



MINUTES

VIRTUAL COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 6:00 PM, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Beth Bashert (6:17 p.m.), Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, Council Member Nicole Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, Council Member Anthony Morgan, and Council Member Annie Somerville

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Wilcoxon, to add discussion regarding murders of black men to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Two people spoke.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a) Public hearing for Ordinance 1359, An Ordinance entitled, "2020-2021 Tax Levy Ordinance"
1. Resolution No. 2020-106, closing the public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the public hearing on the proposed ordinance entitled "2019-2020 Tax Levy Ordinance", be officially closed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2020-106.

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

- b) Public Hearing for Ordinance 1360, An Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and major Organizational Unit for FY 2019-2020"
1. Resolution No. 2020-107, closing the public hearing

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, to approve Resolution No. 2020-107.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

The Public Hearing for "An Ordinance to Amend Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, be officially closed.

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

- c) Public hearing for Ordinance 1361, an ordinance entitled to adopt budget appropriations by department and major organizational unit for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years.
1. Resolution No. 2020-108, closing the public hearing

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the Public Hearing to consider an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Adopt Budget Appropriations by Department and Major Organizational Unit for the Fiscal Years "2020 – 2021 and 2021 - 2022", be officially closed.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2020-108.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxen
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2020-109, approving the Consent Agenda.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

1. Resolution No. 2020-110, approving the minutes of May 5, 2020.
2. Resolution No. 2020-111, approving amendment to the application for the Local Bridge Improvement Program for Forest Avenue.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxen moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2020-109.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxen
SECONDER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxen, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- b) Resolution No. 2020-110, approving the minutes for May 5, 2020.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of May 19, 2020 be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2020-111, approving an amendment to application to Local Bridge Program for Forest Ave.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the bridge on Forest Avenue over the Huron River in the City of Ypsilanti has deteriorated over time and rehabilitation work is necessary 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 Council authorize the Director of Public Services and OHM to make application to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program for bridge rehabilitation; and,

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has available 10% 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 seeking financial assistance to perform rehabilitation work on the Forest Avenue bridge.

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2020-112, allocating \$75,000 to Barrier Busters for the purpose of providing emergency funds for rent, mortgage, and utilities to Ypsilanti residents.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the coronavirus outbreak has caused unprecedented unemployment and placed many at risk of being unable to pay for housing and other basic needs; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2020 Ypsilanti City Council approved Resolution No 2020-099 allocating \$75,000 from the Housing Fund (102-7-6900-695-00) for emergency funding for rent, mortgages and utilities for city residents within the 48197 and 48198 zip codes, and directed the City Manager to develop a process for distribution; and

WHEREAS, from research Barriers Busters, a program run by the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) of Washtenaw County was discovered; and

WHEREAS, Barrier Busters is a network where households can receive emergency assistance for housing, utilities, transportation and health emergency needs; and

WHEREAS, before final approval to award funds, Barrier Busters conducts an assessment, connects applicants via an online secured case management system to appropriate agencies based on needs, reviews household demographic information and

explanation of the crisis, and develops a follow up action plan. Review time is typically 1-2 business days, and vendor payment by mailed check occurs within 5-8 business days.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council approves the contract and allocation of \$75,000 to Washtenaw County Barrier Busters Unmet Needs Fund for distribution to Ypsilanti residents for rent, mortgages, utilities, and other emergency funding in response to COVID-19 as discussed at the May 5, and May 19, 2020 Council meetings.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti will receive a quarterly report of activities conducted through their contribution to the Barrier Busters Unmet Needs Fund.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2020-112.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

- b) Resolution No. 2020-113A, approving policy on how flags are to be displayed on city property. (added) - Council Members Symanns & Wilcoxon

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City Council desires to update its policy regarding: (1) the display of the United States Flag, the Michigan State Flag, and the City of Ypsilanti Flag at City facilities; and (2) the display of commemorative flags on city property; and

Whereas, in adopting this policy, the City Council declares that the City's flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression of the public, but rather for the display of Federal, State, and City Flags, and any commemorative flag as may be authorized by resolution of the City Council as an expression of the City's official sentiments; and

Whereas, the United States Flag, the Michigan State Flag, and the City of Ypsilanti Flag shall be displayed as required by law and in accordance with this policy; and

Whereas, no other flag shall be placed above the United States Flag; and

Whereas, commemorative flags may be displayed only as authorized by resolution of the City Council and as an expression of the City's official sentiments and as such commemorative flags shall be displayed for a period of time that is reasonable or customary for the subject that is to be commemorated, but no longer than thirty (30) continuous days; and

Whereas, the City will not display a commemorative flag based on a request from a third party, nor will the City use its flagpoles to sponsor the expression of a third party; and

Whereas, flags shall be displayed as follows: The United States Flag shall be displayed in the first position of honor, the Michigan State Flag shall be placed in the second position of honor, the City of Ypsilanti Flag shall be placed in the third position of honor, and commemorative flags shall be displayed in the fourth position of honor; and

Whereas, if all flags are displayed on one flagpole, the order from top to bottom shall be: the United States Flag, the Michigan State Flag, the City of Ypsilanti Flag, and then commemorative flags.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the City of Ypsilanti adopt this as its policy on the display of flags on city property.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2020-113A.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
SECONDER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, and Annie Somerville
NAYS:	Lois Richardson and Anthony Morgan

c) Resolution No. 2020-113, declaring June as 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 through the duration of the month.

Council Member Wilcoxon made a friendly amendment to add 2020 to the resolution.

Council Member Somerville accepted the friendly amendment.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2020-113 as amended.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
SECONDER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
AYES:	Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, and Annie Somerville

NAYS: Lois Richardson and Anthony Morgan

- d) Discussion/Amendments to Fiscal Year 19-20 Budget & Fiscal Years 20-21 & 21-22 Budgets.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to require the budget to be balanced for FY 20-21 and 21-22.

RESULT: CARRIED.
MOVER: Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
SECONDER: Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES: Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to Call the Question on the amendment.

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to remove the social worker and communications officer from the budget.

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to rescind the amendment removing the social worker and communications officer.

RESULT: CARRIED.
MOVER: Council Member Jennifer Symanns
SECONDER: Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
AYES: Beth Bashert, Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to extend the meeting until 11:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m. and reconvened at 10 p.m. for a brief recess.

- e) Discussion regarding potential road closures for expanded bar/restaurant capacity. - Council Members Brown & Somerville
- f) **Discussion regarding the murders of black men. (added)**

VIII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Somerville

- Residents on Maple and Oak have asked for No Through Traffic signs.

Symanns

- No WATS meeting this month.

Wilcoxon

- Rutherford pool construction resumed. Opening date is unclear.
- Penn dam funding is still on hold from the Department of Natural Resources
- Commission meeting attendance is an issue.
- Dam breach at Sanford Dam

Richardson

- Shootings at New Parkridge
- Asked Housing Commission to hire local, black attorneys.

Brown

- Resident has been having tree and rental inspection issues.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Bashert made a statement about misrepresentation.

a) NOMINATIONS - (added 5/18/2020)

Sustainability

Emily Drennen (Exp. 5/1/2023)

Re-appointment

309 Middle

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Nancy Heine (Exp. 5/1/2023)

Re-appointment

214 S Washington

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Christian Cannon (Exp. 5/1/2023)

Re-appointment

418 Burton Ct.

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Human Relations Commission

Ka'Ron Gaines (Exp. 5/1/2023)
Re-appointment
833 Armstrong
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Planning Commission

Heidi Jugenitz (Exp 5/1/2023)
Re-appointment
35 Photo
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Zoning Board of Appeals

Jake Albers (Exp. 5/1/2023)
Re-appointment
1533 Collegewood
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Council Member Somerville requested attendance records for the last one-two years.

X. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- a) Discussion regarding potential cancellation of Special Events and Parades as a result of COVID-19

City Manager McMullan will send out a press release cancelling festivals and parades.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2020-114, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 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.