CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 16, 2026
5:30 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council was called to order by Mayor Brett Baublitz at 5:30pm. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were Mayor Brett Baublitz, Councilpersons James Andrew, Rob Endter, Brandon Ester, Clark Hubbard, Kristyn Roethlisberger, and Brooke Vernon. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn, City Clerk Cathy Cameron; and City Treasurer/Finance Director Chris Foster.

Audience in attendance was none.

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Hubbard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 2, 2026. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Roethlisberger to approve the Agenda, including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment
Mayor Baublitz asked for public comment. There was none.

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 Center Street Project, County-Wide Transit, Plante Moran, Planning Commission, Downtown Alley Parking, Downtown Sidewalk Signs, City Hall Landscape and City Hall Roof.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Foster and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #51508-51545, 1043(A), and Payroll Checks #17207-17210, DD #3773-3791, EFT #2196-2200 as listed in the Check Register Book**
- **Correspondence received was none.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: (7) Hubbard, Roethlisberger, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Ester, Baublitz
Nos: (0) None
Absent: (0) None

Committee/Department Reports
There was none.

City Manager Comments
Manager Conn reported that a laptop has been set up for Plante Moran to have remote access. The Planning Commission approved a site plan for the new construction of Horvat Dental office at 207 Dilts Road.

A request was made by a commercial business to allow advertising signs on the sidewalk in Downtown. The ordinance states that it is not allowed. There are sandwich boards that are placed outside during business hours and then removed. Permanent signs would impede people walking and be a hindrance during snow removal. Manager Conn stated that he offered options of advertising on the corner sign, new digital billboard or using the flag holders that are attached to the front of the building with owner permission.

Manager Conn reported that the south alleyway downtown has a faded pavement symbol for handicap parking. A request was made to have the pavement re-painted and permanently marked with a sign as a handicap space for those in need. Council agreed.

Unfinished Business

Manager Conn reported that he broke down the wage study presented at the last meeting, to show an average salary of positions that have same job titles and closest responsibilities to ours. Mayor Baublitz stated that he did not want to make any changes on the same night as passing the new budget. Councilperson Hubbard agreed. Mayor Baublitz stated that it was good information to have, can be used when we move forward at some point to make adjustments. Councilperson Hubbard further stated that upon his review, there are some positions that need some extra attention to keep things equitable.

Treasurer Foster presented Resolution 2026-12: Approving the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget Appropriations.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Ester to adopt Resolution 2026-12: Approving the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget Appropriations.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: (7) Hubbard, Roethlisberger, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Ester, Baublitz
Nos: (0) None
Absent: (0) None

New Business

Treasurer Foster presented an amendment to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Andrew to approve the amendment to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget for the drains at large in the amount of $30,000 as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported on the engineering estimate, received from ROWE, for the storm sewer on Union between Seaver and Westwind. Recommendation is to do the project now alongside the Union Street Reconstruction. The location is in the right of way, not the street.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Roethlisberger to approve the engineering with ROWE, to include the storm sewer into the Union Street Project with an estimated cost of $170,000. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that the DPW road grader is unusable and has been for over ten years. DPW Superintendent Smith spoke with Nick Hirschman, who made an offer for the piece of equipment. He would donate his time and cost to fix it up, store it inside at the farm, essentially making it his. While allowing the city to use it any time. The city could use it at the ponds or any other gravel roadway. Councilperson Hubbard suggested that an agreement be drawn up between the city and Hirschman Farms. Manager Conn stated that he will work with DPW Superintendent Smith and Nick Hirschman on an agreement to be brought back to Council for their approval at the next meeting.

Manager Conn introduced the MMR Contact Renewal with a term of five (5) years. He spoke to Brett Hansen with MMR, who wants to continue using the rescue station for their staff. There are cleaning issues that need to be addressed. Discussion was held. Council is open to renewing the agreement. Manager Conn will follow up with Mr. Hansen on an agreeable rental cost and bring it back to council.

Public Comment

There was none.

Announcements

Councilperson Hubbard expressed his appreciation to the DPW crew for a great clean up after a storm blew through the city. Manager Conn informed council that the 4th of July Holiday will be observed by the DPW on July 3rd and City Hall will be closed on July 6th for the office staff. The county declared a state of emergency back in April, so with that comes FEMA representatives who will be in the area for four (4) weeks. Perrinton has offered their Community Center to be used as the venue for that duration of time beginning June 29th. Manager Conn announced that he had just received a text message from County Commissioner George Bailey, that the Commission just voted to approve the purchase of the Gratiot County Animal Shelter from the city. Councilperson Andrew requested a Resolution of Recognition be created for Luke Klifman.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Vernon to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Approved 7-7-2026

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk