

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 2, 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 (Public Act 228 of 2020) was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00pm. 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, City Clerk Cathy Cameron and City Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Sean Beckman and Shannon McKnight.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on February 16, 2021. 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 Gray to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None was given.

Consent Agenda

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

- **City Manager's written report which included updates and information on Phase 1 Security, DPW Director Succession, SLIPR Authority, Fair Office and Horse Barns.**
- **Financial Reports for 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47232-47254 and Payroll Checks #16124-16136, DD #1821-1830, EFT #1239-1247 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: Charter Communications, Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes and Greater Gratiot Development Minutes.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gray reported that the Water & Sewer Committee met to review the water and sewer rate study proposals. The committee is recommending staff review the Waterworth Software module and demo as proposed under Municipal Analytics for further evaluation. City Manager Conn stated that City Treasurer Fandell has already scheduled a demo of the software for next Tuesday.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Conn informed Council that the SLIPR Authority is close to finalizing the agreement with Alma Transit. SLIPR is requesting \$4,000 (from each entity) for starter cash to cover operating expenses until the millage is levied. These funds will be reimbursed in full once levy collections have been established.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to allocate \$4,000 in starter cash to the SLIRP Authority. Motion carried. Councilperson Baublitz abstained.

City Manager Conn reported that DPW Director Studt and himself met with the G.A.S President at the fair office to discuss the condition of the building. In hopes of saving the building from being demolished the fair board has inquired if the Council would split the cost of materials for repairs if they did the work themselves. Mayor Schafer reminded Council that they have been in a very similar circumstance before and the repairs were not done.

City Manager Conn presented the quote of \$22,371 for the roof repairs on the horse barn. Discussion was held with the consensus of the Council that the cost of the repairs exceeds the amount of profit the barn lease brings in and therefore not a feasible option. City Manager Conn suggested that the city offer the wood inside the barn to someone that would be willing to trade labor for the material.

Council directed City Manager Conn to inform the G.A.S. President that the city will not be contributing money towards any repairs and provide them notice that the building will be demolished. They further directed City Manager Conn to hold off on barn roof repairs and notify the lease holder that upon expiration of the current agreement that the building would be demolished.

City Manager Conn reported that the new Community Center doors have been installed along with two pollards. The second pollard was installed at no additional cost to the City.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Schafer stated that the Phase 1 Security Project bid was to be awarded.

Moved by Gray, seconded by Koppleberger to award the bid for the Phase 1 Security Project to Unified Network Consulting in the amount of \$16,936 and authorize City Manager Conn to sign the contract.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Abstain: (1) Hubbard

City Manager Conn stated that the City Hall portion (\$7,475) of the security project funding had already been allocated to come from the Norton Gibbs Fund and requested the Council to address where the funds for the remainder will come from.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to authorize the funding of the security project for the Community Center and the DPW Buildings in the amount of \$9,461 to come from the General Fund. Motion Carried.

New Business

City Manager Conn informed the Council that both candidates for the DPW Superintendent positions have requested the discussion be held in closed session as allowed under the Open Meetings Act, Section 8(5).

Moved by Andrew, second by Gray to enter into closed session under the OMA Section 8(5) discuss the DPW Director Succession Plan.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Entered into Closed Session at 7:29pm.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to exit from closed session. Motion Carried.

Exited from Closed Session at 7:51pm.

Progress continues on the DPW Succession Plan with appointments to be made before May 2, 2021.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None was offered.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. City Treasurer Fandell inquired to the Council regarding her attendance at meetings and frequency of submitted financial reports. Consensus was to have written financial reports submitted monthly and requested her presence at the meetings on a quarterly basis.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Approved 3-16-2021

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk