



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL Meeting

6:30 PM - Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Zoom Meeting

The REGULAR COUNCIL of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 6:30 PM, in the Zoom Meeting, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Mayor Lois Richardson (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti), Council Member Steven Wilcoxon (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), Council Member Jennifer Symanns (Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti) 7:46 PM

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

### II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Brian Jones-Chanced moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan to excuse Council Member Jennifer Symanns and Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Annie Somerville moved to approve the agenda.

Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Wilcoxon to add a 10 minute discussion about Boards and Commissions. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### IV. CLOSED SESSION 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

- A. Closed Session to discuss pending litigation - MCL 15.268 (e) Ypsilanti Art Theatre Corp v the City of Ypsilanti.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Brian Jones-Chance, to move into a closed session at 6:39 PM.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Brian Jones-Chance

<b>AYES:</b>	Steven Wilcoxon, Lois Richardson, Anthony Morgan, Annie Somerville, and Brian Jones-Chance
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jennifer Symanns and Nicole Brown

**Council Member Steve Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan to reconvene the meeting at 7:23 PM. On a voice vote, the motion carried.**

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

## **VI. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Proclamation in honor of Native American Heritage Month - Mayor Richardson

## **VII. ORDINANCES FIRST READING**

- A. ~~Ordinance 1384, An Ordinance to amend Chapter 7 — MARIJUANA of the City Code of Ordinances~~
  1. ~~Resolution No. 2021-246, determination~~
  2. ~~Public Hearing~~
  3. ~~Resolution No. 2021-247, closing the public hearing (Removed)~~

## **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Resolution No. 2021-248, approving the Consent Agenda.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-248.**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**That the following items be approved:**

1. **Resolution No. 2021-249, approving the minutes of November 2, 2021.**
2. **Resolution No. 2021-250, approving appointments to boards and commissions.**
3. **Resolution No. 2021-251, approving the appointment of a delegate and alternate to the Washtenaw County Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA).**

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

- B. Resolution No. 2021-249, approving the minutes of November 2, 2021.

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**THAT the minutes of November 2, 2021 be approved.**

- C. Resolution No. 2021-250, approving appointments to boards and commissions.

**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:**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>BOARD</u></b>
<b><u>Jeff Muir</u></b>	<b><u>Historic District Commission</u></b>
<b><u>12/31/2024</u></b>	
<b><u>422 N River St #4</u></b>	
<b><u>Ypsilanti, MI 48198</u></b>	
<b><u>New Member</u></b>	

- D. Resolution No. 2021-251, approving the appointment of a delegate and alternate to the Washtenaw County Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA).

**The following preamble and resolution were offered by Council Member Steve Wilcoxon and supported by Council Member Anthony Morgan.**

**WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti has been a member of the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority since it formed on September 23rd, 2019; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council has the authority to appoint a delegate as detailed in the WRRMA Articles of Incorporation; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the citizens of the community will be served well by the appointments of DPS Director Ron Akers to the role of WRRMA Delegate and Project Manager Bonnie Wessler to the role of WRRMA Alternate.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that DPS Director Ron Akers is hereby appointed as WRRMA Delegate, and Project Manager Bonnie Wessler is hereby appointed as WRRMA Alternate; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointees shall serve in the role during the next fiscal year or until his/her successor is appointed by this City Council.**

## IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Resolution No. 2021-252, approving the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and survey for implementation of the Art Commission Action Plan and Community and Artists Survey.

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-252.**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**WHEREAS; the Ypsilanti Arts Commission has requested through Resolution No. 2021-06 the implementation of a Community and Artists Survey; and**

**WHEREAS; the Arts Commission has drafted a Request for Qualifications to be released in order to secure a third party for survey implementation; and**

**WHEREAS; the purpose of the survey would be to collect data from the community about the arts to inform the Commission in its role with the City, and share this data with local, state, and national arts organizations, providing insight on the current state of the arts in Ypsilanti; and**

**WHEREAS; the Commission has acquired funding for survey implementation through a Tremaine Foundation Grant.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti direct the City Manager to facilitate the release of the RFQ, and act as Fiduciary for the payment of the selected firm.**

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

- B. Resolution No. 2021-253, approving an agreement between the City of Ypsilanti and the Washtenaw County Prosecutors Office for a marijuana expungement program.

**Council Member Steven Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Anthony Morgan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-253.**

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

**The grant agreement with the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney for \$25,000 for support of the Expungement Program is hereby approved and the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign for and on behalf of the City, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.**

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

- C. Resolution No. 2021-254, approving an extension with Washtenaw County to extend the contract for dispatch services until December 31, 2021.

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-254.**

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

- D. Resolution No. 2021-254A, approving a contract with Washtenaw County to provide dispatch services until June 30, 2022. (added)

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-254A.**

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

- E. Resolution No. 2021-255, approving an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation for a funding commitment for the Huron Pathway Project.

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to approve Resolution No. 2021-255.**

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

- F. Resolution No. 2021-256, approving the 2022 City Council Meeting Schedule.

