

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 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 Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons, Larry Trexler and City Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

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 comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported that the Personnel Committee met for DPW Union negotiations. He further reported that the Committee of the Whole met to review the 2008-2009 Audit report Christina Schaub of Roslund, Prestage & Company PC.

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Trexler to receive and accept the 2008-2009 Annual Audit. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Library Board met. The Director reported the 2009 USF funding will be received in the amount of 70%. The Board approved to upgrade the internet system to Fiber Optic provided by MMNET. The upgrade will have an increased cost of about \$300 annually with a reduction after three years. A part-time temporary position was filled by Gail Paradise and Director Root will be leaving in January for the winter months.

Policy

City Manager Foster presented a Mail Box Replacement Policy for damage done to resident's mail receptacles by City snow plows. Councilperson Henderson suggested the policy be reworded so that damage by the weight of the snow is not a cause for payment, only when the equipment actually hits the receptacle. Councilperson Schafer agreed.

A motion was made by Councilperson Trexler, second by Councilperson Henderson to adopt the Mail Box Policy as amended by discussion to read "Citizens can pursue the following procedure for mailboxes damaged by City plowing equipment. Mailboxes damaged by the weight of plowed snow will not be the responsibility of the City. The City of Ithaca will pay the citizen \$25.00 in lieu of the new mailbox and/or post, with the checks being processed with the normal billing periods. It will be the property owner's responsibility to bring in the damaged mailbox and/or post for payment. These items must be left with the City of Ithaca. The City of Ithaca will not install these posts and/or mailboxes". Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster reported on the construction progress of Pioneer Hi-Bred, Dollar General and Apple Hill Cider Mill. He also gave updates on the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Master Plan and the Income Survey performed by the City. City Manager Foster reported that the AYSO lease is currently being drawn up and the lease with GAS is waiting on their Board for information requested from the last meeting. Manager Foster reported that he and Inspector Sherman checked the trail groomer and is in search of a used snowmobile to pull it as recommended by the Parks and Cemetery Committee.

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

Old and New Business

City Manager Foster informed members that he purchased a home and is officially a resident of Ithaca.

Mayor Bailey informed members that the staff is having a holiday lunch and would like to close City Hall for the noon hour. A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, second by Councilperson Henderson to close City Hall for one hour on Thursday, December 17, 2009. Motion carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired on the City policy for snow removal from resident sidewalks. Councilperson Thomas stated the City does have an Ordinance and sidewalks are considered low priority compared to streets, parking lots, alley and municipal buildings and has been a difficult issue. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell will have an article placed in the City newsletter going out in January.

Payroll and Warrants

A motion was made by Councilperson Thomas, supported 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 #34974-35026, Water Sewer Bond Construction Check #1128 and Payroll Checks #7912-7953 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Barbara Fandell, City Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor