

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 7, 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.

Audience in attendance was Kristyn Roethlisberger, Alison Jerome and Brook Daniel.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on August 17, 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 Horse Barn Rental Agreement to the agenda under New Business. Mayor Schafer placed it as item 10d.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to approve the agenda (as amended by adding item 10d. Horse Barn Rental Agreement), including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. Brook Daniel addressed the Council. He requested to be released from the Horse Barn Agreement early, which would be for the last quarter of this year. This is due to the cities decision to demolish the barn. He referenced Section 10 of the lease agreement, which states,
In the event the leased premises are made reasonably unusable or uninhabitable due to condemnation, fire, windstorm or other casualty, the lease and this Agreement shall end and neither party shall have further obligation hereunder.

Mayor Schafer stated that the Council would be discussing this under new business.

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 Water System, Sidewalk Zone 6, SME Workplan, Granger Contract, Police Contract, On-line Auction, Employment, and Door Hangers.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #47669-47699 and Payroll Checks #16321-16332, DD #1978-1986, EFT #1326-1335 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: GGDI Minutes**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Committee Reports

There was none.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported to Council that the water system will be tested again next week as part of the regular monthly schedule. The tanks are back on line and all in operation. The sidewalk zone 6 project will be starting within the next couple of weeks. Manager Conn further reported that SME has submitted a work plan for the PFAS site. As soon as they receive approval from EGLE, they will begin working on the site. The new contract with Granger takes effect September 1, 2021. Very few calls have been received regarding the omission of recycling.

Manager Conn inquired of the Council if they would like to have a meeting to discuss the Police Contract. Mayor Schafer stated that she wants every Councilperson to be able to give their input on what our expectations are. Councilperson Gruesbeck agreed, stating that a Committee of the Whole meeting should be held.

Manager Conn stated that he had received a request from the Historical Society and they may be interested in the old cemetery fence that was being placed in the online auction. He informed them that the Council had already approved to donate one good section of the fence to them. Councilperson Hubbard inquired if they planned to put the fence around the building. Manager Conn replied that they were unsure how it would be used at this time but knew that now was the time to get it. There are about 40 sections of the fence that are in good condition. Councilperson Hubbard stated that it was a good option to have it stay in the city. Councilperson Gray and Mayor Schafer agreed. Councilperson Koppberger stated that the fence would need to be removed from the DPW location to the Historical Society property storage. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated if they want some of the fence, it would be nice to have them take it all.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to donate all the good sections of the old cemetery fence to the Historical Society. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that there was an old state championship sign from 2010-2011, that he pulled from the auction pile. He would like to donate it to the school. Council agreed that the school should have the sign.

Manager Conn reported he hired Phil Rondy as a seasonal DPW worker through the end of November, as previously approved by Council. There are three applicants for the code/rental position. Interviews will be scheduled next week.

Manager Conn stated that he would like to eliminate the practice of issuing door hangers for water shut offs. It has become a habit for certain residents to rely on the door hangers for notification before finally coming in to pay. This is an extra step that we can do without, so the DPW crew can spend better use of their time. Clerk Cameron informed Council that the practice of door hangers developed as an extra courtesy to the residents. Residents are given 30 days to pay the original bill, then sent a shut off notice giving an additional 30 days to pay. Clerk Cameron stated that new language will be added to the shut off notices, stating that this is their final notice, no further notifications will be given. Council agreed to eliminate the door hanger process.

Unfinished Business

Manager Conn reported that SME has submitted a work plan for the PFAS site. As soon as they receive approval from EGLE, they will begin working on the site. Mayor Schafer stated that she thought it was a concise and relatively easy report to understand.

New Business

Manager Conn informed Council that he had approved a special event for Four 7 on September 11, 2021 that included the closure of the 100 block of South Pine River. In addition, Ryan Mills has requested permission to allow the consumption of alcohol on the public street in front of his establishment.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to approve the request, allowing the consumption of alcohol on the public street during a special event at Four 7 to be held on September 11, 2021. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that the AT&T Contract Amendments are complete and requested permission to sign. The contract is an increase of \$1,200 monthly for the city. Councilperson Hubbard verified that this was for updates to the cellular antennas. Mayor Schafer thanked Manager Conn for his hard work negotiating this contract.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Baublitz to enter into the AT&T Contract, Second and Fifth Amendments and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.

Manager Conn informed Council that the drain had been moved back on Westwind Lots 27 & 28, so they could be sold. He inquired if there should be a stipulation of one year from purchase to beginning construction, to be placed on any purchase agreement. Council agreed that there should be some kind language included as a time frame for construction or at least ground breaking. Manager Conn stated that Marci Browne, with America's Choice Realty had provided a market analysis for them to consider. Discussion was held.

Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Marci Bowne, with America's Choice Realty to list/sell lots 27 & 28 in Westwind Estates. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that he had received a call from Brook Daniel, who informed him that he has found a new place to keep his horses. This is due to the cities decision to demolish the barn. Mr. Daniel has requested to be released from his contract for the months of October through December 2021.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to approve the early release (October through December 2021) of the Horse Barn Rental Agreement between Mr. Daniel and the City. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. Mayor Schafer acknowledge Alison Jerome in the audience, who is running for Council and thanked her for attending the meeting. Ms. Jerome stated that she wants to learn more about the Council and the meeting format.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. Councilperson Andrew ask for an update on the Ellen's property. Manager Conn informed the Council that Attorney Arnold has the paperwork completed and will be presenting it to the Judge soon. Councilperson Gruesbeck inquired on having another planning session for the Council, to review things that are on going and prioritizing. Mayor Schafer acknowledge that these meetings have always been productive. Manager Conn informed Council that with the water event that occurred recently, he has had two people from outside of the city with wells that are claiming the city dried up their aquafer. Discussion was held. Mayor Schafer informed Council that she sent out cards of congratulations to Bob Studt, Jarred Waldron and Brandon Smith, signing them from the Council and herself. In addition, she sent a thank you to Manager Conn for all his hard work. Mayor Schafer reminded Council of the open house at ZFS tomorrow and informed them that she will be giving a small speech there on behalf of the city.

Mayor Schafer scheduled a Committee of the Whole meeting for 6:00pm. on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 to discuss the Police Contract.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Approved 9-21-2021

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk

City Council Minutes