**Council Member Anthony Morgan moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve Resolution No. 2021-256.**

**Council Member Steve Wilcoxon moved, seconded Council Member Anthony Morgan to make a friendly amendment to move the schedule to move the schedule to May 10th and 24th, July 12th and 26th, and September 13th and 27th.**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**The Ypsilanti City Council will hold Regular Meetings at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at One South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197, for the year 2022 on the following dates:**

<u>January 11</u>	<u>July 12</u>
<u>January 25</u>	<u>July 26</u>
<u>January 27(YPAC)</u>	<u>July 28 (YPAC)</u>
<u>February 1</u>	<u>August 9</u>
<u>February 15</u>	<u>August 23</u>
<u>March 1</u>	<u>September 13</u>
<u>March 15</u>	<u>September 27</u>
<u>April 5</u>	<u>October 4</u>
<u>April 19</u>	<u>October 18</u>
<u>May 10</u>	<u>November 1</u>
<u>May 24</u>	<u>November 15</u>
<u>June 7</u>	<u>December 6</u>
<u>June 21</u>	<u>December 20</u>

**The City of Ypsilanti encourages persons with disabilities to participate and will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signed for the hearing impaired, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) services, and audios of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities upon two (2) days notice to the City. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City by writing or calling the following:**

**City Clerk's Office**  
**One South Huron Street**  
**Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-5420**  
**(734) 483-1100**

**All persons are welcome to attend. Additional information may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office and written comments may be sent to the City Clerk's Office at the above listed address**

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

- G. Resolution No. 2021-257, urging the Michigan State Legislature to approve Senate Bill 705, extending a local jurisdiction's ability to hold meetings virtually until March 31, 2022. (added)

**Council Member Brian Jones-Chance moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxen, to approve Resolution No. 2021-257.**

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:**

**Whereas, starting January 1, 2022 the Ypsilanti City Council and all city board and commissions will be required to begin meeting in person; and**

**Whereas, the daily cases of COVID-19 are raising throughout the state; and**

**WHEREAS, daily rates in Washtenaw County are also continuing to increase, with the majority of cases located in the 48197 and 48198 area codes; and**

**WHEREAS, in order to safely operate, the Ypsilanti City Council wishes to maintain the ability to meet virtually for all city bodies, both elected and appointed; and**

**WHEREAS, Senate Bill 705 would amend the Open Meetings Act to provide local jurisdictions the ability to meet virtually until March 31, 2022;**

**WHEREAS, SB 705 has been referred to Committee on Local Government**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti strongly urge the Michigan State Legislature to approve Senate Bill 705 and for Governor Whitmer to sign the Bill into law.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti direct the City Clerk to provide this approved resolution to the Michigan Senate Committee on Local Government, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House, and Governor Whitmer.**

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

- H. Discussion regarding a Community Benefits Ordinance request for an affordable housing development on Clark Road. (added)

**Direct of Economic Development led the discussion.**

**Council Member Annie Somerville, Council Member Steve Wilcoxen, and Mr. Bria Jones-Chance volunteered to chair the committee. Possible nominations at the next meeting.**

- I. Discussion regarding Boards and Commissions (10 minutes) (added)

Council Member Anthony Morgan led the discussion.

## X. BOARD AND COMMISSION - LIAISON REPORTS

1. Police Advisory Commission. Meeting Thursday
2. Human Relations Commission. None
3. Arts Commission. None
4. Parks and Recreation Commission.
5. Sustainability Commission. Presentation on how to interact with local science teachers and local schools to get students involved with projects within the City. Group of students from UofM setting up resilience hubs.
6. Historic District Commission. None
7. Planning Commission. None
8. Zoning Board of Appeals None

## XI. LIAISON REPORTS

1. SEMCOG Update Meeting coming up
2. Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Meeting tomorrow
3. Urban County None
4. Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority Special meeting to approve applying to 2 Match on Main grants, approved \$20,000 to construction relief grant to West Cross, meeting on Thursday to discuss annual board retreat.
5. Friends of Rutherford Pool None

## XII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

### Symanns

- None.

### Morgan

- Thanked all veterans that have served this country.

### Jones-Chance

- Suggested providing more review of applicants to boards and commissions to ensure that a conflict of interest is not present.

### Somerville

- Stated that any board and commission member would have to abstain from a resolution if they have a conflict of interest.
- Stated she has received several complaints about the scooters in the city.

### Wilcoxon

- Stated he has received complaints that scooters have been left at bicycle rack. He added they are very expensive to ride.



- Stated he received contact by a Ward 1 resident regarding an issue with an alley.
- Stated he is awaiting a report regarding sediment surrounding Pen Dam.
- Informed Council that he met with the director of the HRWC to assist in acquiring funding for dam removal.

### XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- The Mayor read aloud a proclamation regarding veterans day.
- Discussed the many Black civil war veterans buried at Highland Cemetery.
- Stated this morning she received a text regarding a student that passed away during basketball tryouts.
- Stated she would like to work with a group for providing toys for the holidays.

### XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

#### A. 2022 City Holiday Closure Schedule

- Stated she will have staff review the issue with scooters and report back to Council.
- Stated she has been meeting with the Border to Border Trail committee.
- Meeting about the I94 bridge project.
- Stated the city has begun accepting renewal applications for marijuana facilities.

### XV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Election Commission Meeting Dates for Redistricting - December 1st at 9am, December 12th at 1pm, and December 15th at 5 pm.
- B. City Council and all other City Boards and Commissions will return to in-person meetings starting January 1, 2022.
- C. Washtenaw County Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA) Budget and Summary of Activities.

### XVI. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Resolution No. 2021-258, adjourning the City Council Meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 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.