

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 6, 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 6th day of October, 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 and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and DPW Director Bob Studt.

Audience in attendance by Zoom meeting was Brooke Daniel.

Moved by Andrew, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of September 15, 2020. Motion carried.

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

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Brooke Daniel addressed the Council regarding the Horse Barn Lease Agreement. Due to COVID, he has had an employment change and the Governor shut down racing for the spring and summer season. It reopened at the end of August. He requested a lesser lease amount as he wants to continue with the agreement, but due to these circumstances, would like consideration for a break and is thankful for the City working with him on the payments over the past few months. City Manager Conn shared that the Committee did review his request at a meeting earlier and are making a recommendation to amend the agreement to allow the rent to be month to month for the remainder of 2020 at a rate of \$400 per month plus utilities; and then draft a new agreement starting in 2021.

Mr. Daniel was in agreement.

Mayor Schafer expressed that timely payment would be the expectation of the Council for each month. Mr. Daniel inquired about some needed roof repairs to the barn. Director Studt said he is getting estimates and will make contact again.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to approve the consent agenda; items as listed:

- **City Manager report which included updates and information on Horse Barn Rental Agreement, blue bird houses request, Sidewalk Zone 5 and Cemetery foundation projects, Election tent, CARES Act grants, Fire Authority, ZBA meeting, new business interests in downtown, EGLE PFAs cleanup, homecoming parade, downtown truck signs and The Citizens of Public Transit Committee formation.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #46865-46901 and Payroll Checks #15949-15977, DD1680-DD1691, EFT #1169-1175 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: None**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Committee Reports

Councilperson Andrew reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review the Horse Barn Lease Agreement, Blue Bird house request of Jeff Litwiller, Cemetery lot pricing for the new section and Mowing Bids for the parks and Cemetery. He reviewed the discussions of the Committee and noted its recommendations:

- 1- To allow the horse barn lease agreement to go month to month for the remainder of 2020 at \$400 per month plus utilities and to review a new agreement for 2021.
- 2- Allow the request of Jeff Litwiller to place blue bird houses in McNabb and Woodland parks, out of the mowing line at his maintenance and cost.
- 3- To set the cost for the cemetery lots in the new section at \$1,000.00 each for residents and \$1,400 for nonresidents with no reduction for shared foundations; and to allow staff to designate rows for even number lot sales and odd number lot sales. In addition the veteran marker cost will remain \$75.00.
- 4- Award the Mowing bid to Discount Dumpster for a 1-year service contract. Also, to direct the City Manager to review part-time seasonal labor and equipment purchase for future years.

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to amend the horse barn lease agreement through 12/31/2020 at a rate of \$400 per month plus utilities on a month-to-month basis with Brooke and Dana Daniel and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to grant the request of Jeff Litwiller to place and maintain blue bird houses in McNabb and Woodland Parks out of the mowing path. Motion carried.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to set the lot prices in the 3rd Addition to \$1,000 per lot for residents and \$1,400 for non-residents with no reduction for shared foundations and Veterans markers will be the same cost as other sections (currently \$75.00) and staff will designate rows for even and odd number lot purchases. Motion carried.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to award the mowing bid for Woodland and Atkinson Parks and the Ithaca Cemetery to Discount Dumpster for a one-year contract starting in the spring of 2021 at a cost of \$17,880. Motion carried.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Conn reported that street paving would start on October 13th and letters were being sent out to residents on those streets affected. The election tent has been reserved. It will be a 20x20 and placed over the sidewalk, sides have been ordered in case of inclement weather. The CARES Act grant funds have been received for the Hazard pay, the firefighters were very pleased and thankful for receiving it. The Public Health grant has received only half of the funds with the other half coming when Treasury finishes the review of all of the grants received. He further reported that he has been contacted by a potential business coming into the downtown as long as there are no restrictions for Tattoo business. The business currently has two other locations and will be located in one of Ryan Smith's buildings.

City Manager Conn reported that EGLE has denied our appeal for payment assistance again so we will be moving forward with securing a consultant. Councilperson Gruesbeck inquired on what the expectations are as it was not laid out in their response letter. City Manager Conn has been in contact with the Rockford City Manager and they were able to place clay on top of their site and not disturb the ground. Council agreed that it needs to be diligent on input with the consultant and best means for the site.

Lastly, he reported that the transportation brochure included in the packet is one that is being distributed by the citizens committee for the millage. They are working diligently to get information out to the voters.

New Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the MML Liability & Property Pool Board of Directors candidate information.

Moved by Gray, second by Kopplesberger to cast a votes for the candidates listed as presented by the MML Liability and Property Pool Nominating Committee and for the City Clerk to submit. Motion carried.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

City Clerk Fandell reported that the city received the Center for Tech and Civic Life grant in the amount of \$5,000 for election supplies and training. As of today, we have nearly 600 absentee ballots and the Audit started this week.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Barbara Fandell, City Clerk-Treasurer