

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 18, 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. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Andrew, Brett Baublitz, Scott Gray, Clark Hubbard and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was Councilperson Gruesbeck and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Staff in attendance was City Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Deputy Treasurer Jamie Space.

Audience in attendance was Rob & Lexi Endter.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on May 4, 2021. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer asked for approval of the Agenda and for items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Clerk Cameron requested to add the Gratiot Emergency Services Authority; Amendment to Articles of Incorporation to the agenda. Mayor Schafer placed it under Unfinished Business as item 10a.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item 10a. Gratiot Emergency Services Authority), including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to excuse Councilperson James Gruesbeck who was out of town. 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 the Police Contract, Granger Contract, Assessor, Sidewalk, Metro Act Permits and AT&T.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47414-47456, Water & Sewer Bond Debt ACH #17A and Payroll Checks #16201-16211, DD #1887-1896, EFT #1277-1282 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: Charter Communications.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Gruesbeck

Committee of the Whole

Mayor Schafer reported the Committee of the Whole met to consider and review the strategic planning for the budget and upcoming fiscal year. Some adjustments were recommended to be presented at the public hearing. The sidewalk millage renewal was discussed with recommendation to place it on the November ballot.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to authorize staff to work with an attorney to obtain proper language of the sidewalk renewal for placement on the November 2, 2021 Election. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer further reported that the two companies that had submitted proposals for PFAS remediation, provided a presentation via Zoom. The Committee recommended moving forward with consultant SME.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard accepted the proposal and enter into a contract with Soil and Materials Engineer's (SME) as a consultant for the sanitary landfill remediation, not to exceed \$30,000. Motion carried.

Department Reports

There were none to report.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn informed Council that the contract for police services with Gratiot County will expire at the end of December. The City must notify them by the end of June if we would like to discuss a new contract. The Council agreed that they would like to open discussion with the County to continue police services. Manager Conn also informed Council that the contract for waste removal with Granger will expire at the end of July. He will be meeting with their representative this week for discussions. Changes will be coming for the recycling program.

Manager Conn updated Council that he has been working with the Clare City Manager and reaching out to other municipalities in searching for an Assessor of Record. Making some progress, as the City needs to get back with the Tax Commission by the end of May to give them an update.

Manager Conn reported that the City has received another Metro Act Permit. He further updated Council on the progress with AT&T negotiations. They have agreed to an increase for each tower to \$1,250 per month, plus \$3,000 toward legal fees to have some amendments done.

Unfinished Business

Clerk Cameron read aloud the Gratiot Emergency Services Authority; Amendment to Articles of Incorporation. This amendment is for the transfer of assets and liabilities from the City to the Authority on July 1, 2021 instead of April 1, 2021.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to adopt the Gratiot Emergency Services Authority; Amendment to Articles of Incorporation and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the document. Motion carried.

New Business

Mayor Schafer stated that it was time for the public hearing on the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to enter into a public hearing to take comments on the proposed 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Gruesbeck

Mayor Schafer opened the public hearing at 7:23pm.

Treasurer Fandell reviewed the budgetary highlights. Concentration is on facility and infrastructure improvements and repairs. The budget has projects which include maintenance to the grounds and buildings at the parks, cemetery, city hall, sidewalk improvements and to water infrastructure, including watermain repairs

and lead/copper investigations. Furthermore, with continuation on general street repairs and painting with four street projects that are scheduled a new cold patch machine will be purchased. The budget has been impacted by COVID and the American Rescue Plan funding as well as prior CARES Act funding.

Treasurer Fandell noted that this hearing also serves to take comment on the property tax millage rates, the Truth and Taxation rollback and the Headlee Rollback. She reviewed the millages and the effect of the rollbacks on the City.

Mayor Schafer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Hubbard to close the public hearing.
Mayor Schafer closed the hearing at 7:34pm.**

Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2021-06: Designation of City Depositories for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to adopt Resolution 2021-06: Designation of City Depositories for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Hubbard, Kopplesberger, Andrew, Baublitz, Gray, and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Gruesbeck

Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2021-07: Approving the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage Rates.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to adopt Resolution 2021-07: Approving the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage Rates. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Kopplesberger, Andrew, Baublitz, Gray, Hubbard, and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Gruesbeck

Manager Conn introduced Ordinance 2021-02: Amending Chapter 4: Alcoholic Liquor of the City Code of Ordinances and requested a public hearing to be set for June 1, 2021. Discussion was held on both alcohol and marihuana within the city code.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Baublitz, to approve the introduction of Ordinance 2021-02: Amending Chapter 4: Alcoholic Liquor of the City Code of Ordinances. Motion carried.

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to set a public hearing for Ordinance 2021-02: Amending Chapter 4: Alcoholic Liquor of the City Code of Ordinances, for June 1, 2021.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Mr. Hubbard (Unified Network Consulting) updated Council on the status of the Phase 1 Security Project. He reported that the wiring and security cameras at the DPW have been installed and are now in operation. The doors still need to be replaced. Mr. Hubbard stated that they are close to completing their part of the project. Manager Conn agreed, stating that the remaining few issues are on the City to complete, such as purchasing and installing commercial grade doors at the DPW and contacting IT Right for some firewall upgrades. Manager Conn requested approval from Council to pay Unified Network Consulting for their completed work. Council agreed.

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

Councilperson Andrew asked for an update on the cemetery mowing. Manager Conn reported that the entire cemetery had been mowed and it looks good. He was pleased by the contractor's efforts, with hopes that this is sustainable. Manager Conn reported that he had called another contractor to mow three residential lawns for code violations, and that they were mowed that same day.

Councilperson Gray requested that Clerk Cameron email him the Ordinance Chapter on Marihuana for his review.

Discussion was held on the development of a disc golf course at McNabb Park.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Approved 6-1-2021

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk