



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

7:00 PM - Tuesday, October 5, 2021
Council Chambers

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Lois Richardson (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Steven Wilcoxon (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Anthony Morgan (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Annie Somerville (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), and Mr. Brian Jones-Chance (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti)

ABSENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

2 ROLL CALL

Council Member Steve Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville to excuse the absence of Council Member Jennifer Symanns. On a voice vote the motion carried.

3 AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Annie Somerville moved, seconded by Council Member Steve Wilcoxon to approve the agenda as written. On a voice vote the motion carried.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

3 members from the public spoke.

5 CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Resolution No. 2021-209, approving the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2021-209.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

That the following items be approved:

1. **Resolution No. 2021-210, approving the minutes of September 21, 2021.**
2. **Resolution No. 2021-211, approving Ordinance 1383, an ordinance to amend Chapter 78, Parks and Public Property of the Ypsilanti City Code of Ordinances. (Second Reading)**

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

- b) Resolution No. 2021-210, approving the minutes of September 21, 2021.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

THAT the minutes of September 21, 2021 be approved.

- c) Resolution No. 2021-211, approving Ordinance 1383, an ordinance to amend Chapter 78, Parks and Public Property of the Ypsilanti City Code of Ordinances. (Second Reading)

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City has an adopted Non-Discrimination Ordinance that reflects the policy goals of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance changes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ypsilanti City Council approve the ordinance entitled Chapter 78 Administrative Update 2021 on Second and Final Reading.

6 RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- a) Resolution No. 2021-212, supporting the passage of SB 0358 of 2021, a bill to repeal the act preempting local regulation.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to approve Resolution No. 2021-212.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission passed a resolution urging City Council to use its resources, such as the city's lobbyist, to advocate for Senate Bill 0358 of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 0358 would repeal Act 389 of 2016 that prohibited the restriction and regulation of auxiliary containers by local governments; and

WHEREAS, plastics bags and other containers have a seriously negative impact on the environment and natural resources, effecting rivers, oceans, forests, lakes, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, microplastics collect in huge ocean garbage patches, the largest of which is referred to as the Great Pacific Garbage patch, which at one time was the size of Texas; and

WHEREAS, as plastics enter the food chain, they can be threatening to human health; and

WHEREAS, in single stream recycling systems plastic bags may become entangled in the machinery, often leading to breakdowns; and

WHEREAS, plastics have the potential to clog sewer systems, further propagating the potential for flooding; and

WHEREAS, as plastics enter landfills, they are either burned or buried, costing local jurisdictions thousands of dollars a year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti implores the Michigan State Senate and House to pass SB 0358, and for the Governor to sign the Bill into Law and allow local governments to create ordinances to prohibit their use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council direct the City Clerk to forward this resolution to Governor Whitmer, the Michigan State House, The Michigan Senate, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, and the City's Lobbyist Kirk Profit.

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon

SECONDER:	Council Member Annie Somerville
AYES:	Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns

- b) Resolution No. 2021-213, approving the request to waive park rental fees for the 2021 YpsiGlow event in the amount of \$2,420.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to amend the resolution and remove the donation of \$1,500.

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

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-2013 As Amended.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti adopted a Special Events Policy, and pursuant to the policy, the City may co-sponsor an event if it is of general interest to the public and advances the City's public image; and

Whereas, this year ypsiGLOW will take place Friday, October 29th in Riverside Park and various additional locations throughout the City; and

Whereas, ypsiGLOW's event organizer is requesting that the City waive fees for the 2021 event and consider a donation; and

WHEREAS, City Council agrees that waiving the fees for the 2021 ypsiGLOW event would be in the general interest of the public and advance the City's public image;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the request to waive park rental fees for the 2021 ypsiGLOW event in the amount of \$2,420.

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

- c) Resolution No. 2021-214, approving the request to be a sponsor of the 2021 Christmas Celebration in the amount of \$10,443.74.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to approve Resolution No. 2021-214.

Mr. Brian Jones-Chance moved to table Resolution No. 2021-214 until November 2nd. Without a second, the motion dies.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City of Ypsilanti adopted a Special Events Policy, and pursuant to the policy, the City may co-sponsor an event if it is of general interest to the public and advances the City's public image; and

Whereas, this year the Christmas Celebration will take place Saturdays December 4th through 18th in Riverside Park; and

Whereas, the Christmas Celebration event organizer is requesting that the City be a co-sponsor of the 2021 concert series; and

WHEREAS, City Council agrees that becoming a co-sponsor of the 2021 Christmas Celebration would be in the general interest of the public and advance the City's public image;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the request to be a sponsor of the 2021 Christmas Celebration in the amount of \$10,443.74.

RESULT:	DEFEATED.
MOVER:	Council Member Anthony Morgan
SECONDER:	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance
AYES:	
NAYS:	Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
ABSENT:	Jennifer Symanns

- d) Resolution No. 2021-215, approving an options agreement with Renovare Development, LLC to develop 220 N. Park.

Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Annie Somerville, to amend Resolution No. 2021-215 by adding reasonable approval of City Council to assignment of development.

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

Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-215 As Amended

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, The City of Ypsilanti owns the 220 N. Park property and is in the process of working with Renovare Development redevelop the site; and

Whereas, Public Engagement Sessions happened on the conceptual site plan in June 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti City Council approved the development concept proposed by Renovare Development and directed staff to enter into negotiations with the developer in July 2021.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ypsilanti City Council approves the Options Agreement with Renovare Development LLC and authorizes the City Manager to sign the agreement.

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

7 BOARD AND COMMISSION - COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission
- A resolution urging City Council to:
 - Urge the proper Washtenaw County authorities to develop a policy for free calls from individuals in Washtenaw County.
 - To establish a city policy to aid and assist individuals with their criminal record expungements
 - To develop a city policy concerning open records for the hiring of prospective police officers for the city of Ypsilanti.
 - A resolution requesting the removal of Commissioner Precious Turman from the Police Advisory Commission.

8 BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. **None**
2. Human Relations Commission. **None**
3. Arts Commission. **None**
4. Parks and Recreation Commission. **None**
5. Sustainability Commission. **Meeting next week**
6. Historic District Commission. **None**
7. Planning Commission. **Meet on 20th**
8. Zoning Board of Appeals **None**

9 LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update **None**
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study **None**
3. Urban County **Meet on 6th**
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority **Meet on 20th**
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool - **Council Member Wilcoxon stated that last Friday he helped hang a donor plaque. He stated there was an issue with the installation of the floor. The company resolved to replace the flooring at their own expense. He discussed issues with the MOU between the City and the Friends group with the board chair/**

10 COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

Brown

- None

Wilcoxon

- Stated he provided residents a progress report regarding tree trimming.
- He stated that he attended MML Conference which was very enjoyable with great information.
- Stated the Penn Dam Committee Town Hall meeting has been postponed until early November.

Morgan

- Stated he will be presenting a ceremonial check, along with the City Manager, to Ypsilanti Community Schools.
- Thanked George Hagenauer for his thoughtful research on the 220 Park Development and Desirae Simmons for her work on the Sustainability Commission.
- Stated he looks forward to discussion regarding redistricting.
- He asked for feedback on investigation of criminal activity.

Brian Jones-Chance

- Stated he would like more robust reporting from the Police Department regarding criminal activity.

Somerville

- Moved to nominate Brian Merlo to the Parks and Recs Commission. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown supported.
- Asked about the process on dedicating a bench in Prospect Park for Former Council Member Murdock and Grace Sweeny.
- Asked for a work session regarding speeding in the city. She added the city should investigate purchasing snowplow equipment that can manage yearly speed bumps.
- Stated that Parkridge Park will be receiving funds from the state to redevelop the softball field.

- **Asked for a presentation regarding plans for the American Rescue Plan Funds.**

11 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- **Thanked John Lawrence for the Jazz Festival and made special mention of the proclamation dedicated to him.**
- **Stated she has received calls from residents regarding ordinance enforcement. She expressed that people are supposed to go to Council when they have issues and asked to hire an ombudsman to staff.**
- **Asked if an inspector allowed to go into backyards if a gate is closed.**

12 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- **Stated the Human Resources Manager Jones is retiring and has interviews in place for her replacement.**
- **Stated an offer has been made for a Communications Director, which was accepted.**
- **Stated staff held interviews for a social worker and an offer was made, however, it was not accepted. She has begun strategizing how best to manage the position.**

13 COMMUNICATIONS

- a) October 19, 2021 City Council Meeting - 6:00 pm Work session with AAATA

14 ADJOURNMENT

- a) Resolution No. 2021-216, adjourning the City Council Meeting.

Council Member Anthon Morgan Moved, seconded by Mr. Brian Jones-Chance to adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM. On a voice vote the motion carried.

- 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.