 2023-098, 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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Board</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
<u>Anne Baxter</u>	<u>Art Commission</u>	<u>2/1/2026</u>
<u>1227 Sherman</u>		

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Cathy Thorburn Parks and Recreation Commission 7/1/2026
1212 Sherman
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Devin Shelton Sustainability Commission 5/1/2026
29 E Cross Apt 2A
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-098

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

IX BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. **Police Advisory Commission** - The commission meets next on May 25th. Council is encouraged to ask any potential youth members to apply.
2. **Human Relations Commission** - No update.
3. **Arts Commission** - Update next month now that the Art Commission can meet again.
4. **Parks and Recreation Commission** - May meeting was cancelled due to building issues.
5. **Sustainability Commission** - Not enough members present at the May 8th meeting to have commission elections. Discussed different roles for the commission to play and the nomination and application processes. Discussed having a large Earth Day event every other year instead of annually due to the time and energy involved. Discussed future activities and speakers.
6. **Historic District Commission** - No update.
7. **Planning Commission** - Next meeting is May 17th at the Freighthouse.
8. **Zoning Board of Appeals** - No update.

X LIAISON REPORTS

1. **SEMCOG Update** - No update.
2. **Washtenaw Area Transportation Study** - May meeting was cancelled.
3. **Urban County** - Holli Andrews attended the May meeting in place of the mayor. Holli was asked to send any updates from the meeting.
4. **Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority** - Next meeting is May 18th.
5. **Friends of Rutherford Pool** - The pool was opened on May 8th. Metro Parks and Washtenaw County provided more money for swimming lessons, so summer 2023 lessons are free. Discussed using youth grants, which are available and underutilized, to provide swimsuits and goggles to kids who need them. Working with HR to get fully staffed. More information regarding the cost of resurfacing is forthcoming; need to get quotes from a new company.
6. **Bicentennial Committee** - Next meeting is on May 25th.

XI COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Member Tooson -

- Asked Council's help in finding youth members for Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission.

Council Member King -

- Washtenaw Community College is having its first ever Historically Black Colleges and Universities Day on June 2nd from 9 AM-2 PM. Registration is required.
- Will discuss an upcoming Juneteenth event at the next meeting.

Council Member J. Symanns -

- Last week was National Police Week. Please pay special respect to fallen police officers this week. Thank you, Chief Moore, for your service.
- Discussed new recycling bins and reactions from Ward 2 residents as well as the recycling pickup schedule.

Council Member D. Simmons -

- Discussed reaction to new recycling bins with Ward 3 residents. Net gain in benefits for the city staff and residents. Asked for a solution to pickup scheduling questions.
- No Mow May reaction with Ward 3 residents - possibly the start of a larger movement?

Council Member Sweet -

- None.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon -

- Reaction to the new recycling bins among Ward 2 residents. Concerns of the size and weight for senior citizens, possible service network solutions.
- DNR grant of \$3.78 million awarded for the Peninsular Dam engineering studies leading to deconstruction. Possible commitment for a second round of funding. Thank you Christopher Jacobs and all staff involved in securing the grant. Will keep working on securing further funding sources.
- Concerns about sinkholes forming city wide - Courtland and Washtenaw streets as examples. Proposed HRWC as a resource for green infrastructure.
- Complaint from a resident about a building inspector entering a home unannounced.

XII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Surprised to hear unfavorable reactions from residents regarding the new recycling bins. Discussed what happens with the old red recycling bins.

XIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Thank you for everyone's patience with the street construction.

XIV COMMUNICATIONS

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

XV PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

One member of the public spoke

XVI REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XVII CLOSED SESSION

- a) Closed Session - MCL 15.268 (e) to discuss pending litigation City of Ypsilanti v Greenlee (added)

Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to adjourn to Closed Session at 8:29 pm

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

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to reconvene the meeting at 9:10 pm

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

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, moved to suspend Ordinance 58-123 based off City Attorney advice until the ordinance is amended.

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

XVIII ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-099, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

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

- 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.