

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2020
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council held and conducted via Zoom Meeting in conformity with Open Meeting Act (Pubic Act 228 of 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, Scott Gray, James Gruesbeck, Clark Hubbard and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was none.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of December 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer asked for approval of the Agenda and for Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Consent Agenda

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

- **Ithaca Unit Report – November 2020**
- **City Manager report which included updates and information on the DPW Union contract, Mindful Therapy Lease Agreement, Beacon & Bridge PPE donation to the City and others, Well #7 and Water Tower mixer equipment issues, City Clerk posting, NDHHS Extension of Epidemic Pause, and Employee Appreciation Awards/dinner.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47056-47099 and Payroll Checks #16042-16051, DD1746-DD1755, EFT #1203-1208 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: None**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hubbard reported the Technology Committee met to review the security needs of the City buildings and grounds. The Committee has divided the security into three phases: I-City Hall/Community Center/DPW Garage; II-Fire Hall and Library; III-Parks, Wells, Towers, Brush Pile, Lagoon, other. Phase I consists of a 4-door security system for City Hall, Door System for rental keys at the Community Center, single door access system at the DPW garage and interior and exterior cameras for all three buildings and parking lots. The Committee is recommending to move forward with working with staff on the development of a RFP for Phase I and moving forward with its implementation. It does not recommend Phase II or Phase III at this time as further follow up is required. The Committee also discussed the Verizon service issue in the City and that Casair has been bought out by Point Broadband and the tower contract needs to be reviewed and possible contact with the new owner for citywide WIFI.

Moved by Gray, second by Gruesbeck to move forward with the RFP development and release for Phase I as recommended. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit as presented by William Hirschman of Roslund, Prestage, and Company PC. The city increased its net position for the year by \$158,766 over all funds. There were no findings of internal control or compliance issues. It was a very clean audit all around and received the highest opinion that can be received on the financial statements being presented fairly in all material respects. The Committee recommends its approval and placement on file with the State of Michigan.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to approve the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit as presented and place on file with the State of Michigan. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer reported the Library Board has cancelled its next meeting.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Conn reported the AFSME Union Contract was ready to be approved. The copy provided has a couple of corrections to page 4, 17, 18 and 23. The corrections fix a date and eliminate wording that no longer applies to any union member on staff; he reviewed the changes with the Council.

City Manager Conn updated the Council on the Mindful Therapy Lease Agreement. He spoke with Audrey and she wants the renewal and would like to stay as long as possible, so he requested direction on the length of the renewal. The Council discussed if there was an emergent need for GESA and what the need for more office space was. Councilperson Gray suggested a one-year lease and Councilperson Hubbard suggested that whatever term was chosen, that the City honor that time frame and that there be no out clause for its duration.

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to renew the building lease agreement with Mindful Therapy for a term of one-year and the City Manager to negotiate the agreement and bring back for final approval. Motion carried.

City Manager Conn informed the Council that Beacon & Bridge has donated \$16,000 worth of PPE masks and wipes to the community to be distributed to the city, fire department, schools, churches and nursing homes that are in need. He further reported that the DDA approved the creation of DDA Dollars for the Employee Appreciation and that the City Clerk posting will be posted later this week and be out longer due to some staff illness and fairness for all to see.

Councilperson Gray asked for an explanation of the well and tower equipment failure. Manager Conn explained that the variable frequency drive went out on Well #7; which is the mechanism that regulates the speed of water flow during start up and shut down. Peerless is currently working on the failure and said it should be covered under our liability insurance. The water tower mixers were not turned back on by Suez personnel after tower maintenance was performed; these keep the water moving to avoid freezing and to maintain water quality. These parts will be replaced as soon as possible and are covered under the maintenance contract with Suez.

New Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for consideration. The addendum has been requested by MERS because effective January 1, 2021 it is implementing several modifications to the way in which the plans are administered. The addendum is required to indicate changes and/or provision clarifications the City may make based on these modifications. The Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum presented, makes one change from the current adopted plan in place, which was discussed when the Defined Contribution Addendum was approved. It adds lump sum sick leave payouts to the FAC as currently afforded to employees in the Defined Contribution plans. There are two employees left in the plans that this will affect. The Council discussed this change and general consensus to leave as currently adopted and not to change.

Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to adopt the Municipal employees Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for plan 290401 and not including lump sum sick leave payouts in the FAC, effective January 1, 2021 and authorize the City Clerk-Treasurer to sign and file. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the 2021 meeting dates for the City Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Downtown Development Authority for approval. The DDA has approved its dates.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to approve the 2021 meeting dates for the City Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Downtown Development Authority. Motion carried.

Old Business

City Manager Conn presented the AFSCME Union Contract for approval. He reviewed a few changes that were to be included in the final revision of the contract and already approved by the Union stewards.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the AFSCME Union Contract for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023 as presented with the following changes and authorize the City Manager and Mayor to sign:

Page 04 -Agreement: last date from 2018 to 2021

Page 17 -Strike everything starting with “this premium payment policy shall be implemented on the following graduated schedule: ...through and including the third line ending with spousal cost”

Page 18 -Retirement: Strike first sentence regarding Defined Benefit Retirement Plan

Page 23 -Longevity: Strike the first section “Employees on payroll prior to July 1, 1988...”

Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer asked about the Community Center doors. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported they have been ordered. They will require electric to be run to each door with the ADA automatic openers, so we will coordinate with the Technology Committee’s need for power on the doors for the cameras so all can be done at once.

Mayor Schafer informed the Council that she sent a Thank You for the private donation for the fire radio project on behalf of the Council and 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 Baublitz, second by Gray to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Barbara Fandell, City Clerk-Treasurer