



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, July 11, 2023
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:07 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Mayor Nicole Brown, Council Member Desirae Simmons, Council Member Evan Sweet, Council Member Roland Tooson, and Council Member Michelle King

ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Wilcoxon

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm

II ROLL CALL

Council Member Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Tooson to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro-Tem Wilcoxon.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the absence was excused.

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

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to adjourn to closed session at 6:09 pm

Council Member Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Tooson to reconvene the meeting at 6:37 pm

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

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

VI PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Two members of the public spoke

VII PRESENTATIONS

- a) Say Yes to Seniors - Monica Prince and Bruce

VIII ORDINANCES FIRST READING

- a) Ordinance No. 1414 - An Ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to Repeal City Code Section 58-123 of the Ypsilanti City Code".
1. Resolution No. 2023-116, determination.
 2. Open Public Hearing **None**
 3. Resolution No. 2023-117, close the public hearing

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-117

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

That the public hearing for an ordinance entitled " An ordinance to Repeal City Code Section 58-123" be officially closed.

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

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No 2023-116

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

The certain ordinance entitled " An ordinance to Repeal City Code Section 58-123" be adopted on first reading.

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

- b) Ordinance No. 1415 - An Ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(a) of the Code of Ordinances to adjust sewage disposal rates.
1. Resolution No. 2023-118, determination.
 2. Open Public Hearing **None**
 3. Resolution No. 2023-119, close the public hearing

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-119

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT a public hearing on an Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(a) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ypsilanti, to adjust sewage disposal rates be officially closed.

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

Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-118

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT an Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(a) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ypsilanti, to adjust sewage disposal rates approved on First Reading.

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

- c) Ordinance No. 1416 - An Ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to adjust water service rates.

1. Resolution No. 2023-120, determination.
2. Open Public Hearing **None**
3. Resolution No. 2023-121, close the public hearing

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-121

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That a public hearing on an Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase water rates within the City of Ypsilantibe officially closed.

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

Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-120

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That an Ordinance to amend Chapter 106, Article V, Section 106-454(b) of the Code of Ordinances to increase water rates within the City of Ypsilanti be approved on First Reading.

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

IX RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2023-122, approving the minutes of the June 20, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Evan Sweet, to approve Resolution No. 2023-122

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of June 20, 2023 City Council Meeting be approved.

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

- b) Resolution No. 2023-123, approving appointments to boards and commissions.

Council Member Michelle King moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-123

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>
Ben Conner Barrie 1111 Westmoorland Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Parks and Recreation	7/1/2026
Lola Malmer Youth Member	Parks and Recreation	7/1/2024
Jake Albers 1533 Collegewood Ypsilanti, MI 48197	ZBA	5/1/2026
Hannah McCready 411 N Huron St Ypsilanti, MI 48197	HDC	12/31/2026

**John Vanbolt
516 N River
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

HDC

12/31/2023

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

- c) Resolution No. 2023-124, awarding the bid for the Parkridge Park Softball Field Renovations.

**Council Member Roland Tooson moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2023-124
RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

Whereas, funding has been for the renovation of the softball field in Parkridge Park in the City of Ypsilanti; and,

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has solicited sealed bids for the project; and,

Whereas, Premier Group Associates is the lowest qualified bidder and is being recommended by the City’s engineering consultant for the anticipated scope of this project.

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City of Ypsilanti awards the Parkridge Park Softball Field Renovation contract to Premier Group Associates.

THAT the City Manager is authorized to sign this contract, subject to review by the City Attorney and any change orders are subject to review and approval by the City Manager to facilitate the completion of this work.

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

- d) Resolution No. 2023-125, approving construction engineering proposal with OHM for the Frog Island Lot.

**Council Member Evan Sweet moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-125
RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

Whereas, funding has been programmed for accessibility improvements in the north end of Frog Island Park in the City of Ypsilanti; and,

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

Whereas, design engineering is necessary prior to bidding;

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City of Ypsilanti approves the proposal from OHM for design engineering services for an amount of \$49,850

AND FURTHER THAT any change orders may be approved by the City Manager, to facilitate the completion of this work.

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

- e) Resolution No. 2023-126, approving a contract to install an elevator at City Hall.

Council Member Desirae Simmons moved, seconded by Council Member Michelle King, to approve Resolution No. 2023-126

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, funding has been programmed in the capital improvement fund for elevator modernization in City Hall in the City of Ypsilanti; and,

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti has solicited sealed bids for the project; and,

Whereas, Schindler Elevator Corporation is the lowest qualified bidder and is being recommended by the City’s engineering consultant, Lerch Bates, for this project.

Now therefore be it resolved that that the City of Ypsilanti awards the Elevator Modernization contract to Schindler Elevator Corporation for the bid amount of \$435,927.

THAT the City Manager authorized to sign this contract, subject to review by the City Attorney, and any change orders are subject to review and approval by the City Manager to facilitate the completion of this work.

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

- f) Resolution No. 2023-127, approving the 2023-2024 Property and Liability Insurance Renewal.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Roland Tooson, to approve Resolution No. 2023-127

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT, the premium for the Property and Liability insurance renewal for the City of Ypsilanti effective August 1, 2023-2024 with the Michigan Municipal

League (MML) Liability and Property Pool be approved in the amount of \$414,103.00 be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Manager is authorized to sign and approve payment of the invoice.

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

- g) Discussion regarding boards and commissions.

The consensus of Council was to move forward with the stated plan

- h) Discussion regarding employee evaluations.

The consensus of Council was to bring forward suggestions for the tool to the July 25th meeting.

X BOARD AND COMMISSION - COMMUNICATIONS

XI BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. - None
2. Human Relations Commission. - None
3. Arts Commission. - None
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. Council Member Sweet stated the commission is continuing to work on Fall River Day's and review the potential to further prohibit the use of tobacco in tot lots.
5. Sustainability Commission. - None
6. Historic District Commission. - None
7. Planning Commission. - None
8. Zoning Board of Appeals - None

XII LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - None
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - None
3. Urban County - None
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - None
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - Council Member Sweet stated the pool has secured funding from the state for the resurfacing of the pool.
6. Bicentennial Committee - Mayor Brown stated the opening of the time capsule on the 4th was a great event, and the Bicentennial Book will be available at the Whittaker Library.

XIII COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

a) **Tooson**

1. Sent condolences to the families that have lost loved ones as a result of the recent violence.
2. He and Mike Tubbs will be holding a field day at Ford Lake Park, he hopes to hold a similar event in the City.

King

1. Enjoyed the 4th of July Parade, but asked that when City Council is participating in a public event that everyone is on the same page.
2. She asked about traffic calming strategies and noise issues in the park.
3. Provided condolences for those lives lost during the recent violence occurring in and around the city.

Symanns

1. Stressed that when providing non-motorized paths include a buffer to separate them from vehicles for greater safety.
2. In reference to the recent noise complaints, there seem to be a tendency for events to surpass the timeframe of the permit.

Simmons

1. She asked about the status of the thirty minute parking signage on Collegewood.
2. Asked for clarification regarding renters not receiving recycling carts from the landlords who are blaming the city.
3. Downtown businesses have been complaining about issues occurring in the district and mentioned that these scenarios would be assisted if the city had a non-armed response team.

Sweet

1. Stated there have been issues with Depot Town businesses and recycling. he mentioned that recycling will be picked up once a week in the business districts.
2. Thanks DPS, the Fire Department, and Police Department for their presence during the festivities held on the Fourth of July.

XIV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Thanked staff for their assistance on the Fourth and looks forward to burying the new time capsule.

XV COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XVI COMMUNICATIONS

XVII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

XVIII REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XIX ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2023-128, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 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.