



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, July 2, 2019
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Beth Bashert, Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Nicole Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, Council Member Anthony Morgan, and Council Member Annie Somerville

ABSENT: Council Member Steven Wilcoxon

I CALL TO ORDER

II ROLL CALL

III INVOCATION

IV 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.

V AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Bashert requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Jennifer Symanns moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Anthony Morgan.

Council Member Somerville moved to move a resident from the non-resident boards and commissions approval. The agenda was approved as amended.

VI CLOSED SESSION

- a) Closed Session to discuss pending litigation - *OMA 15.268(e)*

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to move to a closed session.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns

AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Nicole Brown, Beth Bashert, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, and Annie Somerville
ABSENT:	Steven Wilcoxon

VII INTRODUCTIONS

City Manager McMullan, City Clerk Andrew Hellenga, Finance Director Rheagan Basabica, Economic Director Joe Meyers, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, Interim Public Services Director Brad Holman, City Manager John Barr, and Assistant to the City Manager Ryan Hunter

VIII PRESENTATIONS

- a) Presentation of the GFOA Budgetary Award - Rheagan Basabica

Mayor Bashert commended the Finance Department for the many awards they have earned for the City.

IX PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Srikar Chiravuri, 301 W Michigan, represented the Cream Inc, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. They are collaborating with the Ypsilanti Police Department to host a firearm buyback to get guns out the hands of teenagers. They are also working with the 14 District Courts for an amnesty day for nonviolent offenders. Cream Inc is also in the process of creating neighborhood watch coalitions to bridge the gap between law enforcement and residents.
2. Jeff Moore, 1501 Gregory, wanted to address the building and safety inspections for rental properties. City inspections are too rigged and Section 8 inspections should trump city inspections. The sidewalk repair costs and inspection fees are too burdensome for older city residents.

X ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- a) *Ordinance No. 1339* - An Ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to amend Ypsilanti City Code, Chapter 7, Medical Marijuana, to allow for the Transfer of Local Permits for Medical Marijuana"
1. Resolution No. 2019-126, determination
 2. Open public hearing
 3. Resolution No. 2019-127, close public hearing

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-126.

City Attorney Barr explained the purpose of the ordinance. Council Member Morgan asked if the state handles the requirements for permit transfers and if the process is similar to liquor licenses. Mr. Barr responded that the state handles the requirements and the process is similar, but not the same as, handling liquor licenses.

Mayor Bashert opened the floor for public comment.

1. Darrel Stavros, 19 N Hamilton, stated that he is in support of this ordinance. The state is very stringent on background checks. He supports the transfer to have security for the businesses and their employees.
2. Adam Tasselmyer, 124 W Michigan, stated that he also in support of the ordinance to protect the business and his employees if he did eventually sell his business.

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-127.

Council Member Morgan stated that he would be in full support if the transfer policy promotes and provides equity within the city. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson agreed with Mr. Morgan's comment. Council Member Somerville stated that the state's requirements are substantial enough to allow for permit transfers, and there are opportunities for equity for women and people of color within the recreation and medical marijuana industry. Mayor Bashert stated that she views this as a pro-business policy to support the existing businesses. Ms. Richardson asked how much revenue these businesses have brought into the city. Council Member Symanns stated that there have been significant improvements to the buildings these businesses occupy. Planner Wessler stated that that information is not typically gathered; however, a few businesses have taken over challenged properties and restored them to a functional state.

Ms. Bashert asked what the current price of a license. Clerk Hellenga responded that the license used to cost \$2,500 and \$1,500 to renew and now it is \$5,000 to renew. Mr. Morgan stated that additional marijuana does not make the city better. Council Member Brown asked for clarification about the state versus local transfer process. Ms. Wessler responded that the state would have to approve any transfer before the city could approve a transfer. Mr. Barr added that an approved transfer by the state must still receive a local permit. City Manager McMullan asked if a current permit owner was denied a state license would they be able to transfer locally. Mr. Barr responded that they would not be permitted to transfer.

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

XI CONSENT AGENDA

XII RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2019-145, approval of non-residents to Boards and Commissions.

Council Member Morgan asked how many people from Ann Arbor are on the YDDA. Mayor Bashert stated that there are two more from Ann Arbor who are business owners in the YDDA.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-145A.

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

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-145B

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

- b) Resolution No. 2019-146, approving the minutes of June 4, June 11, and June 18.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-146.

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

- c) Resolution No. 2019-147, approving the sponsorship of the 2019 Heritage Festival in the amount of \$2,500.

Council Member Brown asked what the policy regarding youth attendance is this year. Mayor Bashert responded that there is not currently an affordable way to allow youth to attend without supervision. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that she cannot support sponsorship if youth are not allowed without an adult. Council Member Morgan asked if the festival closes at 10 pm. Scott Heddle, Director of the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, stated that the park will be closed to vendors at 8:00 p.m. and the River Theater Beer Garden will be open until midnight. Mr. Morgan asked if they would still be willing to hold the festival without sponsorship. Mr. Heddle responded that this is a request to sponsor a group from Benin and

Togo, including politicians and performers. Ms. Brown asked for a friendly amendment to clarify that the funds will be used for World Helpers International.

Mr. Morgan asked Mr. Heddle how much the youth restriction affects the festival. Mr. Heddle responded that there is not a good point of comparison and not an uncommon restriction; he hopes that as the festival grows they will be able to remove the restriction. He also stated that a community leader could take responsibility for a group of youths. Ms. Richardson stated that she supports Ypsilanti's youth. Ms. Brown asked for more background information about the people coming and the organization coordinating the guests.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2019-147.

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

- d) Resolution No. 2019-148, approving the Heritage Festival in the amount of \$3,000.

Council Member Somerville asked if Council usually sponsors Parkridgefest to the extent. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that Parkridgefest is mostly self-sufficient through fundraising. Ms. Richardson asked where the money would come from. City Manager McMullan responded that these funds were not allocated and would have to be found. Mayor Bashert suggested that future budgets should account for these sponsorships in the future. Mr. Heddle stated that the festival has an enabling ordinance and the additional security has increased costs. The sponsorship is used to defer DPS and police costs. Ms. Richardson stated that she would like to see the Heritage Festival Ordinance brought before council. Council Member Morgan asked if the Heritage Festival committee reflects the community. Mr. Heddle responded that there are minority members.

Mayor Bashert stated that council has lost patience about the youth not being invited. Future sponsorship conversations may not have positive outcomes if the youth are excluded.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-148

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

- e) Resolution No. 2019-149, approving an increase in hourly pay for election inspectors and chairs.

Clerk Hellenga stated that these increases were budgeted for to ensure that the upcoming 2020 elections run smoothly. Council Member Morgan asked if these were comparable wages to other jurisdictions. Mr. Hellenga replied that these increases are competitive with the larger jurisdictions in the county, in the past, we have lost inspectors to other jurisdictions.

Council Member Somerville stated that election day as an inspector is a long day and is not sure that the pay is enough. Ms. Richardson agreed she does not think it is enough.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-0149.

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

- f) Resolution No. 2019-150, approving Michigan Department of Transportation Contract No. 19-5231 for 2019 Major Street Resurfacing Project

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2019-150.

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

- g) Resolution No. 2019-151, approving the purchase of Doheny's Vactor Truck.

Council Member Morgan commented that it would be nice to purchase something new to support the city and city workers. Council Member Symanns asked City Manager McMullan if she thought it should be purchased now or deferred to the next fiscal year. She responded that it was added to the budget after the Interim Public Services Director Holman explained the importance of the vactor truck during budget discussions; it will allow the department to run more efficiently and avoid additional maintenance costs. Mayor Bashert asked if they looked at alternative fuel and asked for all future specs include alternative fuel options. John Sherwood stated that in this case, biodiesel would not be a good option, but there are other projects that would benefit from alternative fuels.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson, to approve Resolution No. 2019-151.

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

- h) Resolution No. 2019-152, supporting the Summer Without Any Guns initiative and creation of SWAG houses as safe spaces.

Council Member Morgan provided an overview of the SWAG initiative and resources available. Mr. Morgan stated that this initiative came from personal experience with gun violence as a teenager during the summer. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that she thinks it is a great initiative, but Y-Town often refers to Ypsilanti Township. Council Member Brown asked how these houses are vetted. Mr. Morgan responded that he is working with spaces that are already safe spaces, like Ozone House and Parkridge Community Center. Mayor Bashert thanked Mr. Morgan for his work on this initiative.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Nicole Brown, to approve Resolution No. 2019-152.

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

XIII LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - SEMCOG had its General Assembly Meeting last Thursday. They elected a new president and committee members. On August 15th, SEMCOG will sponsor A Day in the Park. Details to follow.
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - Printed 2045 Long-range Plan is available.
3. Urban County - none.
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - The Downtown Ambassador Program starts next week. The youth are paid through Youthzone from Ozone House and DDA is paying for a supervisor. It is a pilot program, but they are hoping to make it a long-term plan.
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - They are sending out an RFP for the Bath House.
6. Housing Equity Leadership Team - none.

XIV COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Brown

- She asked for a proclamation for her friend Tiran Marion Burrell for his service to EMU and Ypsilanti.

Symanns

- She stated that there have been complaints about the boiler, power plant, and construction happening over at EMU at night. She will reach out to EMU and ask them to comply with the noise ordinance as a courtesy.
- She stated that there is a desire to have traffic controls on Collegewood, especially the 1300 block heading eastward.

Morgan

- He stated that some constituents have asked if they can get the leaves in the gutter cleaned up along Adams between Washtenaw and Pearl that are still around from the autumn.
- He met with Ward 3 residents with Council Member Sommerville about the Gilbert mansion and Boys and Girls Club.
- He attended a Police ride along and saw some of the things they do. He said that Officer Gormand to a great job and thanked Cheif DeGiusti and Officer Etsey for setting it up.

Richardson

- She thanked those who attended the Parkridge community meeting. Something must be done about the shootings. She also asked Chief DeGiusti and Zac Fosler to look at the nuisance ordinance. She will set up more meetings in the future.

Somerville

- People are parking on the crosswalks in Depot Town because the signs are faded and signage is not clear.
- Gilbert Mansion community meeting had concerns about 220 N Park and parking spillover from Depot Town, especially when there are events at the Freighthouse.

XV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- 90th-anniversary of the Ypsilanti 4th of July parade, the longest running parade in Michigan is next week.
- Master Plan Visioning Session is coming up next week.

XVI COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- There were two community engagement sessions about two murals last week, about the theme "Challenge everything, create anything." The goal is to have something by the end of summer with a grand opening in September. They are working with the City Attorney and Mayor to draft and arts ordinance and commission.
- City staff t-shirts are available for council to wear in the parade.
- Labor negotiations with fire are ongoing. The next meeting is on July 23rd.

- There is an upcoming staff/employee outing event, date to be determined.
- IT migration is in the works, with a possible RFP coming up.
- The solid waste contract expires in September. Staff is reviewing the bids, with the next contract to begin in September.
- Fire is actively recruiting firefighters due to recent retirements. Police just released another trainee.
- Heritage Festival was funded through fee waivers in the past.
- There is a forthcoming document for some possible actions that can be taken to address the Parkridge shootings. There has been increased collaboration between the housing commission and the police department to cite trespassers and will initiate a vehicle permit program, among other programs. Community Action Team is a collaboration with the County and EMU that has also been working on this issue.

XVII COMMUNICATIONS

a) Nominations

Zoning Board of Appeals

Jared Talaga **(Re-appointment/Planning Commission Member)**
329 Worden
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Downtown Development Authority

Yolandia Portis **(Re-appointment)**
8763 Trillium
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dangerous Buildings Officer

Kari Burton **(New Appointment)**
102 Spring St Apt #1
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Parks and Recreation Commission

Julia Collins **(New Appointment)**
206 Oak Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

XVIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Kari Burton, 102 Spring, wanted to applaud Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson for the meeting last night. Community involvement begins with community. She wanted someone to come forward with a real plan of action.

XIX REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XX ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2019-153, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.