

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 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 Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Chief of Police Steve Lytle.

Audience in attendance was Kirk Smith, Representative Paul Opsommer and Brian Henderson.

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.

State Representative Paul Opsommer discussed the State budget and updated members on the progress of the Urban Cooperation Act revisions. Councilperson Trexler inquired if there was any resolution from legislators for balancing the budget without increasing taxes and fees. Councilperson Thomas referenced the increase in the State's budget of 8%; locally this can not be done, so why is it okay for the State to continue to do so? Representative Opsommer replied that though not popular, the State cannot make enough cuts to balance the budget and increases and reform will all be needed to do so. Representative Opsommer thanked the Council for their time.

Public Hearing

Mayor Bailey opened the Public Hearing at 7:16pm.

City Manager Foster reviewed the Industrial Development District and the tax incentives associated with an approved district. Donald Schurr of Greater Gratiot Development Corporation informed members that District #5 would be unique in that it encumbers one parcel of five acres and not an entire park as the other districts cover and is adjacent. Councilperson Timmons inquired as to if the project would utilize the detention pond. City Manger Foster affirmed and added they would also be charged the user fees.

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Thomas to approve Resolution 2009-13 to Establish Industrial Development District #5. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: (7) Hollenbeck, Schafer, Teegardin, Thomas, Timmons, Trexler, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Water Sewer and Solid Waste committee met to review a resident request for an adjustment to his water bill and to review bids for the water tower inspections. Councilperson Schafer stated the committee recommends adjusting Mr. Spears' sewer portion of the bill to an average quarterly use as the water did not enter the system and reported that Dixon Engineering was the low bid for the tower inspection and work would begin in the spring. The inspection cost is budgeted so no recommendation is required.

A motion was made by Councilperson Schafer, second by Councilperson Hollenbeck to adjust the sewer portion of Mr. Spears' bill to an average quarterly use and the full amount be charged for the water. Motion carried.

Councilperson Trexler reported that the Cemetery and Parks committee met to discuss the McNabb Park lease, Historical barn repairs and the 5-year Park and Recreation Plan. Councilperson Trexler reported the committee directed staff to obtain estimates on the barn repairs and has set a meeting with the Gratiot Agricultural Society to discuss the lease renewal. The Committee is requesting that a date be set for the public hearing on the 5-year Parks and Recreation plan.

City Manager Foster requested that the public hearing date be set at the next regular meeting so that he may contact the schools to see if they would collaborate on the plan as in the past.

Department Reports

Police Chief Lytle reported that the Department answered 115 complaints for the month of October and the mileage on the patrol cars is consistent with September. Chief Lytle reported that forty-three inoperable vehicles have been identified and the department will proceed with the citation process. He further reported that there were no incidents during Halloween.

Chief Lytle further reported that one crossing guard resigned and advertisements are out to replace the position. The part-time officer interviews were held and Micheal Leasher has been hired to fill that position. Chief Lytle stated that Officers Timmons and Andrews attended the Reid Interview and Interrogation Techniques training and all officers are now at the same training level in interviewing. Officer Timmons and he also attended additional trainings in October. Chief Lytle shared with members a commendation received for Officer Chad Chase from both himself and Sheriff Baracy. Officer Chase's alertness and attention to duty helped prevent the tragic death of a motorist trapped in an off road one car collision. Sheriff Baracy commended Officer Chase and thanked him for his assistance.

Councilperson Hollenbeck suggested Officer Chase be publicly recognized for his exemplary service. Members concurred.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hollenbeck, second by Councilperson Timmons to receive the Police Department Report. Motion carried.

City Manager Foster requested the authority to sign a Letter of Cooperation for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant with the cities of Alma, St. Louis and Gratiot County for agreement to complete the goals set forth in the submitted EECBG proposal.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hollenbeck, second by Councilperson Teegardin to authorize the City Manager to sign the Letter of Cooperation for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Motion carried.

Change Order

City Manager Foster presented Change Order #1 for the Center Street Sidewalk Extension project. The Change Order is a reduction of \$418.98 and is due to the City supplying the ADA plates for the cross walks of the project.

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler to approve Change Order #1 for the Center Street Sidewalk Extension in the amount of (\$418.98).

Councilperson Timmons asked where the funding for the project was being taken from. City Manager Foster said general fund dollars will be used. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Foster reported that he and staff met with Robert Wilson from the MEDC to discuss the use of the DDA restricted funds. There are projects we can use the funds for, however the Low to Moderate income survey is important to the vitality of its use and for future grants. Don Schurr stated that a similar survey was done and was a large part in the success of the grant received for the Community Center project.

City Manager Foster reported updates on the Watermain Phase D project, the Pioneer Hi-Bred Research Station project and related issues, the Countywide Master plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, MDNR McNabb Park Development Grant and lease and the EECBG.

A motion was made by Councilperson Schafer, second by Councilperson Timmons to receive the City Manager's written and oral report. Motion carried.

Old and New Business

Mayor Bailey stated a recommendation was received from the Planning Commission for the Re-Zoning of parcel #29-52-060-012-50 which is just over five acres of land located north of the Ithaca Industrial Park and the north end of Industrial Parkway from an R-2 (Suburban Residential) to an I (Industrial).

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Timmons to approve the Planning Commissions recommendation and Resolution 2009-14 Amending the Zoning Ordinance. Motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: (7) Hollenbeck, Schafer, Teegardin, Thomas, Timmons, Trexler, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Councilperson Hollenbeck discussed setting up a committee between the city, school, county, townships, etc for collaboration efforts and cost savings. City Manger Foster informed members that the local managers and administrators are having discussing this currently.

Payroll and Warrants

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Teegardin to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #34819-34872 and Payroll Checks #7781-7825 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comment.

Don Schurr of Greater Gratiot Development Inc commented on the current collaboration achievements within the county and the restrictions placed by the Urban Cooperation Act, and added that the revisions discussed by Representative Opsommer are a positive in helping to achieve future collaborative efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor