



Resolution No. 2011- 098
May 3, 2011

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have proposed dramatic cuts in revenue sharing, grants and tax credit programs, including fire protection, Historic Preservation, Brownfield Redevelopment, Community Reinvestment, and other state funding to municipalities and school districts, including to the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Public Schools, and

WHEREAS these are just the most recent of many annual cuts over the past two decades, and will reduce the revenues of the City of Ypsilanti by an estimated additional \$680,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the problems of most local governments and schools across the state facing insolvency are caused by matters over which they have no control, including the severe effect of the recession on tax revenues and the intentional diversion of tax dollars by the Governor and Legislature from local government and school budgets to businesses in the form of new tax cuts, and

WHEREAS, the business tax cuts are not contingent upon investment in capital development that would assist in job creation or promote economic growth, and said cuts will severely aggravate the budget deficit of the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, many of the revenue, grant and tax credit provisions proposed for reduction by the Governor and Legislature are used by local governments to promote business development and job creation, and

WHEREAS, education, police and fire protection, roads maintenance, and other basic public services are essential to economic activity and growth and public safety, and cutbacks in those services will severely impair the ability of municipalities and the State of Michigan to attract new businesses, and will thus accelerate financial decline locally and statewide, and

WHEREAS, the budget choices of the Governor and Legislature do not address the real causes of financial difficulties of local governments and school districts, including excessive dependence on property taxes as a revenue source, and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature passed Public Act No. 4 of 2011, providing for appointment by the Governor of Emergency Managers with drastic powers far surpassing those of such managers under previous law, and effectively granting control of local government matters to the Governor through his appointees, and

WHEREAS, the budget choices by the Governor and Michigan Legislature impair the ability of local governments and school districts to meet their financial challenges, and will trigger insolvency and the appointment of Emergency Managers in distressed municipalities and school districts, and

WHEREAS, Emergency Managers are given authority by said Act to cut or drop essential city services, cancel contracts with employees and third party providers of services, cut departments and programs, lay off employees, sell parks, equipment, and other public assets, force consolidation of services with other municipalities, and remove the authority of local elected officials and their professional managers, and

WHEREAS, appointment of an Emergency Manager will impair the ability of the citizenry to provide for their own protection and needs and solve their own problems, will destroy local input, choice, and control, and will amount to taxation without representation, and

WHEREAS, an Emergency Manager does not have the experience and knowledge to understand the specific needs of local communities and their citizens as well as do local elected officials, and

WHEREAS, an Emergency Manager would cost the City of Ypsilanti more than the current cost of our City Manager and City Council, and

WHEREAS, even Emergency Managers will not have sufficient funds to provide basic services because the funds have been diverted to business tax cuts and other uses by the choice of the Governor and the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, it is outrageous to propose a system of government that eliminates duly elected officials, consolidates control in one person, the Governor, and effectively allows the Governor to rule local governments and schools through his appointees, and

WHEREAS, it is even more outrageous that this has been done suddenly and without thorough public debate or a vote of the citizens of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, these choices of the Governor and Legislature are contrary to the cherished traditional American principles of local determination and democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti City Council petitions the Governor and Michigan Legislature to immediately reconsider the destructive effects of their budget choices, and enact solutions that helps municipalities and school districts in overcoming financial challenges rather than causing and severely aggravating those financial problems as under the present state budget proposals, and

THAT the Governor and Michigan Legislature revise the state's outdated and failed tax system to provide relief from the impact of declining property values on local tax revenues and to reduce dependence on property taxes and ensure more stable local revenues, and

THAT the Governor and Michigan Legislature revise the provisions of Public Act No. 4 of 2011 so that the powers of the Emergency Manager are proportionate to the actual needs of each affected municipality or school district, and that the Emergency Financial Manager be required to work with local elected officials and citizens rather than eliminating local representation and control.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Bodary

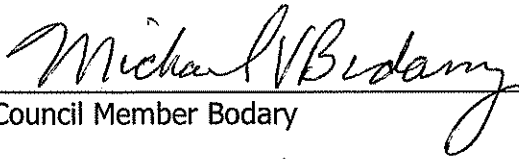
SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Vogt

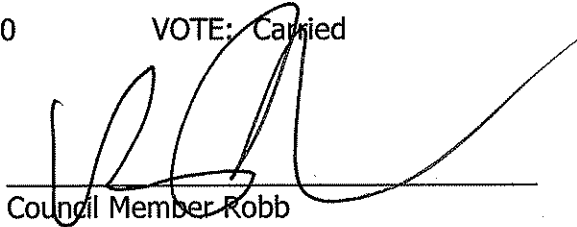
YES: 7

NO: 0

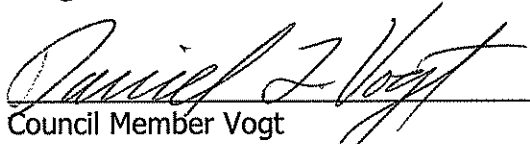
ABSENT: 0

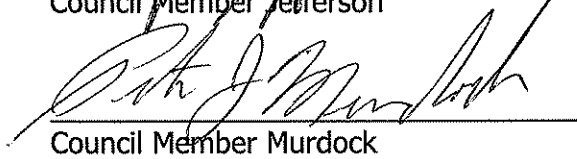
VOTE: Carried

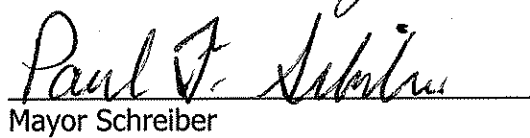

Council Member Bodary


Council Member Robb


Council Member Jefferson


Council Member Vogt


Council Member Murdock


Mayor Schreiber


Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

I do hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution 2011-098 as passed by the Ypsilanti City Council, at their meeting held on May 3, 2011.


Frances McMullan, City Clerk