

**CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 1, 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 and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was Councilperson Hubbard and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Staff in attendance was City Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance: none.

**Moved by Andrew, second by Baublitz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on May 18, 2021. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer asked for approval of the agenda and for items to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to approve the agenda, including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- **City Manager's written report which included updates and information on Ellen's Equipment, Sidewalk Zone Six, Drain Rerouting, Covid-Time Policy and updated Covid rules.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47457-47486, and Payroll Checks #16212-16228, DD #1897-1906, EFT #1283-1289 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: Magnet 2020 Annual Report, GACC Minutes, GGDI Minutes**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Hubbard**

**City Manager Comments**

Manager Conn reported to Council that he had informed City Attorney Arnold to move forward with filing the vacant parcel documents and to have a public notice published in the newspaper next week.

Manager Conn updated Council on the sidewalk project (zone six) which is tentatively set to begin in July. Mayor Schafer inquired if new sidewalks could be included. The sidewalk milage language only covers for the repair and maintenance. Manager Conn reported that the drain rerouting in Westwind will be completed this month.

Manager Conn provided updates on the new Covid rules regarding mask/gathering mandates as adopted by MIOSHA. He is recommending that Council suspend the Covid-Time Policy, indefinitely, beginning June 2, 2021.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to suspend the Covid-Time Policy beginning June 2, 2021. Motion carried.**

Manager Conn stated, on behalf of the staff, the policy was very much appreciated.

**Unfinished Business**

Mayor Schafer presented the Capital Improvement Plan 2021-2027 Revision. Treasurer Fandell stated that this revision includes changes that were made after the budget hearing.

**Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to adopt the revision of the Capital Improvement Plan 2021-2027. Motion Carried.**

**New Business**

Mayor Schafer presented Resolution 2021-08 Approving Budget Appropriations 2021-2022.

**Moved by Andrew, second by Baublitz to adopt Resolution 2021-08 Approving Budget Appropriations 2021-2022.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Hubbard**

Mayor Schafer stated it was time for the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-02 Amending Chapter 4, Alcoholic Liquor.

**Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz, to enter into public hearing on Ordinance 2021-02 Amending Chapter 4, Alcoholic Liquor. Motion Carried.**

Mayor Schafer opened the public hearing at 7:15pm.

Manager Conn stated that the amendment gives Council the right to allow for consumption of alcoholic liquor on public places by granting a Special Events Waiver with majority vote. Mayor Schafer confirmed that the applicant must provide all of the details of the event and provide the City with a copy of their liability insurance. Councilperson Gray stated that this gives any Council the right to make the decision. Councilperson Gruesbeck expressed his hesitance of the change. Councilperson Baublitz stated that by passing this amendment the Council is not obligated to grant the waiver, but it gives the right for Council to make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

**Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to exit the public hearing. Motion Carried.**

Mayor Schafer closed the public hearing at 7:20pm.

**Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to adopt Ordinance 2021-02 Amending Chapter 4, Alcoholic Liquor.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Hubbard**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

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

Mayor Schafer stated that she was appreciative of MAGNET sending their annual report along with a thank you letter. She read aloud a thank you card from Bob Studt. Councilperson Baublitz shared that Alma Transportation will be selling two of its busses at auction soon. Councilperson Gruesbeck reported that during the Memorial Day Parade, it was hard to hear over the vehicles going by even with the speaker system on. Discussion was held on the past times, when the streets were closed down during the service.

Manager Conn reported that he has not received any more complaints on the condition of the cemetery. They did a great job mowing and trimming the grass. Mayor Shafer agreed that the cemetery looked very nice for Memorial Day weekend. She further commented that it is much easier to care for without all the decorations around the headstones. Mayor Shafer stated that North Star Township has recently become stricter with their rules of what is allowed on gravesites. Councilperson Andrew stated that many cemeteries, including Breckenridge, have had to make policy changes regarding decorations.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

*Approved 6-15-2021*

*Cathy Cameron*

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk