

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 16, 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 Protém 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 City Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Attorney Jefferson Arnold and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.
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 March 2, 2021. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer asked for approval of the Agenda and for Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. City Manager Conn requested additions for the wages for seasonal labor, downtown flowers/IPC and the American Rescue Plan update. Mayor Schafer added Item 8C Seasonal DPW hourly wage rate, Item 9B Downtown Flowers and Ithaca Promotional Committee and Item 9C American Rescue Plan. Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to approve the Agenda as amended with the addition of Items 8C Seasonal DPW hourly wage rate, Item 9B Downtown Flowers and Ithaca Promotional Committee and Item 9C American Rescue Plan; and the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Consent Agenda

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

- **Ithaca Unit Report for February 2021.**
- **City Manager report which included updates and information on business and building activity in the downtown, horse barn demolition, DPW succession plan, SLIPR agreement with City of Alma, Waterworth software demo, Dust Off Car Show and GAS Pig Scramble, Hopscotch project on the sidewalks and DDA Dollars.**
- **Financial Reports for January 2021**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47257-47304, Water/Sewer Bond Debt Retirement ACH 16A and Payroll Checks #16137-16146, DD1831-DD1840, EFT #1248-1252 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: CMU College of Medicine – program information.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Conn reported he and Fire Chief Nelson toured Ryan Smith's buildings and they are very nice. They also inspected the Sign of the Times building and discussions are being held on necessary repairs to the building. There are four new businesses coming into the downtown. Three will be opening in the late spring with the fourth following later in the year. Manager Conn reported that the Brandall horse barn was down and we are not allowed to burn the wood so they will find another means of disposal. He further reported that SLIPR has an agreement with the City of Alma so service is ready to go and will be active on October 1st.

City Manager Conn updated the Council on events that would be happening; Dust Off Car Show and GAS Pig Scramble. He also shared that the High School Art teacher and Cathy Timmons are helping with a project where students paint hopscotch on the routes to school. Lastly, he informed the Council that the Ithaca Rotary was inspired by the DDA Dollar program and is investing \$1905 in certificates for one of its upcoming projects.

Councilperson Gray inquired on the contents of the little building in McNabb Park. Manager Conn said Jack Martin from GAS said they store a mower and tools in the building, but can be moved if it was to be demolished.

Councilperson Koppkeberger asked for an update on the Dilts Road property sale. Manager Conn spoke with Attorney Arnold and he was working on it last week. Another map was found to help. Councilperson Andrew inquired about the ditch map that was supposed to offer the ownership proof needed. Manager Conn stated that Attorney Arnold wanted one more piece of proof for the judge. Manager Conn said he would discuss with him again this week and ask him to get it to the court.

Unfinished Business

City Manager Conn requested that the DPW Succession Plan be postponed until the April 6, 2021 meeting, due to Director Studt being out of town on business. Mayor Schafer will place on the next agenda.

City Manager Conn reported that staff participated in a demo of the Waterworth software that was proposed as an option to Municipal Analytics Water and Sewer Rate Study proposal. He shared that the reports that can be produced will be very helpful and beneficial to the Council, staff and community in understanding the rates and long-term planning for the systems. Treasurer Fandell added favorable comments of the software, explained the subscription of the software and 90-day free trial period and reviewed the options offered by Municipal Analytics. It is the recommendation of staff to move forward with the rate study from Municipal Analytics with the Waterworth software subscription at a cost of \$11,045 plus \$500 in consultant expenses if incurred.

Moved b by Gray, second by Hubbard to approve the proposal for the Water and Sewer Rate Study submitted by Municipal Analytics with the Waterworth Software subscription at a cost of \$11,045 plus up to \$500 in consultant expenses if incurred and to amend the budget for the project. Motion carried.

City Manager Conn requested the City Council set the wage rate for the new hire seasonal workers. The Council had previously discussed the wage, but had not set it.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to set the hourly rate for seasonal new hires to \$10.00 per hour. Motion carried.

New Business

Mayor Schafer noted the memo request by Clerk Cameron to appoint a member to the Election Commission. Her recommendation was Treasurer Fandell. Mayor Schafer stated that would be a good appointment and asked if there were any comments or objections. There were none.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to appoint City Treasurer Barbara Fandell to the Election Commission. Motion carried.

City Manager Conn informed the City Council that staff had met with Brendan Kelly from the Gratiot Chamber of Commerce and the Ithaca Promotional Committee (IPC) is currently dissolved and rebuilding. The IPC funds the downtown flowers, but due to their position and only having \$700.00 in their funds with the Chamber, will

not be funding them or the Christmas decorations this year. He requested that Council discuss if the City would purchase the flowers this year and ask the DDA to cost share. The cost is about \$1,000 and the pots must be sent to the nursery soon to be planted in order to be ready for placement. The Council discussed the flowers and IPC and will allow this year, but they may have to reconsider for the future.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Koppleberger to authorize \$1,000 for the downtown flower pots and direct the City Manager to request the DDA to cost share in the project. Motion carried.

City Manager Conn updated the City Council on the American Rescue Plan funding; informing them that the City will receive \$273,111. A full report will be forthcoming as details on the plan and use of funds becomes available.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Sean Beckman, Rowe Professional Services Company, discussed the upcoming ACT 51 map certification and addition of the Commerce Drive extension. Due to the road being unplatted, Rowe is preparing the legal description and Resolution needed to have the street added to the ACT 51 map. Rowe plans to have this for the April 6th agenda, so that the deadline for the map filing will be met.

Councilperson Gruesbeck shared he received a call from a resident that the building in the cemetery was losing shingles and were in the street and it could possibly need a roof repair. City Manager Conn will look in to it.

Mayor Schafer commented on the nice article in the Gratiot County Herald on the City Manager.

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 7:35pm.

Recorded By: Barbara Fandell, City Treasurer

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk