

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 20, 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, James Gruesbeck and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was Councilperson Clark Hubbard and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Staff in attendance was City Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Jim Wheeler, Kasey Zehner, Jim Hirschman and Rob & Lexi Endter.

Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on July 6, 2021. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer asked for approval of the agenda and for any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. City Manager Conn requested to add the Granger Contract Amendment to the agenda under Unfinished Business. Mayor Schafer placed it as item 10a.

Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item 10a. Granger Contract Amendment), including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Consent Agenda

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

- **City Manager's written report, which included updates and information on Farmland Lease, Farmers Market, Planning Commission, Water Main Project, Code, ARPA Funds and Well Head Protection Program.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47568-47608, and Payroll Checks #16280-16291, DD #1950-1958, EFT #1311-1316 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: Library Minutes, GACC Minutes and MML Annual Meeting**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Hubbard

Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to excuse Councilperson Hubbard due to a work commitment. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

There was none.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the quarterly activity of the Ithaca Unit for April through June of 2021. There were five breaking and entering complaints for the month of June, in addition to an increase in thefts. As a result, he is having the deputies make more stops and contacts than normal. Being visible in an effort to deter any more thefts from happening. The department has solved two of these incidents and is actively working on the others.

Councilperson Gruesbeck stated that there are many speeding vehicles on North Main Street.

Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to receive the Ithaca Unit June 2021 written report and the 2nd Quarter 2021 verbal report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Fandell reported on the state of finances for the quarter of April through June of 2021. She requested a formal motion for acceptance of the ARPA Grant Funding and authorization for the City Manager to sign the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund application.

Moved by Andrew, second by Gray to accept the ARPA Grant Funding and authorize the City Manager to sign the CLFRF application. Motion carried.

Treasurer Fandell updated Council on the progress of getting new iPads to replace those currently assigned to Councilpersons and Department Heads. Treasurer Fandell is currently serving as a Vice President for the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce and has been asked to serve as the President-Elect and President for the following two-year term. The duties would create approximately 10 hours of work per month. Treasurer Fandell asked if Council would like her to serve in this capacity and if so, grant her permission. Council expressed their confidence and support for her to serve as President of the GACC.

Treasurer Fandell updated Council on the progress of the Water Rate Study.

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to receive the Financial Report for the 2nd Quarter 2021. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported on the quarterly activity of the Ordinance/Code Enforcement for April through June of 2021.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to receive the Ordinance/Code Enforcement Report for the 2nd Quarter 2021. Motion carried.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported to Council that the Planning Commission had met and decided to forego the detention pond option on the site plan for Shaw's Auto Body. The building addition was approved. The water main project on Union Street has begun and should take a couple weeks to complete. There has been no word yet on the Well Head Protection Program Grant. Manager Conn thanked Greater Gratiot Development for the Farmers Market display sign that they had donated to the city.

Unfinished Business

Manager Conn presented the Granger Contract Proposal and Amendment. The current contract ends July 31st, so the Contract Amendment serves as an extension until August 31, 2021. Council reviewed the options offered in the proposal. Councilperson Gruesbeck asked for clarification on the recycling. Manager Conn stated that to continue with the curbside recycling program, there has to be at least 100 residents participating to cover the cost. Granger has offered to provide a roll off container periodically, which has several guidelines and comes at an extra cost. Currently only about 25% of residents participate in recycling free of charge. Concern over what that number may drop to when there is a charge going forward. Discussion was held.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to postpone the Granger Contract until the next Council meeting to be held on August 3, 2021. Motion carried.

Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to approve Amendment No.1 Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Contract with Granger and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.

New Business

Mayor Schafer stated that it was time for the public hearing on the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption for Trident Manufacturing.

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to enter into a public hearing to take comments on the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption application submitted by Trident Manufacturing. Motion carried.
Mayor Schafer opened the public hearing at 7:28pm.

Manager Conn turned it over to Jim Wheeler and Kasey Zehner with Greater Gratiot Development. Ms. Zehner introduced the request for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFE) submitted by Trident Manufacturing. She reported that Trident Manufacturing is currently the fourth largest private employer in Ithaca with 74 employees. This expansion began in February of this year with an increase of 8,000 sq.ft. of production space and will also include a laser machine at \$874,000 which is not included in this request because it is personal property. The request is only for the real estate building portion of 8,000 sq.ft which is a total of \$295,710. The building is expected to be completed by the end of the year. As a result of this new expansion, Trident Mfg. will be able to retain all 74 positions at the facility and create 5 new positions. The request is for a 12-year exemption.

Jim Hirschman with Trident Manufacturing stated that they have plans to continue expanding the business, with another building addition within the next twelve months. Councilperson Baublitz expressed his appreciation for Mr. Hirschman's investment within the city. Mr. Hirschman stated that business is doing well and thanked the city for working with him toward continued success.

Mayor Schafer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Schafer closed the public hearing at 7:33pm.

Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to approve the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption for Trident Manufacturing and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion carried.

Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2021-09: Charter Amendment - Sidewalk Dedicated Millage. Ms. Fandell reported to Council that as previously authorized she has been working with Miller Canfield to draft a resolution for the sidewalk millage renewal. There were no changes made (except dates) from the initial request made back in 2015. This is for a one (1.00) mill per year for six (6) years, beginning in 2022. Treasurer Fandell reported that she has already received the pre-approval from the Attorney General's office. If adopted, it will be sent to the Attorney General and Governor's office for approval and will then be placed on the November 2, 2021 ballot.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to adopt Resolution 2021-09: Charter Amendment – Sidewalk Dedicated Millage.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Hubbard

Manager Conn presented the Cash Farmland Lease between the City of Ithaca and Ron Cuthbert. The current three-year lease will be expiring the end of this year. This is for the 12-acre parcel east of the lagoons. Manager Conn reported to Council that he had checked around on the going rate for farmland rent and found that the average is between \$150 to \$175 per acre. The farmland is not tilled, so he presented the offer of \$125/acre to Mr. Cuthbert, who accepted.

Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to approve the Cash Farmland Lease and authorize Manager Conn to sign. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. Rob Endter inquired if anyone knew who was doing surveying downtown. Manager Conn stated that there had been discussion on renovations at the neighboring business, but was not sure. Councilperson Gray stated that he saw Consumers Energy working in the area.

Jim Wheeler thanked Council for approving the IFE for Trident Manufacturing. He stated that it is nice to see growth in the Industrial Park.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. Councilperson Gruesbeck was appreciative of the newly painted yellow lines at the Senior Center. Mayor Schafer thanked the city for the Rural Urban Day tickets. She also informed Council that she will be attending the Mayor's Conference August 11th through the 13th.

Mayor Schafer informed Council that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 2021 at 6pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Approved 8-3-2021

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk