

**CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 5, 2021  
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 Schafer 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 Sean Beckman.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of December 15, 2020. Motion carried.**

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

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Sean Beckman of Rowe Professional Services Company updated the Council on the Water System Improvements project. EGLE has approved the permits and construction can begin in the spring.

Mayor Schafer read a Thank You note received from employee Gail Paradise for the employee appreciation certificate and support Council showed to the employees and businesses.

**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 the City Clerk position posting, DPW Director retirement/position, Co-op student, Employee certification received, water shut offs, scraper truck, retirement of labor attorney – Robert Huber, building lease agreements, and virtual meeting continuation.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47100-47126 and Payroll Checks #16052-16080, DD1756-DD1784, EFT #1210-1220 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: Robert Huber retirement announcement, EGLE email, Miller Canfield email on Open Meeting Act and Virtual meetings.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (0) None**

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

**City Manager Comments**

City Manager Conn reported that GESA approved having a co-operative student and selected Travis Hillman from Ithaca High School. The authority would like to pay the student minimum wage and asked if the City Council would support payment.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Baublitz to approve the Co-operative student and to pay minimum for the hours worked through the program. Motion carried.**

City Manager Conn informed the Council that labor attorney Robert Huber has announced his retirement effective December 30, 2020. He also informed Council that Brandon Smith passed his Sewer Treatment Operator test and is now L1, L2 licensed.

**New Business**

City Manager Conn presented Lease Agreement renewals for the McNabb Park Bigelow Horse Barn and Track and for 122 N Maple building for approval. He stated there was no increase in lease amount on either agreement and terms set were as discussed. Both parties are in agreement to the terms and ready to sign upon Council approval.

**Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to approved the Lease Agreement: McNabb Park Bigelow Horse Barn and Track between the City and Brook and Dana Daniels and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to approve the Lease Agreement: Property Lease 122 N Maple Building between the City and Mindful Therapy, LLC and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.**

City Manager Conn requested the Council address the new rules for in-person meetings and virtual meetings and give direction on how long it will continue virtual meetings versus in-person. General consensus to continue virtual meetings, due to the regulations and new requirements of in-person meetings, through March 31, 2021 or until regulations are lifted.

City Manager Conn informed Council that the new stop light was being placed that day.

**Old Business**

Councilperson Koppleberger asked for an update on the Dilts Road property sale. Manager Conn shared that additional information has not been found and he needs to direct Attorney Arnold to move forward with filing for a deed.

Mayor Schafer asked for an update on the Community Center doors. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell said they are ordered and awaiting a delivery date. Manager Conn stated that Director Studt spoke with the electrician and they will be contacting Councilperson Hubbard so all work can be done simultaneously. Councilperson Hubbard said he would call them the next day.

Mayor Schafer asked how the RFP for security was coming. Councilperson Hubbard would talk with Manager Conn later that week.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Sean Beckman shared that he echoed EGLE's Kurt Swendson's comments regarding Bob Studt. Bob is highly respected throughout the State of Michigan and it shows at the Michigan Rural Water conferences and added what a pleasure it has been to work with him.

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

City Manager Conn asked to discuss the City Clerk position and DPW Director position and hiring process for each. City Council discussed and consensus to move forward with interviewing the internal candidate for the Clerk's position. This will be done at the Committee of Whole on January 6, 2021 at 6:00pm. As for the DPW Director position, Council is open to the hiring of someone internal if the institutional knowledge and qualifications fit the needs of the City, but will leave the application process to the City Manager to decide if external candidate applications are desired also.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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Barbara Fandell, City Clerk-Treasurer