

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2009
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor George Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey, Councilpersons L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, Charles Teegardin, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons, Larry Trexler and City Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was A.J. Knowles and Doug Stevens.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hollenbeck, second by Councilperson Timmons to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked Councilperson Schafer to report on the Water Sewer Solid Waste Committee meeting in regards to the St. Johns Street Sanitary Sewer Extension project. Councilperson Schafer stated that seventeen bids were received and reviewed by Rowe Professional Services Inc. The Committee recommends awarding the bid to Isabella Corp of Mt. Pleasant, MI which was the low bidder.

A motion was made by Councilperson Schafer, second by Councilperson Trexler to award the bid for the St. Johns Sanitary Street Sewer Extension to Isabella Corp at a cost of \$158,666.24. Councilperson Thomas asked what the bid range consisted of. Doug Stevens of Rowe Professional Services stated the bids ranged from 29% lower to 23% higher than the engineer's estimate of \$222,477.00 which fell center to the bids received. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked on a time frame for completion. Mr. Stevens stated the completion is sited for mid-April for operation and mid-June for completion of restoration. Motion Carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported on the Federal and State economy and the Federal Stimulus Package of the Obama administration. The package is expected to be between \$750 billion to \$1.25 trillion with an expected release of mid-February. The City projects have been submitted through the East Michigan Planning and Economic Development Group, the MML master list, and sent to our Federal and State Representatives, Senators and Congressmen, as well as other contacts with the help of Greater Gratiot Development. The funds are to assist communities with infrastructure and energy projects that are engineered ready and tie to economic development. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell briefly discussed some budget amendments which will be prepared for approval in February to assist with the upcoming budget process. In addition, due to weather conditions, one meter route has been estimated for the current quarter.

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Thomas to receive the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Water, Sewer, Solid Waste Committee met and in addition to the St. Johns sanitary sewer project, discussed the drilling of the test wells and the current water leak. The water leak has been found by the City crew with the help of equipment from Rural Water. DPW Director Bob Studt informed the committee that the leak repair would begin the next morning and has been shut down leaving water to the resident's service lines for the night. An estimated 2.5 million gallons of water was lost. Councilperson Schafer thanked Bob, the DPW crew, Rural Water, Rowe and the entire city staff for their hard work on the leak. Her comments were echoed by the rest of the City Council for a very well organized job well done.

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Library Board would be meeting the next day. The board has found a sign to purchase with the memorial fund and is looking for a faster internet provider for patrons, but is limited to library rules and USF funding regulations.

Councilperson Trexler reported that the Public Safety Committee met to review the resignation of Public Safety Director David Thompson and it recommends accepting it as submitted. A