

**CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 19, 2026  
5:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark Hubbard at 5:30pm. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were Mayor Brett Baublitz (*arrived at 5:45pm.*), Councilpersons James Andrew, Rob Endter, Brandon Ester, Clark Hubbard, Kristyn Roethlisberger and Brooke Vernon. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron; City Treasurer/Finance Director Chris Foster, DPW Superintendent Brandon Smith and Water/Sewer Superintendent Jarred Waldron. Additionally, previous City Treasurer Luke Klifman.

Audience in attendance was Allison Johnson and Aidan Brewer.

**Moved by Andrew, seconded by Endter to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 5, 2026. Motion carried.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard asked for approval of the agenda and for any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Manager Conn requested to add Seaver Street Project to the agenda under New Business. Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard placed it as item 10f. Councilperson Endter requested to add Legal Counsel Response to the agenda under Unfinished Business. Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard placed it as item 9a.

**Moved by Vernon, seconded by Brandon to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item 10f. Seaver Street Project; and 9a. Legal Counsel Response) including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard asked for public comment. Students Aidan Brewer and Allison Johnson were in attendance as part of their school government class. Aidan addressed the council with his interest in government and shared the many exciting opportunities offered through school that he has attended.

**Consent Agenda**

**Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Ester to approve the consent agenda items as listed:**

- **City Manager’s written report included updates and information on North Street, Woodland Park Update, Staff Update, Hydrant Flushing and Chamber Dinner.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Foster and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #51456-51487, #2449-2450 and Payroll Checks #17197-17201, DD #3736-3754, EFT #2185-2186 as listed in the Check Register Book**
- **Correspondence received was none.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: (7) Ester, Hubbard, Roethlisberger, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Baublitz**

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (0) None**

**Committee/Department Reports**

Mayor Baublitz reported that the Committee of the Whole met on May 11, 2026 regarding the Open Meetings Act with training being provided by Miller Canfield. Several Councilpersons stated that they thought it was an effective presentation and learning opportunity.

### City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported that the new City Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer are doing well, learning their new roles and responsibilities and expressed appreciation to Clerk Cameron and Deputy Clerk Moffit for helping with their training. The Annual Chamber Dinner was another success this year. Ithaca awardees were Kim Hodge for “Person of the Year” and Bill Henderson won the Legacy Award. Congratulations, well deserved!

### Unfinished Business

Councilperson Endter inquired on legal counsel’s response to his motion made at the April 21<sup>st</sup> council meeting. Mayor Baublitz reported that contact was made with the city’s legal counsel and their response was that they had no legal opinion. Contact was also made with the city’s auditors, and their response was standard practice documentation. The other two councilpersons on the Personnel Committee were informed at that time. Councilperson Endter was not satisfied with the responses given as they did not meet the requirements of his original motion and proceeded to restate said motion.

**Moved by Endter, that the Personnel Committee meet in consultation with legal counsel to prepare a written memorandum for review and acceptance by council, documenting how the recent control issue was addressed, including summary of the incident, the control failure, corrective actions taken and the expectations moving forward, without identifying individuals. There was not a second.**

**Without support, Mayor Baublitz declared that the motion dies.**

### New Business

Manager Conn presented his request for annual wage increases for city staff beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion was held. Manager Conn informed council that the MML provides an annual wage study for all municipal members free of charge. Council requested a wage study be provided at the next meeting.

Manager Conn requested his personnel review be held in closed session. Closed session is allowed under the Open Meetings Act MCL15.268(a)

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Ester to enter into closed session for Annual Personnel Review.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: (7) Hubbard, Roethlisberger, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Ester, Baublitz**

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (0) None**

**Entered closed session at 6:14pm.**

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Ester to exit closed session. Motion carried.**

**Return to open session at 7:12pm.**

There was no statement made or motion made upon return to open session.

Manager Conn presented a budget amendment for engineering services provided by ROWE for the Center Street and Union Street projects in the amount of \$107,094.50.

**Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Andrew to approve the budget amendment for engineering services provided by ROWE for the Center Street and Union Street projects in the amount of \$107,094.50. Motion carried.**

Clerk Cameron presented the two community center cleaning bids as submitted. Discussion was held.

**Moved by Andrew, seconded by Vernon to award the community center cleaning bid to Heather's Cleaning Service, in the amount of \$200 per month. Motion carried.**

Manager Conn presented the two bids that were submitted for the Lobby Safety Remodel project. Discussion was held. Freed Construction was the lower bid at \$ 63,943.00 and had done a great job with remodeling city hall a few years ago.

**Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Roethlisberger to award the Lobby Safety Remodel bid to Freed Construction in the amount up to \$65,000 within the FY26/27 budget. Motion carried.**

Manager Conn reported that he, DPW Superintendent Smith and Water/Sewer Superintendent Waldron had met with Aaron from ROWE regarding the two block section of Seaver Street as an optional add on to the Union Street project. Discussion was held on the options with recommending reconstruction of the two block street along with infrastructure upgrades. The proposed project would be \$233,480.

**Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Ester to include Seaver Street in the amount of \$233,480 to the Union Street Project, contingent with staying on budget. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comments. There was none.

**Announcements**

There was none.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Roethlisberger to adjourn. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

*Approved 6-2-2026*

*Cathy Cameron*

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk