

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 4, 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 and Larry Trexler and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Police Chief Steve Lytle.

Audience in attendance was Don Schurr, Steve and Angie Iocco.

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

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comment. None was given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Library Board met and the penal fines were received and came in \$2,000 higher than expected.

Mayor Bailey reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the letter received from the attorney retained by Rod Merchant regarding the assessment and building permit for his proposed project on Center Street. The Committee recommends the sewer assessment agreement dated in 2002 be forgiven, subject to a building permit being issued and the building be constructed at the site requested; and the sewer connection be made at the Auto Value building.

Moved by Councilperson Hollenbeck, second by Councilperson Schafer to accept the recommendation of the Committee to forgive the sewer assessment agreement subject to a building permit being issued and a building being constructed at the site requested; and the sewer connection made at the Auto Value building.

Councilperson Trexler requested the request be handled as two issues; one to issue the building permit and the second being the sewer assessment. Councilperson Thomas agreed the permit should not be held up, but the assessment obligation should be honored. Councilperson Timmons stated Mr. Merchant would not build if the sewer was not forgiven. Attorney Arnold stated it was not a true assessment, but a public/private agreement. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated it was time to move forward as the issue was mishandled back in 1990 and the City should take some responsibility. Councilperson Schafer stated the original agreement included one sewer hookup.

Councilperson Hollenbeck called for the question, Councilperson Timmons seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: 5 Nays: 2

Department Reports

Police Chief Lytle reported that the department responded to 170 calls in July, resulting in 126 complaints. The department received eight safety vests from the Gratiot County EOC as a result of a Homeland Security Grant written by John Aten. Chief Lytle further reported that he and the other County agencies signed an agreement to allow the installation of CORE "talon" Technology software which was also received through a Michigan Homeland Security Grant. The system is being offered free of charge for three years and it is believed additional funding will be provided at the term end.

Chief Lytle reported on the Train Festival. He and the officers were on location and met several residents and visitors who were very impressed with Ithaca's friendliness and community in general. The Family Fun Circus was very orderly, clean and no problems were experienced. The shows were sold out, workers were nice and grounds were left clean. He also reported that he attended Disaster Response and Operating training and Officer Litwiller attended Rifle Patrol user school and will incorporate it into the department's training. He will be videoing the City for reference in the event of a large disaster.