

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 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. Mayor Bailey 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.

Audience in attendance was Brian Henderson, John and Debra Aten, Sue and David Stack, Chelsey Bohnett, Commissioner Bill Dilts, David Nelson and Phyllis McCrossin.

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

Oaths of Office

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office to George Bailey for the office of Mayor.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office to Catherine Timmons, Alice Schafer and Brian Henderson for the office of City Councilperson.

Councilperson Henderson took his seat replacing former Councilperson Teegardin.

Mayor Bailey asked for nominations for the office of Mayor Pro-tempore and discussed the positions responsibility.

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Schafer to appoint Councilperson Thomas as Mayor Pro-Tempore. Councilperson Thomas accepted the nomination. Motion carried with all ayes.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office to John Thomas for the office of Mayor Pro-Tempore.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comment.

Government class students David Stack and Chelsey Bohnett introduced themselves.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Trexler reported that the Parks and Cemetery committee met with members of the Gratiot Agricultural Society (GAS) to review the McNabb Park lease. GAS members will review the proposed agreement with their board and return to committee in December. City Manager Foster added that he will be working with GAS on web site opportunities and Councilperson Timmons informed the group of marketing opportunities through the Ithaca Promotional Committee.

Mayor Bailey reported that the Planning Commission met and reviewed three site plans. All three were approved and commendation goes to Building Inspector Sherman for his efforts in making sure all plans were fully complete for the Commissions review. The Commission recommends a zoning variance be approved for the Dollar General site allowing a thirty space parking lot versus a sixty space lot as required by ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilperson Timmons, second by Councilperson Schafer to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Zoning Variance for the parking space requirement for the Dollar General site.

Councilperson Thomas stated the spaces seem appropriate since the current location only has sixty-two spaces for two stores and is adequate. Councilperson Trexler inquired if there was additional land which could be used if it proved inadequate in the future. City Manager Foster stated there was. Motion carried.

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

Nays: (0) None

Resolutions

Mayor Bailey presented Resolution 2009-15 Appreciation of Councilperson Charles Teegardin. A motion was made by Councilperson Timmons, second by Councilperson Hollenbeck to adopt Resolution 2009-15 in Appreciation of Councilperson Charles Teegardin. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey read aloud and presented the resolution to Charles Teegardin. Mr. Teegardin shared his appreciation for the City Council and the staff and for his time serving the citizens of Ithaca. The Council wished him well in his future.

Mayor Bailey presented Resolution 2009-16 Appreciation of County Emergency Management Coordinator John Aten. A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler to adopt Resolution 2009-16 in Appreciation of Gratiot County Emergency Management Coordinator John Aten. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey read aloud and presented the resolution to John Aten. Mr. Aten thanked the Council and stated he was truly honored to receive a resolution from an entity he served. The Council wished Mr. Aten well in his retirement.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Foster reported that estimates were received for the extension of Industrial Parkway from Avenue C to the Cul-de-sac. Director Studt is compiling estimates for the water and sewer services. Members will be updated when complete project estimates are ready. Manager Foster reported the Westwind Storm Sewer relocation may become a spring project. Members directed Manager Foster to complete the relocation this fall if possible.

City Manager Foster informed members that Mr. Buerge's Cider Mill will break ground the next day. He further reported updates on the water bond projects, the CDBG Household survey, 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.

City Manger Foster requested that a Public Hearing date be set for the Park and Recreation five-year plan.

A motion was made by Councilperson Timmons, second by Councilperson Hollenbeck to set the Public Hearing for the city Park and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan for December 10, 2009 at twelve noon and six in the evening. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Thomas to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

Old and New Business

Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired on the repair to South Elm Street. City Manager Foster stated the work would be a spring project as the Road Commission stated it is too late in the year for the seal coating to be done. Members directed staff to do some temporary repair prior to the winter.

Payroll and Warrants

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler 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 #34873-34925 and Payroll Checks #7826-7870 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comment.

County Commissioner Dilts extended his congratulations to new Councilperson Henderson and the incumbents and expressed thanks to John Aten for his service to the County.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor