

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 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 Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons, 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, Coach Terry Hessbrook with the players of the Ithaca High School Football team and their parents.

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

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comment. None were received.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Library Board met and the book drop is installed, the children's mural (painted by Jodi Schnetzler and Linda Crumbaugh) is completed and the library will stay open through the Christmas Holidays. Ms. Julia Ward was hired for the part-time Saturday and cleaning position and the board received confirmation on the reduction of State Aid.

Councilperson Thomas reported that a joint committee meeting was held between Personnel and Ways and Means to discuss the water and sewer infrastructure extension in the Ithaca Industrial Park, the maintenance contract on the lagoon system generator and the invoice from Peerless Midwest for troubleshooting the Bader & Sons tower interference with the water alarm system.

The committees recommend hiring Lorenz Surveying and Engineering for the engineering of the infrastructure extension for the Pioneer Hi-Bred site and the city DPW crew to install the lines in conjunction with Pioneer's project for improvement savings. A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler to hire Pete Lorenz of Lorenz Surveying & Engineering for the engineering services for the Industrial Park infrastructure extension and the city DPW labor to install the lines. Motion carried.

The committees recommend entering into a maintenance contract for the lagoon system generator with HH Williams at a cost of \$613.00 annually. A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Timmons to sign an annual maintenance contract with HH Williams at a cost of \$613.00 for the lagoon system generator. Motion carried.

The committees recommend the City Manager contact Bader & Sons regarding the interference issue and possible cost sharing of the invoice. A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Timmons to pay Peerless Mid-West and for City Manager Foster to work with Bader & Sons on a cost sharing agreement. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Police Chief Lytle reported that the department responded to 104 complaints in November 2009. He reported the increase from last year is due to the fact that the officers are more active than in the past. The patrol car mileage was 376 miles less than the prior month due to more walking of the officers and stationary watches. Chief Lytle reported on the tickets and arrests made by the department as well as the training and events the department participated in. Ms. Teresa Anderson was hired as a part-time crossing guard and Mr. Micheal Leasher was retained as the new part-time patrol officer.

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

Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired on the amount of General Assistance and Suspicious Situations. Chief Lytle stated general assistance varies, and does include calls for locked key in cars and some of the situations are categorized incorrectly. Motion carried.

Resolutions

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler to adopt Resolution 2009-17 Honoring the 2009-2010 Ithaca High School Varsity Football Team. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey read aloud and presented the resolution to Coach Terry Hessbrook and Captains of the Football team. Mayor Bailey commended the team on their accomplishment and their conduct and attitude in representing the community. Mayor Bailey expressed the pride of the Council for the team and community support. Coach Hessbrook thanked the Council and the community, businesses and citizens for their outstanding support during the season.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Foster reported that the City was invited by Greater Gratiot Development through a referral from the MEDC to participate in a federal grant request through the US Department of Energy for an energy efficiency project for prototype windows to be installed in municipal buildings and monitor for energy savings with the ultimate end result of being manufactured in Michigan. Manager Foster requested permission to authorize Greater Gratiot Development to write the grant and commit the City buildings as test locations for the prototype windows.

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Henderson to approve Resolution 2009-18 supporting the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Motion carried.

City Manager Foster updated members on construction projects, the MDNRTF grant status, the Hazard Mitigation Plan status, and reminded of the Public input sessions being held on December 10, 2009 for the 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan. City Manager Foster reported that the cable consortium approved joining forces with Traverse City and other state consortiums to fight Charter Communications on moving the Public Access Channels to the higher channels. The case was ruled in Charter's favor and therefore the channels will be moved.

City Manager Foster congratulated Clerk-Treasurer Fandell on her appointment to the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Councilperson Timmons, second by Councilperson Henderson to receive the City Manager's report.

Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired on the claw back provision for the Pioneer Hi-Bred project. City Manager Foster stated that the company has not filed for a PA158 to which that applies, but discussions have taken place regarding the provision. Motion carried.

Old and New Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported that the 2008-2009 audit was completed and a committee meeting will be held for its review.

Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired who complaints regarding building and rental inspections should be directed to. Mayor Bailey stated complaints from residents go to Inspector Sherman and complaints received by Councilpersons are to be reported to the City Manager for him to forward to Inspector Sherman.

Councilperson Timmons gave an overview of the Christmas Under the Stars activities for the December 4th celebration.

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 #34926-34973, Water/Sewer Bond Construction Check #1127, and Payroll Checks #7871-7911 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comment. None were received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.