

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 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 Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, Charles Teegardin, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Larry Trexler. Staff present was Consulting City Manager Dennis Collison, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Fire Chief David Nelson and Rescue Chief Matt Gulick.

Absent was City Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Wilbur Rykert, Bill and Cindy Henderson, Donald Schurr, Steve Lytle, Stephanie Moon and Phyllis McCrossin.

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.

Mr. Donald Schurr of Greater Gratiot Development discussed and distributed the Michigan Works! Labor Force annual report for the Central Michigan Area.

Chief Matt Gulick reported on the third quarter activity for the Rescue Department. Chief Gulick reported that the Community Foundation grant for the new coats was completed and now the department is compliant with the new highway safety standards. The squad covered the GAS pig scramble and the MYWAY youth wrestling regional finals. Chief Gulick asked the Council to consider a change to the bylaws that would lift the EMT requirement and conform to the State of Michigan and the National Registry requirement of a MFR for licensure. The lower level would help in the recruitment of new members. Chief Gulick further reported that he and Chief Nelson held discussions on combining the two departments once again. Chief Gulick summed his report with his notice of retirement from the Rescue Department after twenty years of service. He thanked the Council and the community for their support over the years and expressed his appreciation to the community. Mayor Bailey thanked Chief Gulick on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Ithaca for his service.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hollenbeck, second by Councilperson Timmons to receive the Rescue Chief's report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Teegardin, second by Councilperson Trexler to accept Chief Gulick's notice of retirement effective April 30, 2009. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey opened the public hearing for comment on the Industrial Facility Tax Exemption Application submitted by Aircraft Precision Products, Inc at 7:15pm.

Mr. Don Schurr of Greater Gratiot Development reviewed the tax abatement process and the effect of return the tax relief gives to the City. Mr. Schurr reviewed the application request for the exemption sighting the total project cost of \$4,534,832.00 for building improvements and equipment. The tax abatement would be for a period of twelve years for real property and seven years for personal property. Mr. Bill Henderson, president of the company, thanked the Council for its consideration of the application and shared the addition is being made so that the company can expand its customer base through new ideas and technology.

Councilperson Schafer inquired on the number of new jobs. Mr. Henderson stated that there would be at least five new jobs and six new machines; in addition thirty jobs will be retained and additional storage was included in the building improvements as well. Mayor Bailey asked for any additional public comment. None was given.

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Schafer to close the public hearing. Motion carried. 7:25pm.