

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 17, 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, 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 Water & Sewer Superintendent Jarred Waldron.

Audience in attendance was Rob & Lexi Endter, Shawn Brock and Reagan Waldron.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on August 3, 2021. Motion carried.

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

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

- **City Manager's written report, which included updates and information on the Water System, NPDES, Water License, MRWA and Rotary.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47631-47668, and Payroll Checks #16306-16320, DD #1968-1977, EFT #1322-1326 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: MML 2021 Dividends**

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 was none.

Department Reports

Mayor Schafer reported that the Library Board had met. They would like to meet with Manager Conn to discuss a few items in the Library Agreement, prior to their next meeting.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported to Council that Water & Sewer Superintendent Waldron had an inspection on the lagoons with ELGE and received an excellent report back from them. DPW Superintendent Smith passed his water license exam. Retired DPW Director Bob Studt received Person of the Year at the Michigan Rural Water Association annual conference. Congratulations to all three guys.

Manager Conn reported that the Rotary has inquired about placing a sign at Woodland Park stating their assistance in maintaining the area. He stated that we have other organizations and churches that volunteer their time, that it would not be right to only have one acknowledged. Councilperson Hubbard agreed that having one sign that represented all of those groups that volunteer their time at Woodland Park be acknowledged. Mayor Schafer stated that the Church of God has helped out a lot at the park.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

New Business

Manager Conn reported that we are making progress with the coliform bacteria testing in the water system. He and Water Superintendent Waldron had another phone conference with EGLE and MRWA today. They discussed the possibility of having us chlorinate the water system. Currently our counts are low and we continue to make progress each time the water is tested. Manager Conn reported that updates of the boil water notice are being shared with the residents via the city website and facebook page.

Councilperson Hubbard inquired if the water towers had been chlorinated. Manager Conn stated that the water towers were chlorinated to clean them. Superintendent Waldron reported that all of the wells tested out fine, so we know that the source water is good. He then ran tests on all three towers to check for any infiltration. The west tower by the cemetery tested fine, the east and south tower both tested hot. Monitoring and retesting of those towers is ongoing. Superintendent Waldron informed Council that we are not turning over the amount of water that we normally do in a summer. The combination of low pumping during the month of July, along with the heat and humidity, creating stagnant water may have been a cause of the bacteria. The south water tower was designed to mostly serve the south industrial park, so it is not used as much as the others. He explained how a water tower system operates. Both towers have been off line, drained, chlorinated and refilled. He further explained that once we have good negative tests on the water, then the towers will be re-chlorinated, refilled and tested again. The testing requires two, twenty-four hour consecutive samples before he can put the towers back in operation. Manager Conn reiterated that once the system is clean and we get our two consecutive negative test results than the boil water notice will be removed. There was discussion held on water system chlorination pros and cons. Manager Conn reported that Superintendent Waldron and the DPW staff have been working around the clock to flush the water system by running the fire hydrants. Councilperson Schafer inquired if all the towers have stirrers to prevent stagnant water. Superintendent Waldron stated the all the towers do have mixers and they are working. Further stating that the mixers height location within the tower is something he needs to investigate and make adjustments to if necessary. Councilperson Hubbard inquired on a plan of action going forward. Superintendent Waldron reported that his plan is to overflow the water towers once a year and add an addition hydrant flushing to the annual schedule. Manager Conn expressed his appreciation of Superintendent Waldron and the DPW staff for their hard work. Council shared their gratitude for Manager Conn, Superintendent Waldron and the entire staff.

Councilperson Gruesbeck presented names received from the nominating committee to be placed on the Senior Activity Board election ballot. Those persons are Vic Beard, Donn Gates and Susan Sparks.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Gray to approve the Nominating Committee's names of Vic Beard, Donn Gates and Susan Sparks to be placed on the ballot for the Senior Activity Board. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. Councilperson Baublitz stated that the Gratiot Community Foundation has sponsored some bus badges that will soon appear on the back of the Alma Transit busses. Councilperson Gruesbeck informed Council that in September, Jo Jones will be celebrating 43 years of service with the Senior Activity Center.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Approved 9-7-2021

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk