

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 3, 2020
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council held and conducted via Zoom in conformity with Open Meeting Act (Pubic Act 228 of 2020) on the 3rd day of November, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Andrew, Brett Baublitz, Scott Gray, James Gruesbeck and Clark Hubbard. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, and DPW Director Bob Studt.

Absent was Councilperson Rick Koppleberger and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.
Audience in attendance was Rob Endter.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of October 20, 2020. Motion carried.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to excuse Councilperson Koppleberger. Motion Carried.

Mayor Schafer asked for approval of the Agenda and for Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard 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 Gray, second by Baublitz to approve the consent agenda; items as listed:

- **City Manager report which included updates and information on the street paving, sale of the scraper truck, Airport Authority, GESA formation, Designated Assessor for the County and the City website.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #46946-46977 and Payroll Checks #15990-16016, DD1711-DD1725, EFT #1182-1189 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: None**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Baublitz, Gray, Gruesbeck, Hubbard, Andrew and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Koppleberger

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Conn reported the new website was up and running. Shelly Moffit did a great job working on the transition. The Airport Authority is moving in the right direction and it looks as if the County will be taking over the municipal portion of the funding. A resolution was sent to them in support of this.

New Business

City Manager Conn stated one bid was received the morning of the opening, however all of the mail has not been opened due to the quarantine of City Hall. He asked that the Council award the bid to the highest bidder pending the opening of the mail. Clerk Fandell confirmed that the bid received was over the minimum the City placed.

Moved by Clark, second by Andrew to award the bid for sale of the 2003 Scraper Truck (VIN#2FZAATAK43AK91567) to the highest bidder once the mail is open. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer presented the Interlocal Agreement with Gratiot County to approve a designated assessor for the County. Manager Conn stated it is required that the County have a designated assessor and C-T Fandell added that the designated assessor assists the County communities if they have AMAR issues to address and also steps in if a community loses its assessor until a replacement is made (for the cost listed in the agreement).

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to enter into the Interlocal Agreement with Gratiot County to Approve a Designated Assessor and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

C-T Fandell presented Resolution 2020-10 which would ratify City Council actions/approvals made during virtual meetings under the Governor's Executive Order which was overturned. The new legislation (PA228 of 2020) also addresses those former actions; however, this ensures that all actions are approved.

**Moved by Andrew, second by Gray to adopt Resolution 2020-10 Ratifying City Council Approvals.
Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: (6) Gray, Gruesbeck, Hubbard, Andrew, Baublitz and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Koppleberger

Mayor Schafer presented the 2021 Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines as requested for adoption by Assessor Hunter.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to adopt the 2021 Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines. Motion carried.

Old Business

City Manager Conn addressed the street paving contract with Central Asphalt. No action will be required as the total cost of the project came in lower than the original approved despite the error made in the estimate. This was primarily due to pulverizing and grading not needing to be done on two of the streets and they reduced the price on Croswell Road to make up for the original error and because of the good relationship between the company and the City; this savings brought us in under budget with the missed street paving included.

Councilperson Hubbard requested that the Burn Ordinance be revisited as it was never prior. Discussion on the topic and consensus to have the Planning Commission revisit the Ordinance, taking public input and present a recommendation to the City Council.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council.

City Manager Conn informed the Council that the Community Center door fell off during the election. Councilperson Gruesbeck is concerned about the repair versus replacement. Manager Conn is having staff look into replacing the doors and C-T Fandell was looking to write a grant for ADA accessible electronic doors prior to this incident. He asked for direction on rental of the facility with the new COVID restrictions and the door.

General consensus that the Community Center will not be rented out for the remainder of 2020 and staff is to get the doors repaired and look into a grant for ADA accessibility.

Mayor Schafer informed the Council that the Library had increased the number of patrons allowed inside.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Barbara Fandell, City Clerk-Treasurer