



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, October 1, 2019
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Beth Bashert, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

The agenda was approved as submitted.

VI INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Bashert introduced the following people: DPS Director Akers, Economic Development Director Joe Meyers, City Attorney John Barr, Assistant City Attorney Karl Barr, OHM Project Engineer Rachel Jackson, City Clerk Andrew Hellenga.

VII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Beverley James Washington, 968 Monroe, thanked Clerk Hellenga and staff for helping her with DTE.
2. Larry Yapp, 32-42 N Huron, updated Council about the lawsuit. He stated that the problem is not resolved because the unauthorized construction is still there. He asked that Council direct staff to fully and equitably enforce the city ordinances.
3. Reza Rajabi, 110 N Summit, stated that he has had problems with his water heater inspection and the city refuses to give him a certificate of occupancy.
4. Isaac Levine, Ward 2, was displeased with the mayor's decision to not reappoint Amber Fellows to the Human Relations Commission.

5. Brian Geiringer, Ward 1, stated that there was a petition to keep Amber Fellows on the HRC and spoke in favor of her reappointment. He asked that other council members look at the commission appointments.
6. Amber Fellows, Ward 3, was displeased with the mayoral commission appointment process and the mayor's decision to not reappoint her or a former commissioner. She spoke in favor of the HRC resolution to increase transparency in the process.
7. Desirae Simmons, Ward 3, spoke in favor of Amber Fellow's reappointment. She thanked her for her work and involvement in the community. She also thanked Toi Dennis for her work as a commissioner.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated that the city needs to work on the inspection process. Council Member Morgan stated that he would like to see how the city can ease Mr. Rajabi's frustration. Mayor Bashert stated that Mr. Jones-Darling's reappointment was not voted on and his nomination was pulled when he announced that he would not be able to serve his term.

VIII CONSENT AGENDA

IX RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Resolution No. 2019-224, approving Ordinance 1342 entitled, "an ordinance to amend City Code adding Chapter 79, Article I Ypsilanti Arts Commission".
(Second Reading)

Mayor Bashert stated that they will start formally receiving applications in 30 days when the ordinance comes into effect.

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2019-224.

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

- B. Resolution No. 2019-225, awarding the 2019 METRO Ramps Contract to GM & Sons, Inc for the bid amount of \$61,500.

DPS Director Akers provided a brief explanation of the project. Council Member Wilcoxon asked how long it will take to get permits from MDOT. Mr. Akers responded that it will take about eight weeks. Mr. Wilcoxon asked how long the ramps have been on the schedule. Mr. Akers responded that they were recently added because the initially proposed intersection would not be completed in time. He added that in the future, DPS will work with the non-motorized commission to prioritize intersections. Council Member Morgan asked how the bid was chosen. Mr. Akers stated that OHM vets the bids and went with the lower of the two.

Council Member Jennifer Symanns moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2019-225.

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| RESULT: | CARRIED. |
| MOVER: | Council Member Jennifer Symanns |

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

X LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update - none
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study - safety material for walk, ride, bike has been ordered
3. Urban County - none
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority - none
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - received bids yesterday
6. Housing Equity Leadership Team - discussed inclusive housing and Section 8 vouchers.

XI COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Brown

None

Symanns

1. Attended the Michigan Municipal League (MML) conference. There are grants available for charging stations for electric vehicles.

Morgan

1. Met with Gail Wolcoff to revamp the youth and safety collaborative commission.
2. Thanked the City for allowing him to attend the MML conference.
3. Thanked DPS Director Akers for his communication.
4. Thanked Amber Fellows for her service and said that her term should be extended. He believes in transparency in the commissions.

Richardson

1. Attended the MML conference and there was a good session about the arts and is interested in live arts at the transit center.
2. Disappointed that the commissioners were not reappointed because there has been a history of low membership. She spoke in favor of the HRC resolution presented at the previous meeting.

Mayor Bashert stated that several people asked that Toi Dennis not be reappointed. Ms. Bashert stated that Amber Fellows has exhibited inappropriate behavior for a commissioner.

Wilcoxon

1. Thanked Amber Fellows for her service.

Somerville

1. Approached by a resident about noise from a permitted religious event at Riverside Park.
2. Approached about noise on bike night and speeding on Cross street and Depot Town. She asked for enforcement and monitoring on bike night. She thinks that

- the speed limit in Depot Town should be reduced to 10-15 miles.
3. Thinks Emmet and Adams intersection needs to be a four-way stop.
 4. Residents have said that people speed through the stop sign at Adams and Washtenaw.
 5. Residents asked for a crosswalk in front of RAC.
 6. Asked Council to bring up the flyering ban and add kiosks around town.
 7. Resident asked for additional lighting in Frog Island.
 8. Asked Mr. Meyers about the home on Maple.
 9. Hocus Pocus will be shown on October 24th in Frog Island Park.
 10. Meeting with people interested in applying for a state social equity license.
 11. Sent Mr. Meyers information about the point system
 12. Supports transparency and thanked Amber Fellows for her work.
 13. Should be a system to inform visually impaired residents about construction.
The construction on Hamilton and Cross caused an issue for a resident.

XII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Asked council members to develop a point system for social equity. Council Members Somerville, Wilcoxon, and Symanns will work on it and present it to council.
2. October 9th event for elected officials at the Freighthouse.
3. Stated that she was misquoted by Amber Fellows and was offended by her statement.

XIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

XIV COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Washtenaw County Model Pet Acquisition Ordinance

XV PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Amber Fellows, Ward 3, stated that she has spent the last three years trying to bring up the issue of housing affordability. She added that she was glad that the HRC resolution will be on the next agenda.
2. Larry Yapp, 32-42 N Huron, stated that the city is refusing to enforce the city ordinance for unpermitted construction that has created an issue with the city right-of-way.
3. Brian Geringer, Ward 1, stated that there has been a pattern of persons of color not being appointed to boards and commissions. He recommended that there be changes to the mayoral appointment power.
4. Desirae Simmons, Ward 3, thanked Council Members Morgan and Wilcoxon for acknowledging Amber Fellow's work, Mayor Pro-Tem for bringing forward the resolution, and Council Member Somerville for speaking about safety concerns. She spoke in support of Amber Fellows.
5. Srikar Chiravuri, Cream Inc, spoke about their upcoming events, including a press conference debrief about the gun buyback program.

XVI REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Bashert stated that she would be happy to speak with anyone regarding the appointment process. She stated that she is frustrated with the Human Relations Commission for not doing their job.

XVII ADJOURNMENT

- A.** Resolution No. 2019-226, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.