CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 4, 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 Pro-Tem Clark Hubbard, Councilpersons James Andrew, Rob Endter, Brandon Ester, Kristyn Roethlisberger and Brooke Vernon. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was Mayor Brett Baublitz.

Audience in attendance was none.

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Ester to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 21, 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 Security Key Card Access to the agenda under New Business and Playground Update to the agenda under Unfinished Business. Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard placed Security Key Card Access to New Business as item 10f and Playground Update to Unfinished Business as item 9a.

Moved by Andrew, second by Roethlisberger to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item Security Key Card Access to the agenda under New Business as item 10f and Playground Update to Unfinished Business as item 9a) including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment
Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard asked for public comment. There was none.

Consent Agenda
Moved by Vernon, seconded by Ester to approve the consent agenda items as listed:

- **City Manager's written report included updates and information on Headlee Rollback, Playground Slides, MML Training, Woodland Park Utility Pole, Chip Seal, Union Negotiations and National Fitness Campaign Grant.**
- **Financial Reports for June.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Foster and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #51619-51650, and Payroll Checks #17227-17231, DD #3838-3854, EFT #2215-2224 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received was Library Minutes and Health Impact Fact Sheet.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: (6) Roethlisberger, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Ester, Hubbard
Nos: (0) None
Absent: (1) Baublitz

Committee/Department Reports
Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard reported that the Committee of the Whole met on July 27th for an onsite training session on the "Essentials of Local Government" provided by the MML. The presentation was informative and will help guide us moving forward with city business.

City Manager Comments
Manager Conn reported that after researching the Headlee Rollback adjustment to the budget revenue for this year, Treasurer Foster indicated the $21,000 decrease can be rectified by our budget surplus of $46,000 keeping the budget balanced. There is no need to amend the resolution as the budget is still in balance.

A new option for slides at the playground was offered that would provide a unique feature to Woodland Park. The design team is in the process of implementing something similar to our design.

An initial meeting is being scheduled for DPW Union Negotiations to begin. Manager Conn inquired about the process that Council would like to implement. Discussion was held. Consensus of the Council was to have the Personnel Committee be included in the meetings along with Manager Conn and Treasurer Foster.

Manager Conn reported that the city has an opportunity for a fitness park grant through the National Fitness Campaign. A short informational video was played. Council was interested in pursuing this opportunity.

Unfinished Business
After discussion, the Council was in favor of the new playground slide option that was presented. Manager Conn stated that a complete design should be available at the next meeting. Discussion was held on the upgrades to the park bathrooms. The initial project plan will remain the same.

New Business
Clerk Cameron presented the names received from the nominating committee to be placed on the Senior Activity Board of Directors election ballot. The 3-year term begins in October 2026. Those candidates were Marci Browne, Gail Paradise and Cleo Flegel.

Moved by Endter, second by Andrew to approve the nominating committee's names as submitted, to be placed on the ballot for the Senior Activity Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Clerk Cameron presented the Board and Commission Appointments for the following:

- **Downtown Development Authority – 2 Positions** *(4-year term ending 6/30/2030)*
  - Marci Browne *(incumbent)*
  - Kim Hodge *(incumbent)*

- **Library Board – 1 Position** *(5-year term ending 6/30/2031)*
  - Hillary Shemes *(incumbent)*

Moved by Andrew, second by Roethlisberger to appoint Marci Browne and Kim Hodge to the Downtown Development Authority; and Hillary Shemes to the Library Board for the terms specified above. Motion carried.

Clerk Cameron presented the MERS Officer Delegate Appointment for the annual conference to be held in October in Downtown Grand Rapids. The administrative staff recommends that Treasurer Foster be appointed as the delegate and Clerk Cameron as the alternate for this year's conference.

Moved by Ester, second by Roethlisberger to appoint Treasurer Foster as the MERS Officer Delegate and Clerk Cameron as the alternate for this year's conference. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that DPW Superintendent Smith, Water & Sewer Superintendent Waldron and he attended a meeting with ROWE and the school regarding the Union Street Project. We proposed using, with council approval, some of the city's stock of crushed concrete to widen the gravel drive between the bus garage and the southern driveway of the high school. Throughout the project construction the far north driveway of the high school will always remain open. During the school year they are required to have another driveway open to traffic as well. By widening the gravel drive between the bus garage and the southern driveway to re-route traffic during construction, it will allow more closer of Union Street, which in turn may result in better bids.

Moved by Vernon, seconded by Ester to approve the use of city stock crushed concrete to widen the gravel drive access between the bus garage and the southern driveway of the high school. Motion carried.

Manager Conn presented the estimate for custom oak cabinets for the lobby renovations, in the amount of $5,693.00 as submitted by Mann’s Painting Inc & Freed Construction Company.

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Ester to approve the estimate from Mann’s Painting Inc & Freed Construction Company in the amount of $5,693.00. Motion carried.

Manager Conn informed council that, prior to the meeting, he had received a verbal estimate for installation of key card access to the new interior door as part of the lobby renovations. This same company has installed security measures for the city previously. The estimate was under $1,500 from Unified Network Consulting. Discussion was held. Mayor Pro-Tem Hubbard stated that he will be abstaining from the vote.

Moved by Ester, seconded by Roethlisberger to approve up to $1,500 for security key access to be installed by Unified Network Consulting. Motion carried.

Public Comment
There was none.

Announcements
Councilperson Ester reported that the outside handicap button at the Community Center is not working. Councilperson Vernon inquired on how to get a four way stop at the corner of Main and Newark Street. Discussion was held. There was no decision made.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:36pm.

Approved 8-18-2026

Cathy Cameron
Cathy Cameron, City Clerk