

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 4, 2021
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council 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 and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Staff in attendance was City Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Shannon McKnight, Rob Endter and Chasity Savage.

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on April 20, 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 to change items under New Business; remove item 9b (IFE Application for Trident Mfg.) and add item 9d (Ithaca Promotional Committee Event).

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to approve the Agenda (as amended by removing item 9b (IFE Application for Trident Mfg.) and adding item 9d (Ithaca Promotional Committee Event), including 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:

- **City Manager's written report which included updates and information on Gemini Capital, Rusted Roses, Metro Act Permits, DPW doors and Seasonal Mowing.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47396-47413 and Payroll Checks #16176-16200, DD #1871-1886, EFT #1269-1276 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: MAGNET.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported to Council that Gemini Capital has completed the renovations at 146 East Center Street and have already leased out all ten apartments. He informed Council that he met with the new owners of 129 East Center Street. They plan to have an antique shop on the first level and construct the upstairs into two apartments. Manager Conn will be working with them on having an outside staircase entry to the upstairs from the alley way.

Manager Conn informed Council on three requests for Metro Act Permits; one from Frontier, Great Lakes Comm, and Point Broadband. Frontier and Great Lakes Comm are working in specific areas; whereas Point Broadband is requesting to install fiber optic lines throughout the entire City.

Manager Conn stated that the quote received for the new DPW doors came in very high (\$6,733) and requested Council give him direction on moving forward. Mr. McKnight (with Unified Network Consulting) reported that he found some online retail options for new doors; one was for \$853 delivered, second \$709 delivered. Mr. McKnight stated that he also spoke with Mission Door to get a price for the new doors, and was told to expect somewhere between \$900 to \$1200. Manager Conn stated that the quote was not itemized, but did include labor for installation of the door. Discussion was held on the options with the determination of Council to direct Manager Conn to have new doors ordered and get estimates to have them installed.

Manager Conn informed Council that he has concerns over the condition of the cemetery in regards to the seasonal mowing. The new contractor for this season is having difficulty in keeping up with the cemetery mowing and trimming. Manager Conn requested approval to allow him the authority to get ahead of the potential problem before it exacerbates and enlist additional/other resources as needed. Council agreed that we must stay on top of it. Manager Conn inquired on the option of contacting the next lowest bidder which was Grass Wacker's out of Alma, who helped us out with mowing in the park last fall. Full consensus of the Council was to give Manager Conn the authority to contact Grass Wacker's for possible mowing.

Manager Conn expressed his gratitude of DPW Director Studt upon his retirement. Further stating that DPW Superintendent's Smith and Waldron have begun their new duties and that he looks forward to their new leadership role. Mayor Schafer and Council shared the same sentiment.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

New Business

Treasurer Fandell presented the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget for introduction and requested a public hearing be set for May 18, 2021. She further requested a committee meeting be set to review the budget with Council prior to the public hearing. Manager Conn stated that he would like to add on PFAS presentations from two of the companies that submitted proposals.

Mayor Schafer set a Committee of the Whole meeting for Wednesday, May 12th from 5:30pm. to 8:00pm. to discuss the budget and PFAS proposals.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Baublitz to introduce the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget and set the public hearing for May 18, 2021 at 7:00pm. or soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion carried.

Manager Conn requested that Ordinance 2021-01 Amending Chapter 38, Section 51: Cross Connections be postponed. Michigan Rural Water is having a conference on May 25th; regarding the upcoming changes to cross connections and would like to send Superintendent Waldron to get more information about it. This would be beneficial to learn more about before amending the ordinance.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to cancel the public hearing and postpone amending the ordinance to a later date. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that the Ithaca Promotional Committee would like to schedule an event on June 26th. They have requested that the City close down Center Street (downtown block) around the corner, south on Pine River to Newark Street. The IPC is further requesting permission to allow open intox on the public streets. IPC member Chasity Savage introduced herself to the Council. She informed Council that this new group of volunteers making up the IPC are excited to bring back an event downtown for the community. They have been

working hard to make plans for everyone to get back together and enjoy themselves. Manager Conn stated that the liquor license would be pulled/held by the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce. He stated that the IPC needs the approval of the Council to allow the consumption of alcohol on public streets. Councilperson Hubbard disagrees with the standing rule of not allowing alcohol on public property as it can lock the city out of holding events. He inquired if the Council was allowed to approve these kinds of special events every time requested or by amending the ordinance. Councilperson Gray agreed, stating that he believes the City should do away with this section of the ordinance and allow the Council to make a case-by-case decision. Discussion was held.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to authorize the street closure of Center Street (downtown block) around the corner, south on Pine River to Newark Street for the IPC Event to be held on June 26th; and allowing consumption of alcohol on the public streets. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated he thinks the decision should be more thought out before making any relaxation (amendments) to the ordinance. Motion carried.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to reassess the city ordinance of alcohol on public property. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None was offered.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. Councilperson Koppleberger inquired on the cost of hiring a new contractor for the seasonal mowing, how that would affect our budget. Manger Conn replied that it would affect our current budget and have planned for extra allowance in the fiscal budget beginning July 1, 2021.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Approved 5-18-2021

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk