

CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 17, 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 Schafer 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 and DPW Director Bob Studt.

Audience in attendance was Doug Stevens, Craig Schripsema and Mike Trebesh.

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.

Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell requested a public hearing be set for the purpose of reviewing an Industrial Facility Tax Exemption Application received from Aircraft Precision Products, Inc. A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Thomas to set a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the IFT Exemption Application from Aircraft Precision Products, Inc for April 21, 2009 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey opened the Public Comment for input on the 2009 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application. Mr. Craig Schripsema of Rowe Inc. presented the site development plans for Woodland Park and McNabb Park. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell added that the developments are designed to benefit the entire community and also to target more activities for children ages 10-16 as incorporated with the City's five-year Parks and Recreation Plan.

The development plans for Woodland Park would include a new playscape and a concrete overlay to the existing pad which currently is used for an ice skating rink in the winter and with the overlay, basketball hoops would be added to create courts for the other three seasons.

The development plans for McNabb Park would be the creation of five soccer fields and a gravel parking lot. This would develop the land purchased through the Michigan DNR Trust Fund Land Acquisition grant of 2008. Development of the soccer fields will help accommodate the nearly 3,000 people the AYSO soccer leagues draw to town each weekend. One field would be a high school regulation size to allow for the schools to hold league and tournament play. Additional improvements include a storm sewer system, field grading and restoration, soil erosion control and the soccer field goals. Building improvements would include a restroom building, including utilities and a barrier free sidewalk through the facility. A total cost for both park site developments is \$728,520.00.

Councilperson Timmons inquired if the plans include improving the access to the fields because the current access is not sufficient. Many spectators have commented on this. Mr. Schripsema explained that the new parking lot would come off of South Elm Street and offer two additional drives to access the fields and parking; relieving the traffic congestion on the current feeds and driving on the grass areas in the park.

Council members discussed the restroom facility improvement and the costs associated with the building and utilities. There currently are no sewer lines run to that portion of the park and cost of the improvement, along with the development will not be feasible in one year.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell informed members that she has been in contact with the Community Foundation and there are grant funds available for projects involving the youth of Gratiot County, during the next grant cycle.

Attorney Jefferson Arnold stated that part of the agreement of the land acquisition was the extension of a farm fence along the property line where the site will be developed. Further discussion was held on the gravel parking lot versus asphalt. The gravel will allow more adequate drainage and maintain the park's naturalness.