CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 21, 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 and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Additional staff present were City Treasurer Chris Foster and Water & Sewer Superintendent Jarred Waldron.

Audience in attendance was Aaron Wendzel with ROWE.

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Hubbard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 7, 2026. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz asked for approval of the agenda and for any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Manager Conn requested to add Resolution 2026-11: Approving the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage Rates Amendment to the agenda under Unfinished Business. Mayor Baublitz placed it as item 9b.

Moved by Hubard, second by Vernon to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item Resolution 2026-11: Approving the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage Rates Amendment to the agenda under Unfinished Business) 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 Planning Commission, Bedzinski & Company, Playground, Election Day, Community Center, Water Shutoffs, EGLE and Lobby Renovation.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Foster and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #51587-51618, and Payroll Checks #17223-17226, DD #3821-3837, EFT #2211-2214 as listed in the Check Register Book**
- **Correspondence received was none.**

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

Committee/Department Reports
Treasurer Foster reported on the current priorities and activities of the Treasurer's office.
Manager Conn reported on the quarterly activity of the Ordinance/Code Enforcement office.

City Manager Comments
Manager Conn reported that the Planning Commission met and approved a new gas station to be constructed at 1126 E Center Street. EGLE has contacted the city regarding the ACO from 2024 and the West Washington Road Dump Site. We are working with legal counsel to set up a meeting for the ACO. Lobby renovations will begin on Monday. Residents will be directed to the Council Chamber for service during construction.

Unfinished Business
Manager Conn provided an update on the new playground layout. Unfortunately, the necessary pitch for the long slides is not achievable. The playground representative is working with us on alternative options. Discussion was held. The council determined to hold off until another option is acceptable that will provide a unique feature to our playground.

Manager Conn presented Resolution 2026-11: Approving the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage Rates Amendment.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Ester to adopt Resolution 2026-11: Approving the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage Rates Amendment.
Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: (7) Ester, Hubbard, Roethlisberger, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Baublitz
Nos: (0) None
Absent: (0) None

Clerk Cameron presented the 2026 Tax Rate Millage Request as submitted by the City Assessor.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Andrew to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the 2026 Tax Rate Millage Request. Motion carried.

New Business
Manager Conn presented the Engagement Letter from Bendzinski & Co. to authorize the sale of bonds in relation to the Union Street Project. They are planning to issue approximately $2,550,000 Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) bond issue for the roads portion of the project and a $3,000,000 Capital Improvement Bond for the water and sewer portion of the project. Expecting that with these borrowings for the project that the completive sale route will result in the lowest overall cost of borrowing for both bond issues. They are expecting that this route will save the city about $120,000 over the 15 year term for the MFT bond and about $150,000 over the 15 year term for the Capital Improvement Bonds. Recommendation is for the competitive sale bond sale method for both bond issues.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Ester to authorize the City Manager to sign the engagement letter with Bendzinski & Co. Motion carried.

Manager Conn presented Resolution 2026-14: Capital Improvement Bonds Notice of Intent.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Roethlisberger to adopt Resolution 2026-14: Capital Improvement Bonds Notice of Intent. Motion carried.

Aaron Wendzle with ROWE, provided information on the Union Street Project with a detailed presentation of the mapping, infrastructure and finished project images. He informed council on the meeting held with the Drain Commissioner on which county drain would be best utilized for water flow at Seaver and Union Street. Discussion was held. Water & Sewer Superintendent Waldron provided knowledge of the infrastructure, along with previous water issues in that area and his recommendation is to switch the water flow to Ithaca #1 Drain which has more capacity.

Motion by Hubbard, seconded by Andrew to approve the change to re-direct water flow from Seaver Street to the section of Union #338 as well as #338T to connect into the Ithaca #1 drain. Motion carried.

Public Comment
There was none.

Announcements
Councilperson Vernon shared a resident's appreciation of the DPW quick response to a water leak issue.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

Approved 8-4-2026

Cathy Cameron
Cathy Cameron, City Clerk