

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 15, 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 and Brooke Vernon. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron and City Treasurer Chris Foster.

Absent was Councilperson Kristyn Roethlisberger.

Audience in attendance was none.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 1, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Ester to excuse Councilperson Roethlisberger.

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

Moved by Hubbard, second by Ester 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 Andrew to approve the consent agenda items as listed:

- City Manager's written report included updates and information on the Traffic Accident Study, Playground Installation, Harvest Fest, Downtown Fall, Ithaca Schools Repaving, SRF Final Disbursement, S&P Global Rating and Bonds.
- Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Foster and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #51711-51733 and Payroll Checks #17242-17244, DD #3896-3915, EFT #2239-2242 as listed in the Check Register Book.
- Correspondence received was none.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Endter, Ester, Hubbard, Vernon, Andrew, Baublitz

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Roethlisberger

Committee/Department Reports

There was none.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn informed council that installation of the new playground equipment is scheduled to begin October 12th. This year's Harvest Fest is planned for Saturday, September 19th. The school district is planning to repave the parking lot at North Elementary the summer of 2028. They would like to coordinate with the city for any

additional paving that the city may be doing around the school at that time. Manager Conn reported that the SRF final disbursement check has been cut, as the APRA grant funding deadline is approaching.

Unfinished Business

Manager Conn presented the Lot Purchase Agreement between the city and Michigan Housing Partnership, LLC. to purchase the six remaining lots located in Westwind Estates in the amount of \$11,500 per lot.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Ester to approve the Lot Purchase Agreement between the city and Michigan Housing Partnership, LLC. to purchase six lots located in Westwind Estates in the amount of \$11,500 per lot and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz opened discussion on the wage study. Councilperson Vernon suggested that the council wait until after the DPW union negotiations are held with an agreement to be signed at the end of the year. Discussion was held.

Moved by Vernon, seconded by Hubbard to postpone to a certain time, the wage study review until after the end of the year. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz presented the proposal received from Unified Network Consulting LLC, to install security cameras at the Senior Activity Building. The building board has requested that the city split the cost 50/50 with them. Discussion was held.

Moved by Endter, seconded by Andrew to approve the proposal from Unified Network Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$6,506.21 with the city sharing the cost of 50% being \$3,253.11. Motion carried. Councilperson Hubbard abstained.

Manager Conn presented a traffic study for vehicle accidents that have occurred on Newark Street between Pine River and Main. The study began in 2007 thru 2026 with a total of eleven accidents. Discussion was held. The council was split on whether to install stop signs on South Main to create a four-way stop at the intersection of Main and Newark. Consideration of creating a four-way stop at the intersection of Pine River and Newark was also discussed.

Moved by Ester, seconded by Endter to have stop signs installed on South Main Street creating a four-way stop at the intersection of Main and Newark Streets. Councilperson Hubbard and Mayor Baublitz opposed. Motion carried.

New Business

Clerk Cameron presented the Title VI Annual Report for submission, to be filed with MDOT as required by law.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to authorize the city clerk to submit the Title VI Annual Report to MDOT. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that Josh Stand with IPC has requested an alcoholic liquor approval for the Harvest Fest to be held on September 19th downtown.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Vernon to approve the alcoholic liquor request for the IPC Harvest Fest event. Motion carried.

Manager Conn presented Resolution 2026-15: Gratiot County Parks & Recreation Grant Application. He inquired what percentage of appropriation they are requesting to be written in on the application. Consensus of the council was to request 20% of the estimated \$695,000 appropriation from the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners.

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Hubbard to adopt Resolution 2026-15: Gratiot County Parks & Recreation Grant Application.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Ester, Hubbard, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Baublitz

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Roethlisberger

Manager Conn presented Resolution 2026-16: National Fitness Campaign Grant Application.

Moved by Hubbard, seconded by Ester to adopt Resolution 2026-16: National Fitness Campaign Grant Application.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Hubbard, Vernon, Andrew, Endter, Ester, Baublitz

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Roethlisberger

Public Comment

There was none.

Announcements

Councilperson Ester requested a status update on the chip seal streets project. Manager Conn reported that he and DPW Superintendent Smith have discussed the contractor and their quality of the work performed to this point as unfavorable. Discussion was held to hold final payment and seek legal advice.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Approved 10/6/2026

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk