

CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 6, 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 City Manager Brad Heffner, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Public Safety Director David Thompson.

Audience in attendance was Phyllis McCrossin and Doug Stevens.

Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell noted two grammatical corrections to the minutes and correction for Attorney Arnold to be listed as absent. A motion was made by Councilperson Hollenbeck, second by Councilperson Timmons to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with correction as noted by the City Clerk. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments.

Doug Stevens, of Rowe Inc., distributed a list of active projects and gave a status update on each to the City Council. City Manager Heffner informed Council members that Rowe is assisting the City with a project development estimating list for the Federal economic stimulus package and the list will be passed on to the MML master list as well as the East Michigan Planning and Economic Development group at its meeting next week.

Public Safety Director Thompson reported on the December activity for the Police, Fire and Rescue departments. The Police department investigated 104 complaints. The Fire Department responded to six calls and Rescue to twenty-four. The Rescue department hosted an educational training with the MMR. Director Thompson further reported that the Sheriff has announced that he will no longer be deputizing officers from other agencies within the County. This will not affect the City residents, however will affect the township residents and limit the department's ability to respond to accidents around the US127 corridor.

Director Thompson reported on the year 2008 in review. The Police Department handled 1503 complaints, the Fire Department responded to 61 runs and had 99 calls (burn permits, etc), and Rescue responded to 227 runs. Several trainings were held in all departments during 2008, both required and specialty trainings. Grants were received which helped with the purchase of coats for the Rescue personnel, in-car video equipment and supplies for the Police department, and funds for a portable air tank was granted to the Fire department.

City Manager Heffner presented a contract agreement prepared in conjunction with the Personnel Committee recommendations and interest to maintain his service during the search for a new City Manager. Councilperson Thomas reported that the Personnel Committee met to discuss the manager search and transition procedures. It is the committee's recommendation to keep Mr. Heffner under contract while seeking a replacement and for the Council to approve the contract agreement as written.

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler to adopt the City Manager Contract with the term dates as listed in the agreement. Motion carried.

City Manager Heffner reported that the City Hall staff had been receiving multiple calls from residents regarding sidewalk snow removal. The Post Master has taken a stronger position on cleared walks and mail delivery that has prompted several of the calls. Manager Heffner reviewed the City Ordinance and State law regarding the clearing of snow and sidewalks, which