

**CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 1, 2020  
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council held and conducted via Zoom in conformity with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-154 (COVID-19), on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Protem Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Andrew, Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Scott Gray, Clark Hubbard (via Zoom) and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, DPW Director Bob Studt and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance by Zoom meeting was Lexi Endter, Sean Beckman, Scott Mertes, Jessica Lake and Dan Seeley.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of August 18, 2020. Motion carried.**

**Mayor Schafer asked for Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda; there were none. Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to approve the Agenda including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

**Consent Agenda**

**Moved by Andrew, second by Baublitz to approve the consent agenda; items as listed:**

- **City Manager report which included updates and information on smoke testing of storm drains, Seaver Street watermain, vehicle sales, seasonal staff update, McNabb Park mowing, street paving and US27 Motor Tour.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #46798-46826, Water Bond Debt Retirement #ACH14 and Payroll Checks #15925-15938, DD1660-DD1669, EFT #1156-1162 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: Michigan Treasury Release: Revenue Estimates**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: (7) Hubbard, Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz, Gray, Gruesbeck and Schafer**

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (0) None**

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

**Presentation**

Dr. Scott Mertes showed a video and power point presentation on the Mid Michigan College ballot proposal for Annexation of the Gratiot-Isabella RESD into the college's district. Two proposals will be placed on the ballot for voters to join the district and for a 1.2232 millage support; both must be approved by voters or annexation will not occur. By annexing, taxpayers would pay operating taxes toward the community college and all residents of the district would realize lower tuition costs. The current district is exclusive to the Clare-Gladwin RESD.

Councilperson Baublitz asked how the \$3Million dollars of millage funds would be utilized if the proposals passed. Dr. Mertes shared that \$1.5 Million would go to make up the difference in tuition for the 40% reduction current students of the GIRESD would receive and the remainder would be saved for expansion in hopes of owning a new facility in Gratiot County.

**City Manager Comments**

City Manager Conn reported that the vehicles being sold were relocated to the City Hall parking lot so potential bidders could see them. The Fire Authority is interested in the Trailblazer to use as a command vehicle for the officer on call. Council discussed that it would not sell this vehicle but would hold it until such time that the Authority is finalized and cost determined. Manager Conn discussed that one of the vehicles on the list does not run and a city employee offered \$500 for it which he agreed to. He inquired of the Council as to if it would remain on the list for sealed bids or if the employee could purchase it. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated it should stay as part of the public bid process and the employee could place a bid. Council discussed and agreed that it would remain part of the public bid.

Manager Conn reported the one seasonal employee is done and the other will continue on at two and one-half days a week through fall. Losing them early was the main reason for the mowing quotes for McNabb Park. He further reported that Central Concrete came last week to review the street paving projects and will provide a proposal for us soon.

**New Business**

City Manager Conn presented the three proposals received for mowing McNabb Park for the remainder of the season. Contractors would mow at the direction of the City. The proposals received (on a per mow basis) were Gus' Landscaping LLC = \$2,392.00, Lawnscape = \$2,175.00 and Grass Wackers, Inc = \$1,920.00.

**Moved by Andrew, second by Gray to approve the mowing services of McNabb Park for the remainder of the season as directed by the City DPW Director to Grass Wackers Inc. at a cost of \$1,920.00 per mow and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer invited Sean Beckman, Rowe PSC to speak to the Watermain replacement services proposal. Mr. Beckman reviewed the three projects (Union Street, Newark Street and S. Elm Street watermain replacement) explaining the proposal covers the design and permits from EGLE for each project. The City staff would do the actual watermain installation. Treasurer Fandell noted that \$6,000 was budgeted, however the budget is based on the next year's projects. These three normally would have been engineered last year, but were not. A budget amendment will need to be made.

Councilperson Gray asked Director Studt about the S. Elm Street project. Director Studt explained that the estimated 750 feet of new main would complete the loop and improve water quality and pressure.

**Moved by Gray, second by Kopplesberger to approve the proposal of Rowe Professional Services for professional services for the watermain replacement projects on Union Street (Westwind to Barber), Newark Street (S. Main to S. Pine River) and S. Elm Street (end of McNabb Park to 400 S. Elm loop) at a cost of \$19,980.00, authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement and amend the budget for the increase. Motion carried.**

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell requested that the delegates for the MERS annual meeting be appointed. This year's annual meeting and conference will be held virtually on September 22-24, 2020 with the meeting on September 24, 2020 at 10:30am. The employees will make their delegate selection next week.

**Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to appoint City Manager Conn and Clerk-Treasurer Fandell as the delegates to the MERS annual meeting. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer informed the Council that Dick's Studio will come before the next Council meeting to retake the Council photo. This will be done on September 15, 2020 at 6:20pm.

**Old Business**

City Manager Conn received a call from Ryan Mills that the IPC is looking for more golf teams for its annual golf fundraiser.

Councilperson Baublitz asked for an update on the Dilts Road property. Attorney Arnold stated it was still in progress and going extremely slow. He has not started the law suit because there is nothing to show as support to the judge. Alma Abstract has not yet gotten back with him on their continued research with the Register of Deeds. It could have been deeded under the Township of Ithaca or Village of Ithaca depending on when Clarence Muscott sold to the City.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. None was offered.

**Moved by Andrew, second by Gray to adjourn. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

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Barbara Fandell, City Clerk-Treasurer