

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, DDA Director Mandy Symonds and Lead Officer Chad Chase.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas.

Audience in attendance was none.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 2012. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None was received.

Committee Reports

Mayor Bailey reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the 2012-13 Fiscal Year Audit Report as presented by Roslund, Prestage and Company, PC. The committee recommends approval of the report.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to approve the 2012-13 Fiscal Year Audit Report. Motion Carried.

Department Reports

Lead Officer Chad Chase reported on the December activity of the department. He reported the 2011 patrol car's heater was broke and would be repaired later that week, so mileage on the cars are not equalized. He further reported accident counts were up due to the bad weather days. All officers have been trained on the Datamaster and SFST Training. Lead Officer Chase gave an update on the Palmer Place activity and facilities licensing. City Manager Foster has scheduled a meeting with the State to discuss the current concerns of the facility.

Lead Officer Chase reviewed the 2012 Annual Department report.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to receive the Police Department December 2012 and 2012 Annual reports. Motion carried.

DDA Director Mandy Symonds reported on the quarterly activity of the Downtown Development Authority and community events. She has arranged for business owners to work with the Ithaca High School web design class on setting up new or improved websites for their businesses, created Welcome packets that were distributed to realtors in the County showcasing what Ithaca has to offer, is working with Mr. Lambrecht's government class on creating a Historic Ithaca Tour as a class project for a summer event, and is currently in process of updating the Ithaca Promotional books and selling ads for it.

Director Symonds reported on the upcoming events and that she is currently working to develop short seminars for the DDA businesses on various topics to help benefit small business. The DDA has three new businesses and purchased sixteen wreath decorations from Imlay City at a cost of \$50.00 each to decorate out to the highway.

Move by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to receive the DDA Director's report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster reported a meeting was held to review the building renovations for the Library and the DPW would be insulating the Fire Hall as it is in need. The material cost of the insulation is \$700 and a rebate is available from Consumers Energy for \$600. He further informed members that Inspector Sherman and Chief Nelson would be inspection the Ithaca Motel that week. Manager Foster updated members on the Lagoon ponds and reported that since 2010 when we began using the NuSytems treatment, the sludge is down 2 inches, and appears to working as presented.

Manager Foster reported he attended the regional task force meeting for roads. The City was not in line for funds this year, however due to others in the region not being able to utilize them, the City's Center Street project was moved forward and will be done this year. The paving project will be Center Street from Woodland Park to Pine River and the City share is approximately \$16,000. The Gratiot County

Road Commission may be able to do the engineering, and if so, would be a considerable savings. He reported he also attended a meeting with other municipalities in the County regarding collaboration on contracted permits, inspections, and other services. This may be an option for the future with declining revenues and the State trade inspection issues.

Manager Foster informed members he learned the Beebe building had been sold on a land contract and was told it was all in lines with our agreement with Stonehouse. It, however, is not. The agreement states that if the building sells, the loan does not transfer. The City Council did pass a motion for a one-time allowed non-transfer when he was trying to sell it before, but there was some miscommunication and the land contract is signed and the City will not be paid off prior to the land contract payoff terms. Discussion held. Direction for the City Manager and Attorney Arnold to draft an addendum to the agreement to state the City is to be paid in full if the land contract is paid off prior to the terms of the original agreement and bring it back to the Council for review and approval prior to signing.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell received a request from the County Clerk for the City to consider changing its election year cycle from an odd year cycle to an even year cycle. She presented pros and cons to the Council for consideration and reported the results of conversations with the neighboring cities. State law will allow for the change if passed by Resolution and then the Charter could be updated during the next Charter revision. Mayor Bailey asked members to consider the option and directed the Clerk to prepare the Resolution for February's meeting when a determination will be made.

City Manager Foster presented a draft ordinance for a new Dog Ordinance. Discussion held. Mayor Bailey asked members to submit comments and changes to the Manager for a final so it could be introduced at the next meeting.

Councilperson Henderson inquired where the review of outside wood burners was at. Mayor Bailey stated the Planning Commission had started the review and are waiting on Inspector Sherman to clarify some of the information with State law.

Councilperson Schafer inquired on checking into getting a UPS drop box in town. Manager Foster said Cartridge Express was looking in to becoming a drop off center. Sip-N-Knit will allow you to also. She also inquired on a football sign. Manager Foster said MDOT is currently reviewing the submitted design. Councilperson Schafer shared appreciation for the staff's good work on the audit and the auditor comments.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #38912-38974, Grant Program Checks #1029-1030 and Payroll Checks #11749-11784, DD110-DD122, EFT63-EFT68 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were received.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Hollenbeck opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Absent were Councilpersons Brian Henderson and John Thomas.

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark, Brook and Dana Daniel.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 8, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Fair Board met. Clerk Fandell noted there were no minutes of the meeting. Councilperson Hollenbeck will notify the Board that minutes are required to be taken.

Department Reports

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the Fire and Rescue quarterly activity. He informed Council that the departments are working well together and budget preparation has begun for the 2013-14 Fiscal year. The recommended budget will be sent to the townships the first week of February so they have to review with their perspective boards prior to the committee meeting on February 19, 2013. He further reported the local chiefs are working on a county-wide mutual aide agreement for structure fires.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if the State of Michigan could be billed for services we provide on US-127 for working on its highway. Chief Nelson stated they had tried in the past, but the State refused to pay due to jurisdiction responsibility.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to receive the Fire Department report. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported on the quarterly activity of the departments. An update on the Election, staffing, School Election consolidation and financials were given. The financial statements had some adjustments which still needed due to some changes with the new software reporting, these would be line item changes, but would not change the numbers. A discussion was held on the changing to the odd year election cycle.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster informed Council he received a draft proposal from Sheriff Wright for police consolidation and is working on some details before the committee review. Discussion held on using the Committee of Whole for the review. Council was updated on the library renovation project, library collaboration meeting, downtown hardware buildings, the AFC Home and Ithaca Motel situations. He further reported on a residential sewer backup that has been sent on to the insurance company for damage assessment.

Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired on paving the parking lot behind the library as it is graveling. Manager Foster is looking into it.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed Resolution 2013-01 for deferment on 2012 tax penalty for qualified individuals.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2013-01 Deferment on 2012 Tax Penalty for Qualified Individuals. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (2) Henderson, Thomas

Motion carried.

Manager Foster reviewed the changes of the Dig Alley Grant Change Order #1, with additional review from Project Engineer Steve Clark, Rowe Professional Services.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to approve Change Order #1 for the DIG Alley grant project in the amount of \$7,805.47 and approve the transfer of the funds from the Gibbs fund. Motion carried.

Councilperson Timmons noted the street light pole on N. Pine River has yet to be installed.

Councilperson Schafer noted there was a water leak in the park last week and possible one at the Arcada Street water tower.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #38975-39021, Grant Program Checks #1031 and Payroll Checks #11785-11803, DD123-DD133, EFT69-EFT73 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments.

Brook and Dana Daniel introduced themselves as horse trainers at McNabb Park and asked for an update on changes potentially coming to the facility. Mayor Bailey explained the Council is performing its due diligence by reviewing the master plan of the park to serve all residents and that they are working with many groups for information input. Dana stated she had just joined the GAS Board and are working to improve the barns and inquired on the life lease GAS has with the City. Councilperson Schafer explained there is no life lease and in fact the current lease is expired. Mayor Bailey recommended they contact the State to see what it was doing to bring back a viable to program to the grounds. Mr. Daniel stated the race release date was February 10th and they would find out then if any would be held at the park.

Steve Clark stated the next step in the plan was a survey of the schools and then a meeting with the GAS board. The survey is to be completed in February.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 5, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson James Gruesbeck.

Audience in attendance was Brad Heffner and Jordan Wheeler.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 22, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments.

Brad Heffner, resident 925 E. Emerson, expressed concerns on the dog ordinance. Mr. Heffner became a dog owner after his home was broken into. He had two concerns, one with the definition of the term “viscous dog” and the other was that the city has no civil infraction ordinance in place. He explained that the Section 6-42 language is very broad and leaves a lot of openness for interpretation. The MCL sited has some exclusions that will give the City some protection on the interpretation of the definition if reworded as such. His second concern was if a dog owner is charged with viscous dog, the penalty currently makes them guilty of a misdemeanor, which is more dangerous than other crimes and since there is no civil infraction ordinance in place the dog owner can be charged, the way the ordinance is written, with the misdemeanor if their dog, on a leash, under control, shows teeth. Mr. Heffner asked the Council to reconsider a civil infraction ordinance before going forward with the dog ordinance, and if unable to, to reconsider tightening up subsection 2 to protect the property and dog owner before expending the cost of publications and public hearing expense.

Attorney Arnold stated the civil infraction was looked at 10 years ago but no action was taken.

Jordan Wheeler stated he was present to make sure the dog ordinance was not going to hinder on breed specific.

Mayor Bailey thanked them for their comments.

Committee Reports

Mayor Bailey reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the potential consolidation of the Police Department with the County Sheriff's Department. The Committee felt it was a good discussion and feasible to continue. Members would like to receive public input before taking any action. Discussion held on holding informal public meetings and varying times to accommodate the public's availability.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to hold a series of informational meetings for the public to attend for comment and questions on the potential police services consolidation, publish in the paper, and staff to determine the dates and times of sessions. Motion Carried.

Department Reports

Lead Officer Chad Chase provided a written report of the January activity of the Police Department.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to receive the Police Department report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster reported the Fire-Rescue Department budgets were sent with a zero growth budget proposed. The formula was changed the SEV factor to the TV factor which shifts more to the City share, but it has been falling in its percentage so this brings it back in line. He informed members the library directors will be meeting and all are participating except the Alma Library at this time. He updated members on the library project, the MSHDA Rental Rehabilitation meeting and open house, and Planning Commission upcoming reviews and upcoming meeting with a hotel group on its project idea for Ithaca.

Manager Foster reported he is working with the cities of Alma and St. Louis on the Redevelopment Communities grant applications. The three cities will apply separately, but send in together as a joint project explaining the importance of one to each other.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Dog Ordinance- Mayor Bailey stated after consideration of the public comments received earlier, the introduction of the ordinance should be postponed to incorporate and further research the sections of concern.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to postpone the ordinance introduction until the sections have been reviewed and reported to committee. Motion carried.

Councilperson Henderson said he received a complaint of the drive going into the trailer park. Manager Foster said he was working with Director Studt to try a find a solution for repair until a more permanent solution can be done. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked him to look at East Arcada also.

Councilperson Schafer said she attended the Good Morning Gratiot meeting that honored the new and renovated businesses and was a nice event. She also reported another water leak in the park and heard the DDA Director was promoting a fund raiser effort through the school. Manager Foster said the fund raiser was in the working stage right now and members would be updated later.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39022-39071 and Payroll Checks #11804-11849, DD134-DD144, EFT74-EFT79 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were received.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Dave Nelson.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 5, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and discussed the building addition with staff for suggestions for accessibility needs. The Board was approached by the Art Guild to place art work in the library with prices displayed. Board agreed but has the option of quantity, placement and discretion. They also discussed fund raising efforts for cost beyond grant dollars.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster informed members of the public input sessions and advertising of meetings for the possible consolidation of police services with Gratiot County. He submitted the last section of EVIP and the State sent it back requiring definitive dates for consolidation projects; these is far different from last year's instructions but have resubmitted with estimated month/year. He reported the Redevelopment Communities grant application was submitted and a response received stating it was an innovative approach and would be looked at closely. Manager Foster updated members on the MDOT signage, hotel project, German exchange visit, technology needs assessment for City Hall, DPW garage bid package and Greater Gratiot Development service and funding.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Thomas to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Bailey asked that a public hearing being set to hear comment for Police Service Consolidation with the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to set a public hearing to hear comment on Police Service Consolidation with the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department for March 5, 2013 at 7:15pm. Motion Carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck moved for a count of the vote. Mayor Bailey asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Manager Foster stated he received interest from Scott Gray to serve on the Board of Review. Currently there is one position vacant as Ken Miller moved out of the city limits. Scott is a past board member.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to appoint Scott Gray to the Board of Review to fill the term ending June 30, 2014. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the Airport Authority dues invoice was received. The agreement states Ithaca is to pay at least \$2,000 and was budgeted for with an option of \$2,000 additional if the Council so chose. Council asked to review additional contributions at the time the billing was received. Discussion held.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to authorize the additional \$2,000 contribution dues to the Airport Authority and amend the budget as necessary. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck asked for an update on the Dog Ordinance after receiving the public comment. Manager Foster explained the public's concerns and it is currently under review of the City Attorney.

Councilperson Schafer asked for an update on the gasoline leak as work has been being done the past few days. Manager Foster said the work was to plug the leak with a permanent material and fix another weak area that had been discovered.

Councilperson Schafer acknowledged the correspondence for the Caldwell funds as good ideas to consider.

Councilperson Timmons stated the road to the mobile home park had not yet been fixed.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39072-39119, Grant Program Checks #1033-1034 and Payroll Checks #11850-11870, DD145-DD155, EFT80-EFT84 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None was given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 5, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lead Officer Chad Chase.

Audience in attendance was Wilbur Rykert, Mr. Rykert, Helen Sodderberg, Guy and Stephanie McKellar, Greg Nelson, Senator Judy Emmons and Laura Toy.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 19, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were received.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Service Committee met to review the proposed Fire/Rescue Department budgets with the Townships. The Committee recommends submitting the proposed budget to the Ways & Means committee for full budget consideration.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board has received the updated plans for the renovations changes discussed at its last meeting.

Department Reports

Lead Officer Chad Chase reported on the February activity of the Police Department. The mileages on the cars are beginning to equal out now that both are fully operational and back in use. He reported accidents were down and Officer Andrews assisted the North School's Civil War Re-enactment day by helping inspect firearms being brought in. He informed Council that he is still waiting for the evidence tech at the State lab for results of the home invasion. Calls to the lab have offered no time frame for completion and is very frustrating.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to receive the Police Department report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster reported that Chief Nelson is working on closing out the FEMA Grant for the new tanker. Once final approval from FEMA is received it will be closed. He reported he, the Mayor, Assessor and Treasurer attended a Personal Property Tax Reform presentation by Lt. Governor Calley. The plan is designed to replace lost revenues through local special assessments, new Use Tax and expiring tax credits issued by the Granholm Administration. The plan is contingent on the 2014 election and if passed we will never receive the full amount of that lost.

Manager Foster reported the final pay request and progress report has been sent in for the DIG Alley grant and a public hearing needs to be held to close out the grant. He updated members on the MDOT signage for the State Champions and is working with the school to use a local vendor for this signage for less cost and more design opportunity. The school will cost share with the city. The hotel project conversations continue and there is some need for infrastructure improvements in that area. The DPW building is out for bid.

Manager Foster reported he and the mayor attended the County Commissioner's meeting to discuss the proposal of police services with the board. They unanimously approved to go forward with the agreement process.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Mayor Bailey noted it was time for the Public Hearing.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to open the Public Hearing for commend on the Police Services proposal. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:18pm.

Manager Foster presented the information to the audience; the presentation was used for all of the Public Information Input Sessions. He then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Helen Sodderberg asked for clarification on who would select the officers to work in the City as she had heard conflicting information and also was the probation the officers would be on considered standard or was it set. Manager Foster said the Sheriff will have the final say but will allow city input, as for the probation, it is set by the union contract of the county. The process of probation and wage seniority was further explained.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked how much the officers would lose in pay, as the County wage scale was lower than the City's scale. Manager Foster stated the wages were lower, but the benefits are better and the overall loss would be less than \$2,300 per year.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated the city would have one county officer and not our three. Councilperson Gruesbeck clarified that the county officer would be a field training officer. Councilperson Shafer stated that was set by union contract and Councilperson Thomas added the officers selected would be with the city for one year with a possible one year extension.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated according to the Charter, the city has to have a police department. Manager Foster noted that the Charter also states the city can work with another unit of government to provide the services and Councilperson Schafer noted it was Chapter 2(2)g.

Ms. Sodderberg asked how the liability would be handled as state law says the County is not liable for the acts of the Sheriff. Manager Foster said under the contract, all of would fall under the County.

Councilperson Henderson shared concerns with change of future elected officials, and what would happen if in four years the cost is too high and the city has only the equipment left. Manger Foster shared that we have to trust and continue to work together. Mayor Bailey added that it is a four-year contract. Everything purchased by the city would remain the property of the city and is only leased to the county. If the agreement terminates, the city would get all of the equipment back and have to re-staff the department. There will be an out clause for both parties, but if the opportunity to improve services and save tax payer money is there, it has to be looked at. Councilperson Gruesbeck added that every four years our budget varies due to union contract negotiations. Manager Foster stated there are communities successful with this; one has been doing it for twelve years.

Dr. Wilbur Rykert commended Lead Officer Chase for his report presentation and noted the disappointment he saw when Chase had to report the lab had yet to provide the results needed for him to close out the home invasion. He urged Council and the County to put some pressure on our State representatives to get the data to the officers so they can do their job. He commended the Council for their examination of the police services and encouraged them to look inside the box. He talked about efficiency and effectiveness and that consolidation can work and will be an advantage to the city officers. They now will have advancement opportunities in law enforcement and an aggressive organization can take older officers to help lead. He congratulated the Council for starting the movement to consolidation and maybe if the county would work together, a countywide police agency may be in the future.

Guy MacKeller shared a negative situation he experienced with an off-duty deputy and the follow up to the situation. Felt it was a negative and had concerns that it could become the normal for service. Mayor Bailey apologized for his experience but assured him it is not something the City would condone. Lead Officer Chase said that was outside the normal and didn't feel it was something that would happen in the future. He noted the officers at the County are all good officers and that was an unusual incident.

Ms. Sodderberg shared concerns that the contract may give too much control to the Sheriff's office and if the city can give that much administration to the county then maybe seven councilpersons are not needed. She added that our officers are an essential part of the fabric that makes up the city and hates to see the citizens of Gratiot County vote to see who will run our police department. The city should keep the power to decide the officers that will patrol and not give that to the Sheriff. She also shared her understanding is the new lieutenant position has been posted and feel Alice Schafer should recuse herself from the vote as she has a son who works for the Sheriff's department.

Mayor Bailey asked for final comments. None were given.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey closed the public hearing at 8:08pm.

Resolution

Mayor Bailey asked for action on Resolution 2013-02 and offered for it to be read by the City Clerk if needed. No request for it to be read.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to adopt Resolution 2013-12 Resolution to Proceed:
Proposal for Police Services by the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department for the City of Ithaca.

Councilperson Thomas clarified that this Resolution allows the city to work on a contract and did not obligate either party at this time. He noted it was the responsibility of the Council to look at this option when better services and that much savings to the tax payers is involved.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated the proposal has an estimate savings of \$100,000.00 and that is not exact and wanted the exact amount at contract time.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (2) Henderson, Hollenbeck

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck called for point of order. He inquired about the conflict of interest raised by the resident on Councilperson Schafer's vote. Mayor Bailey responded it was the Councilperson's decision and she felt there was no conflict so the vote stands.

New/Old Business

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to set a Public Hearing for the DIG Alley Grant Project close out for March 19, 2013 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer expressed she did not abstain from the vote as she was not making a decision for the Sheriff's department but for the residents of the City. She expressed that the community is small and all members have ties, but honestly felt there was no conflict of interest and that she needed to do what was best for the residents of Ithaca. She did discuss it with the Mayor, City Manager and an attorney prior to the meeting and all felt it was not.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated he disagreed with her opinion. Councilperson Thomas deferred to Attorney Arnold if there was a problem. Attorney Arnold stated there was none. Mayor Bailey moved to the next agenda item.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39120-39162 and Payroll Checks #11871-11894, DD156-DD166, EFT85-EFT89 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments.

Ms. Sodderberg stated she is a renter in the City and would like to receive information of the duties of the Building Inspector. He was helpful in a situation, but just happened by timing. A newsletter article would be appropriate.

Mayor Bailey recognized Senator Judy Emmons. Senator Emmons said she came to learn about Ithaca and to discuss some of what is happening in Lansing. She said she appreciated the conversation and process of the meeting.

Mayor Bailey recognized County Commissioner Scott Showers.

Commissioner Showers stated the Board passed a resolution at its meeting earlier that they will not impose PA88 millage this year by a vote of 3-2.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by, Hollenbeck second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, and Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Audience in attendance was Sheriff Doug Wright, Under Sheriff Earl Hunt, Detective Mike Morris and Jail Administrator Brett Baublitz and Reporter Greg Nelson.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 5, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were received.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported that the Parks & Cemetery Committee met. Councilperson Schafer reported that Dan Macha with the Ithaca Community Alumni Association (ICAA) presented sketches and plans for renovations to the pavilion at Woodland Park. The ICAA will be doing fundraisers, seeking grants and donations for the project which may include additional features around the pavilion; such as a basketball court. The ICAA would also like to explore the idea of building a Radio Controlled Car Racing Track and observation deck at McNabb Park.

Councilperson Thomas reported that the Ways & Means Committee met to discuss PA88 Resolution, 2013 Taxable Values, ICM property tax tribunal, and pay for police officers. It is the committee's recommendation to budget on the conservative side, allowing for the ICM Tribunal to be settled without a financial strain on a set budget; and further recommends that a \$300 severance pay be paid to each full-time police officer if the Council passes the agreement with the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department for police services.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster updated council on the plans for apartments in the upper-story of the main hardware building; stating that the need for leasee parking spaces downtown needs to be considered.

Manager Foster attended a meeting this week in Lansing which covered DDA Regional Funding details and availability. City Manager Foster stated that the Ithaca DDA has \$47,000.

Mayor Bailey noted it was time for the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to open the Public Hearing for CDBG DIG Alley Rehabilitation Grant Close Out. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:15pm.

Manager Foster reported the alley rehabilitation project was complete, at a final cost of \$221,436.92. Mayor Bailey asked for additional comments. None were given.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey closed the public hearing at 7:18pm.

City Manager Report continued...

City Manager Foster reported on the Redevelopment Ready Committee meeting and certification.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

Police Services Agreement

City Manager Foster stated the agreement document for police services with the County was included in council packets for review and asked if there were any questions.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked for clarification on the terms of the contract pertaining to the City Manager being listed throughout the contract as the point of contact. His concern is related to times when the City Manager may be unavailable. Members discussed, and indicated that the City Manager is almost always available by cell phone if out of town, and if unreachable, the Mayor could act temporarily in cases needing immediate attention.

Councilperson Henderson stated his concern that the projected cost savings for the County contract were accounting for only base costs, and not for special event coverage. City Manager Foster and Sheriff Wright responded that extra coverage cost estimates were in fact included in the County contract costs.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to approve the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the County of Gratiot, the Gratiot County Sheriff's Office and the City of Ithaca with authorization for City Manager Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Mayor Bailey to sign the contract agreement.

Mayor Bailey instructed Deputy Clerk Cameron to proceed with a roll call vote.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (2) Henderson, Hollenbeck

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Councilperson Hollenbeck informed Council that GAS held a meeting and asked for any questions on the documents that were provided regarding such meeting.

City Manager Foster informed Council that the Chamber Legislative Breakfast featuring Senator Roger Kahn, State Representative Tom Leonard and State Representative Rick Outman will be Monday, April 22 at 7:30 am at Masonic Pathways in Alma.

Councilperson Thomas extended his appreciation to Sheriff Wright and City Manager Foster for their time and efforts put forth toward the new collaboration of police services.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39163-39224 and Water & Sewer Bond Check #1026 and Payroll Checks #11895-11917, DD167-DD178, EFT90-EFT95 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by, Hollenbeck second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40p.m.

Cathy Cameron, Deputy Clerk

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 2, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Hollenbeck opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was none.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 19, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments.

Lt. Roy McCollum introduced himself to the Council and reviewed his background and history with the City of Ithaca. Lt. McCollum helped start the City bike patrol and has worked with the K-9 unit at the County. He expressed honor in being selected for the position and will strive to maintain the small town policing expectations of the Council and residents. He reviewed patrol plans, shift times and briefings with members and thanked them for the opportunity.

Mayor Bailey suggested he attend and report at meetings once a month for the first six months during the transition and then at least quarterly as in the agreement. He agreed.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported on the ML Energy Committee.

Councilperson Timmons reported on the IPC Easter Egg Hunt and Super Hero Event.

Councilperson Thomas state at the last meeting the Personnel Committee had a recommendation for severance pay for the full-time officers if the contract was approved.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to pay \$300 to each full time police officer at their termination. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board changed its meeting date to April 18, 2013.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster reported that the signage had been removed from the police department building and the Lieutenant and Detective had been in to review and transition evidence. He reported that the city should be able to submit for EVIP consolidation grant funds to help with the transition cost of the police services to the County. He reported the County had set a public forum for the PA88 for April 16 and the Perk Up the Park fundraiser raised about \$1,000.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager Foster reviewed the bids and project for the DPW Lean-To addition. Five bids were received ranging from \$55,042 to \$93,382. The project was budgeted at \$35,000 so if approved, a budget amendment would need to be approved. A decision would also need to be made on the optional insulation and the performance bond.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to award the bid for the DPW Lean-To addition to Freed Construction in the amount of \$55,042.00 and add the optional insulation for a cost of \$2,550 and to maintain the performance bond at a total project cost not to exceed \$60,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to amend the budget and increase the Capital Outlay in the Water Fund by \$25,000 to support the project cost. Motion carried.

Manager Foster stated an updated Mutual Aid Agreement needed to be signed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for fire services. The current agreement has expired. Councilperson Timmons asked if all departments have one. Councilperson Thomas confirmed they do and Councilperson Henderson added that one has to be in place for grant purposes also.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on changing the next regular meeting of the City Council as it conflicts with the County Public Forum on PA88.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to change the next Regular meeting of the City Council to be held on April 16, 2013 from 7:00pm to 6:00pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Foster received the Stonehouse Agreement, but is under review and will be on the next agenda.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell gave an update on the upcoming city election and seasonal employment.

City Manager Foster received the new rules for EVIP transparency for 2014. He reported he received an inquiry from a traveler regarding a charging station for electric cars. Discussion held. He further informed members that Commercial bank had submitted plans to add a pitched roof on the bank and will be a substantial change to the building.

City Manager Foster discussed grant dollars available to put a capital asset management plan at a 90/10 match together through the State of Michigan DEQ. The second phase of the grant allows funding to do the projects in the plan.

Councilperson Schafer commented on the well written article in the Vision Mid-Michigan section of the Morning Sun submitted by the City Manager about Ithaca.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39227-39269, Grant Program Fund Check #1035 and Payroll Checks #11918-11955, DD179-DD198, EFT96-EFT102 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by, Hollenbeck second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 16, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell Fire Chief David Nelson and DDA Director Mandy Symonds.

Audience in attendance was Harmony Nowlin and Troy Turner.

Mayor Bailey stated Item 7 on the agenda would be moved up after Item 4 due to Ms. Nowlin needing to attend another meeting. He asked for objections. None were given.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 2, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments.

Troy Turner stated he was in attendance to answer questions on the RC track project for McNabb Park. Councilperson Hollenbeck said the Fair Board wanted to know how long it would take to tear the track down and put it back up if the need arose. Mr. Turner stated it takes a day to take it down.

Consumers Energy Street Light Audit

Harmony Nowlin of Consumers Energy reintroduced herself as the City's representative. She explained that the street light audit to reconcile the street light agreement had began prior to her leaving the position one and one-half years ago and made it her first priority upon her return to the position. She apologized for it not being completed. She reported that all mercury vapors have been changed to high pressure sodium and the audit was complete. Consumers Energy will be refunding the City \$34,721.08 which included 7% interest for the delay in the audit. Ms. Nowlin said the account could be credited or the city could request a check. Decision made to request a check. Ms. Nowlin will inform the accounting office.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported on the IPC Super Hero Event would be the next Sunday. Wendy's is providing cookies and volunteers this year. The Police and Fire will be at the event also.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to review City Hall staffing. The Committee recommends making the part-time Account Clerk a full-time position with funding to come from the water/sewer fund and no increase to the general fund.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to allow staff to make the change of the Account Clerk from part-time to full-time. Mayor Bailey stated she has stepped up and done extra work since starting. Manager Foster added that she had been temporary full-time since last August. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked how many full time staff was in the office. Clerk Fandell stated if approved, she would make three. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the quarterly activity of the Fire and Rescue Departments. He noted the resignations of Andrew Cameron (from Fire and Rescue) and John Andrews (Rescue only). Both gentlemen were served the departments well and Andy leaves after 10 years of service. Chief Nelson said he would be doing a presentation for the County Townships meeting on fire service in the county next week.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to receive the Fire Department report. Motion carried.

DDA Director Symonds reported on the quarterly activity of the DDA. She updated members on the purchase agreement on the hardware buildings and are hoping for settlement by the end of May. She updated members on the following active items of the DDA: Ithaca booklets are now in the rest areas and Chamber office, Ladies Day drew over 150 people to the downtown, the new billboard is up, the Art Expo banners are being painted and Ithaca will receive 22 of them this year, the school fundraiser selling local gift certificates made almost \$1,000 for the school and they will try it again this fall. City Manager Foster added that the \$1,000 profit meant sales of nearly \$10,000 kept in the local businesses. She added the school partner with business program's first event was very successful; the chicken dinner at the Edge; the Edge made \$1,900 and the school \$900 for five hours of collaboration. The Farmer's Market will begin soon and are adding a day during the week, the marketing workshops for businesses held its first session with Edward D Jones, update on flower planting. She informed members that she has joined

the member committee of the Chamber, has been working with the VFW and American Legion on a Flag Day event with the other cities and the DDA has made \$10,000 in Façade grants available to members.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to receive the DDA Director's report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster reported on the flooding due to the heavy rain. A real problem area is South Main Street and he asked OHM to look at it. He reported the MEDC audit to close out the DIG Alley grant left some follow up items, including adopting a civil rights policy for grants going forward. The City has an EOE policy but it doesn't include everything the State wants for grant satisfaction. He reported he received a draft and return on investment schedule from Mr. Turner on RC raceway project. He reviewed the data provided and added that Mr. Turner has been doing this for over 25 years and traveled all over the United States. A professional 3-day event can draw a ton of people and bring in \$60,000 once the popularity catches on in the area. They are trying to give families something to do together, have fun with and provide some revenue to the City and local businesses. Manager Foster that looking at the blueprints on the track, the cost of the raceway would be in the \$30-\$35,000 range and would like direction on whether to proceed with the project or not.

Move by Timmons, second by Henderson to allow the City Manager to obtain project bids for the platform and the proposed RC racetrack. Motion Carried.

Mayor Bailey stated that once the bids were received, the Parks Committee will meet and review them and staff will place a financial plan together and bring back to the Council for review at the next meeting.

Manager Foster stated the need for committee meetings have delayed the introduction of the budget until the next meeting. Committee meetings will be scheduled next week.

Moved by Thomas, second by Hollenbeck to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager Foster reviewed the Civil Rights Policy resolution.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2013-03 Civil Rights Policy. Motion carried.

Manager Foster reviewed the Stonehouse Enterprise Inc, agreement with the City of Ithaca. He reminded that Stonehouse did a land contract and the City was not aware of it until after the fact. The amendment to the agreement holds Stonehouse to the terms of the agreement and does not allow it to go to another party, or extend beyond the stated terms for payoff. Attorney Arnold stated this modifies the agreement that is in place. Mayor Bailey added that this also protects the City from it being extended to another party or land contract. Councilperson Schafer asked if Mr. Merchant has seen and agreed to it. Manager Foster stated yes.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to approve the Agreement between Stonehouse Enterprises, Inc and the City of Ithaca. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported that a Public Hearing is a requirement for the consideration of changing to an even-year election cycle.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to set a Public Hearing for May 7, 2013 at 7:15pm for consideration of changing to an even-year City Election cycle. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported that the benefactor funds were received in the amount of \$477,700.46 and when added to the previous amount received of \$208,250.00 the total received comes to \$685,950.46.

Councilperson Schafer stated at the MML conference they learned of working with other groups on collaboration and suggested restarting the tree nursery with the help of other local groups and the school.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39270-39328 and Payroll Checks #11956-11978, DD199-DD211, EFT103-EFT109 as listed in the Check Register Book. Councilperson Schafer commented on the bill to rekey the police department as the first bill for the county transition. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 7, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Absent were Councilperson Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Troy Turner, Wilbur Rykert and Helen Sodderberg.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 16, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None was given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review cemetery rates, ordinance and the RC racetrack proposals. The committee recommends to proceed with amend the cemetery ordinance and staff is to bring back a new rate schedule for review and prior to the budget adoption. Mayor Bailey asked the proposed rates be sent to the all Council members for review prior to the scheduled committee meeting.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to move forward with the process to amend the Cemetery Ordinance. Motion carried.

Manager Foster added the committee also recommended to fund the RC racetrack structure and bleacher repair at cost of around \$50,000 with the fund to come from the Caldwell fund with repayment coming from event sales. Estimate repayment time would be two to three years. The City would only do improvements or fixtures related to the grounds for the project and not equipment costs.

Councilperson Timmons asked if it would be a 3-year contract and inquired on liability insurance. Manager Foster said they would carry the insurance with the city as a named insured. Discussion on the agreement and project. Mayor Bailey suggested approving the funds, but not releasing them or doing any work until the agreement was in place.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to authorize the funds of \$50,000 from the Caldwell Fund to build the Driver's stand and bleacher renovations with repayment to come from gate revenues and entries within five (5) years. Construction is not to begin until the agreement is in place. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library board met to discuss the budget and are planning to use fund balance of about \$20,000. They discussed the building renovation and have submitted a grant application to the Gratiot County Community Foundation and will send letters of solicitation for the building project in lieu of the summer reading program. The Library would like the Council to consider a donation from the Caldwell fund and not a loan. The Board also discussed fund raising for the project.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated the Council had already approved the restrictions on that fund and loans were not to be given.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Water and Sewer Committee met to discuss the budget and rates for the new fiscal year. They are recommending a rate increase of 3% due to increased operating and energy costs. The committee also discussed the IPP costs and are looking to impose fees for non-compliance issues. The lagoon treatment is working and the odor and sludge is down. She reminded members of the maintenance program on the water towers and Peerless Environmental have approached the city with a similar program for the wells. The committee also reviewed the bond millage rates suggested by staff and will need to increase from 3.0 mills to 3.2 mills to cover the bond payments for the next year.

Public Hearing

Mayor Bailey stated it was time for the Public Hearing on the Election Cycle Date Change.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried. Mayor Bailey opened the hearing at 7:30pm.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated he is against the change due to partisan vs. non-partisan positions and the drop off from voters who stop filling out the ballot because of their length.

Helen Sodderberg stated there are statistics on the drop, but could not give exact facts as to that drop percentage.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated it would make city elections less important. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated the cost of \$2400 per election needed to be a consideration.

Wilbur Rykert said it is always good to save some money. You also need to look at participation. Changing does take focus away from the local but does it matter if you have 2 or 200? Consider if it is an effective opportunity for the residents on a raised issue and look at the democratic process.

Manager Foster stated to look from the other perspective, and odd year election brings 7-9% of the voters on the average and an even year is 40-70%. Even with the drop off, you still have more residents voting.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if all cities needed to be the same. Clerk Fandell said no, it is each unit's choice.

Helen Sodderberg asked how the terms would be handled of current board members. Clerk Fandell explained that each would be extended by one year. Those elected this November would be extended until 2016 and 2018 and those members up for election in 2015 would be extended until 2016.

Mayor Bailey asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey closed the Public Hearing at 7:45pm.

Councilperson Timmons asked if it would be prudent to have the percentage drop off as discussed in the public hearing available before a decision was made. Members discussed additional research on the statistics.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to have the City Clerk research the statistics of the percentage drop off on city elections and hold the resolution until data is received. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the April activity of the Police Unit. He noted the car mileage was off and they are getting them all on equal mileage to preserve the cars. The 2008 will be re-equipped and put into service as a backup car. The bicycle is not in use yet, but will be soon. Mayor Bailey asked how the public is receiving the change and inquired why the arrests were so much higher. Lt. McCollum said they have only received one complaint and that was over a speeding ticket. The arrests are higher because the County charges transports as arrests and the City did not track them before.

Helen Sodderberg asked is the "Jail Only" sign could be changed or additional signage placed so residents would know they were to go there for Ithaca police issues. Roy will look into that.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the Police report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster asked that Council accept his resignation officially and reported his last day would be May 21, 2013 after the Council meeting. He informed members that Faith Grandy resigned as of May 10, 2013 and Gail Paradise would be helping during the transition of a new hire. He reported the County special election is looking to keep Greater Gratiot Development and MSU Extension funding together in one proposal. The EVIP consolidation grant for the Fire and Rescue was denied and the reason was that our cost savings was too small, yet they carried over \$17 Million to the next round. The police consolidation request will go in the next round of grant funds. Members suggested submitting a public safety consolidation with both included. He suggested having Councilperson Timmons appointed to the Cable Consortium during the absence of a manager for the City.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to name Cathy Timmons as the Cable Consortium representative until the new City Manager is hired. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to accept the resignation of Chelsey Foster with regret. Motion carried. Council wished him the best in his future endeavors.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager submitted the Consumers Energy Street Light Contract for approval. This was required due to the changes as a result of the street light audit.

Councilperson Henderson called for point of order. The Agenda Item for the budget was skipped.

Mayor Bailey returned to Agenda Item on the Fiscal Year Budget Introduction.

Move by Timmons, second by Schafer to Introduce the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget as submitted by staff. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to set the Public Hearing for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year budget for Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey instructed members to contact staff if they had any questions on the budget as introduced.

Mayor Bailey resumed the Old/New Business.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2013-05 Street Light Agreement with Consumers Energy. Councilperson Timmons asked if it was a year-to-year contract. Manager Foster stated yes until terminated. Councilperson Schafer asked if they were billed at the same rate. The contract is for the unmetered lights. Motion carried.

Manager Foster explained to members that an error was made on two parcels with the 425 Agreement with North Star Township and were included in the City's boundaries and should not have been. To correct the error, a public hearing needs to be held before the paperwork can be submitted to the State.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to set a Public Hearing for comments on amending the 425 Agreement between the City of Ithaca and North Star Township for Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:10pm. Motion carried.

Clerk Fandell thanked the Council for its investment in the training of the office staff. With the changing laws and practices and staff reorganization, they are applying the new knowledge and benefiting greatly from it.

Manager Foster informed members there are several computer upgrades and phone system upgrades that need to be addressed. Mayor Bailey asked that it be sent to the Technology Committee for review.

Councilperson Schafer reported the lights in Woodland Park are on again. Manager Foster will investigate. She also said the east end of the park has a large amount of standing water and it has a pungent smell and covering the trail.

Manager Foster discussed ice pigging technology where slurry is pumped into the water line to clean the line and increase water quality. Utility Services would like to do a pilot in the county with four sites to see the effects. The cost is \$2500 and will be done in June. The three other communities are Alma, St. Louis and Breckenridge.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39329-39385 and Payroll Checks #11979-12031, DD212-DD229, EFT110-EFT118 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments.

Clerk Fandell informed all that Manager Foster's open house would be May 21, 2013 from 1-3.

Helen Sodderberg stated how nice it has been to work with Chelsey and he has done so much to get things going in the community, especially the dog park. He will be missed. She asked members to consider changing the meeting dates so they do not conflict with the County meetings.

Councilperson Henderson explained that meeting dates are set by Charter and the County's are not. The County changed theirs with the new administrator. Mayor Bailey thanked her and said they would take it under consideration.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by, Timmons second by Schafer to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 21, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Chelsey Foster and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Mr. & Mrs. Ben Cooley, Steve Clark, Helen Sodderberg.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 16, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to review City Manager resumes and selected four candidates to phone interview. The committee selected three of the four for personal interviews with the full Council. The Clerk is in the process of setting up interview times for Wednesday, May 29th.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Senior Activity Board met.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and have begun sending solicitation letters for donations for the building addition. Donors will have a plaque on the wall that leads into the basement, separated by contribution levels. The Board is helping with the distribution of the letter. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked is \$50,000 additional was needed? Schafer stated yes, but that is based on estimates and will have to wait on the bids for final determination. Bids should be received by the end of June.

Public Hearings

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to open the public hearing on the City of Ithaca/North Star Township Conditional Transfer of Property (425 Agreement). Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:10pm.

City Manager Foster gave an overview of the original agreement. The agreement contained two parcels which were erroneously placed in the transfer paperwork and should not have been, thus the need to revert them out. The city and the township will be holding public hearings to amend the agreement to remove them for the 2013 tax roll and forward. The parcels will be taken off the City's tax roll and placed back in North Star's jurisdiction.

Clerk Fandell stated she received comment/questions from Mrs. Hull through Craig Zeese for an explanation of the process with North Star and how she would be affected if both agree to amend the contract. She stated if she was not in attendance, then she was in support of the amendment.

Councilperson Schafer asked if the prior years' taxes would need adjusted. Clerk Fandell said it would only be going forward as per the amended agreement.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional comments. None were offered.

Move by Timmons, second by Henderson to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Bailey closed the public hearing at 7:12pm.

Move by Timmons, second by Thomas to adopt Resolution 2013-05 Amendment to Contract for Conditional Transfer of Property from North Star Township to the City of Ithaca.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (7) Henderson, Hollenbeck, Gruesbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey stated it was time for the public hearing on the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget. Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to open the public hearing for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:15pm.

City Manager Foster gave a review of the budget. He stated the biggest issue is the ICM site tax tribunal case which can swing our revenues and expenses by six figures. The worst case scenario is that \$53,000 will be used of General Fund Balance is the case is lost and that is what the budget reflects.

Councilperson Timmons asked when a hearing can be expected. Manager Foster stated it was unknown but the attorneys for ICM are now willing to talk. Clerk Fandell gave a brief overview of the tribunal process.

He stated revenue sharing is expected to rise slightly and personal property tax for small payers of \$40,000 value or less will be lost for one year or more pending the outcome of the 2014 election. He added that with the Renaissance growth complete, tax revenue will remain stable unless new development comes.

Manager Foster discussed the Water/Sewer rates and bond millage rate and that both would increase as previously discussed. He noted that the Library is not in a financial emergency, however the current funding is unsustainable long term and a millage may need to be looked at for future years.

Wages for employees were set by union contract and market rate analysis. A 1% increase was included for health insurance as agents are seeing flat renewals and the city is close to hard caps now. Additional increases may need to pass on to staff if it continues to rise. The assessor contract has no change.

Manager Foster stated utilities for city buildings are showing a dip due to energy efficiency measures. The technology committee will need to address the current phone system and computer needs of the City Hall. He reviewed the equipment and Meadow Lane street paving and sidewalk work was discussed.

Council would like the Meadow Lane Park owner to be contacted regarding possible cost sharing. Council also would like sidewalk repairs beginning with this budget going forward to be cost shared with residents as stated by City ordinance.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell asked for direction on the use of fund balance to balance General Fund or if members would like the ICM tax tribunal to not be budgeted at potential full loss. Members need to be prepared to answer to the public on the status of the MTT and effect it has on the city budget. If we lose, fund balance will fall to about 15%; the city has been there before and was successful with the plan to rebuild it. Council discussion to keep budgeted for the full loss.

Helen Sodderberg asked what the ICM site was. Mayor Bailey explained the site and that it was not developed and how it was affecting the overall budget.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Bailey closed the public hearing at 7:42pm.

Ordinance

Mayor Bailey presented the proposed Ordinance Amendment to Section 10 Cemeteries.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to introduce Ordinance Amendment to Section 10 Cemeteries. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to set a public hearing to take comment on the Ordinance Amendment for Section 10 Cemeteries for June 4, 2013 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Foster reported the County was working on the ballot language for the August Special Election for MSU Extension (MSUE) and Greater Gratiot Development (GGDI), but discovered that GGDI could not be named in the ballot language, but the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of the County could be. The EDC then contracts with GGDI for services. The EDC is made up of all of the Mayors and some private members so the municipalities will still have some input. He reported that GAS is planning a fireworks show during fair week and will be using Wolverine Fireworks which is very reputable. Clerk Fandell is to check on the insurance issues.

Manager Foster stated he received a drainage complaint from residents at 315 S. Main Street and neighbors in the area of S. Main and E. South Streets. Ben Cooley, resident addressed the issue with the Council showing photos of the water that runs through the properties, flooding yards, ponding and running into basement windows. He explained his methods to date for moving the water and stated each year the water gets worse and is looking for help with some drainage options for the neighborhood as the water stays for days. Manager Foster had OHM take a quick look at the issue and possibility of getting

the water to the railroad. Steve Clark of Rowe Inc said that when S. St. John's Street was reconstructed in 2008, there was a county drain and tile that ran west and that may be a possible solution. Manager Foster stated that without city help; the residents will not be able to resolve the problem. Mayor Bailey said when South Street was reconstructed is when the problem began. Discussion on possible solutions.

Manager Foster reported that an informal offer to purchase the lot that was acquired from Burger King was received from Smith Funeral Home with the intent on building a storage garage. Mayor Bailey stated it would need to make sure that is proper use as it is industrial zoned and may be in the flood plain. Councilperson Thomas shared concerns about additional flooding new construction could cause for the Burger King property and it could be farmed. Steve Clark added that a Letter of Map amendment with FEMA could be done to remove parcels from the flood plain.

He further reported on the storm and power outage and exemplary job of the DPW crew. He informed members that Jack Martin has given notice of his retirement after 28 years of service with the City.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk Fandell stated she received an application for an IFT tax exemption from Aircraft Precision Products and requested a public hearing be set.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to set a public hearing on the Industrial Facility Tax Exemption Application as submitted by Aircraft Precision Products, Inc. for June 18, 2013 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the list of delinquencies to be placed on the Summer 2013 tax roll. Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to approve the City Treasurer place the delinquencies presented on the 2013 Summer tax roll. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey presented Resolution 2013-06 Recognition of Chelsey A. Foster for adoption.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2013-06 Recognition of Chelsey A. Foster. Motion carried. Mayor Bailey read the Resolution aloud and presented it to City Manager Foster. Manager Foster thanked the Council for everything.

Manager Foster gave a review of the Center Street paving project with the Gratiot County Road Commission. The project will be an 80/20 project; however the County will not be able to do the engineering so it will have to be hired out. Due to Federal and State dollars as part of the project match, the sidewalks will also have to be brought to ADA compliance. The two will increase the city's share to \$20,000-\$40,000. We have building fund balance and have the funds, but need to get the project approved and obligated by the State or the 80% will be lost and Ithaca would not be on the schedule for another 6-8 years. Steve Clark of Rowe Inc, stated if we can get the funds obligated, Mark Kraft can ensure the project. For every \$1.00 spent, \$1.60 is returned.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to approve the engineering of the Center Street project at a cost not to exceed \$22,900 with Rowe Inc. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck said there are several lots in town and vacant properties with tall grass and would like the City Inspector to check them. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell said Inspector Sherman had sent some letters out last week. Manager Foster will pass the word.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39386-39427, Water/Sewer Bond Debt Check #1027 and Payroll Checks #12032-12050, DD230-DD238, EFT119-EFT122 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 4, 2013

7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Hollenbeck opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, DPW Director Bob Studt and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark, Greg Vaughn and Shawn Middleton.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 21, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments.

Greg Vaughn of Wolverine Engineers and Surveyors Inc introduced himself and has a new office located in the downtown on the third floor of the Gratiot County Community Foundation building.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review the proposed cemetery rates and the RC Raceway agreement. The committee recommends adoption of the proposed rates to help meet the needs of the cemetery operations which is being almost completely supplemented by general fund.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to adopt the proposed cemetery rates as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey reviewed the RC Raceway lease agreement terms. The agreement will not be entered into until the group receives its LLC. Staff has reviewed the agreement. Councilperson Timmons asked if legal had reviewed it. Attorney Arnold stated he had not.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to enter into the lease agreement with Central Michigan Raceway once the LLC has been received and has been reviewed by Attorney Arnold. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee had met to interview and review city manager candidates. The Committee recommends extending an offer to James Freed at a salary of \$72,000 plus vehicle allowance and \$1,000 moving allowance if he moves to Ithaca.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to follow the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to offer a contract to James Freed with a salary of \$72,000 plus auto allowance and moving allowance of \$1,000. Councilperson Schafer clarified that the auto allowance covers all expenses, service, gasoline, etc and the moving expense is only if he were to move into the city limits. Thomas stated yes to both. Councilperson Schafer stated she felt the salary range should have started lower considering current staffing and the police consolidation. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey directed the Personnel Committee to offer the contract with the stated terms, with no further negotiation.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the May activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported that three cars are all equipped and running which will begin to even out mileage on the cars. The Council will see an increase in the mileage as officers are on the road more and not in the office. He reported the County equipped the 2008 with one of its cameras and radar system. Residents are seeing more presence of the cars and officers and a few more stops, with only one complaint being received to date. Discussion on the new reports and information.

Move by Timmons, second by Schafer to approve the Police report. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Mayor Bailey stated it was time for the Public Hearing on amending the Code of Ordinances for Cemeteries.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried. Mayor Bailey opened the hearing at 7:20pm.

Mayor Bailey reviewed the amending process and procedures completed to date. The amendments are a complete revamp of the ordinance to comply with state law changes, sale of lots and abandoned lots and the addition of the pet cemetery.

Mayor Bailey asked to for other comments. None were offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey closed the Public Hearing at 7:23pm.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson adopt Resolution 2013-07 Amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 10: Cemeteries. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

SAW Presentation

Sean Middleton of Spicer Group presented on the Storm Water Asset Management Wastewater (SAW) grant program that will be available in late summer-early fall by the State of Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality. He reviewed the grant process, plan design, asset management and implementation. Discussion held on the grant and city's infrastructure. Mr. Middleton briefly reviewed the services Spicer Group could offer the city if it chose to apply. Members discussed the advantages and concerns applying for and receiving the grant could bring to the City.

Mayor Bailey thanked him for the information and his time and stated the Council would be reviewing it in more detail.

Fiscal Year Budget

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the millage rates used for preparing the 2013-14 fiscal year budget. A review of the Headlee Rollback, Truth in Taxation and Bond Debt millages were a subject of review.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2013-08 Approving the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Millage Rates. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the Resolution was being presented to amend the water and sewer rates for the new fiscal year. The Water/Sewer committee had reviewed the rates and recommended the increase for operating purposes. The rates were not increased the last two fiscal years.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2013-09 Amending Water and Sewer Rates for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the budget resolution with members.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2013-10 Budget Appropriations for July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Fandell requested that a new Street Administrator be designated until a new City Manager is hired in order for the City to continue work with MDOT.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to adopt Resolution 2013-11 Designation of Street Administrator naming Robert Studt as the designee. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell informed members of the expiring terms of Board and Commission members. Letters and public notices have been placed and will be taken until June 14, 2013 and placed on the next agenda for appointment.

Mayor Bailey stated the contract for the stand to be build at McNabb Park for the RC race track needed to be awarded, pending approval of the agreement and attorney review.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to award the bid to Jack's Construction LLC in the amount of \$41,750 pending the approved lease agreement. Motion carried.

DPW Director Bob Studt reported that he had been working with Steve Clark from Rowe Inc on a solution for Ben Cooley and residents on the East South Street drainage problem. Three options were presented with a recommendation to install storm sewer and catch basins at an estimated cost of \$5,900 with the work being completed by the city crew. He stated it would involve obtaining an easement from one property owner to get to the drain because the city can't go on the railroad property. Steve Clark explained that was where the large drain stopped. Heavy rain will still have some minor pooling, but it will go away much faster.

Steve Clark presented the Meadow Lane paving options. He explained how the base was poor on the street causing scallop cracking on the edges of the middle section. Two options were presented, one for a complete reconstruction and the other to pulverize each end and chip/fog seal the middle section. The cost difference is approximately \$20,000. He stated the road is a wider than required so it could be thinner which would safe cost, slow traffic and still maintain the standard.

Councilperson Schafer asked if the owner of the park had been contacted of possible cost sharing. Mayor Bailey stated he had not but he would talk with him. Discussion on the heavy users of the street.

Director Studt reviewed some flooding issues with the Council on Gwinner Street. The city's alley and storm is not deep enough. He explained that installing a tap for the three houses to run their water into the main would solve the problem, but felt the residents would not want to pay for it. Mayor Bailey asked Attorney Arnold if the running of the water onto the neighbor was a civil suit. He stated he would have to review it, but they are not allowed to discharge on to a neighbor. It would be more of a trespassing issue.

Mayor Bailey asked what the cost would be. Director Studt stated under \$500 because the crew could do the work. He also said they could provide the residents a drawing for installing a safety check valve.

Discussion on funding of the proposed projects. South Street is a major street and Gwinner a local.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to approve Option #1 on the South Street and Jeffery drainage project and to allow the DPW to install the tap on Gwinner Street as presented by Bob Studt. Motion carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked where the sidewalk repairs were at. Director Studt said he was working on the list and would have them completed by month's end.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the new server was to be installed on June 18th and asked for permission to close the office for that day and possibly the next pending how the installation went. Permission granted.

Councilperson Thomas stated he called Mr. Freed to extend the offer and he would call with his decision in the morning.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39428-39464 and Payroll Checks #12051-12069, DD239-DD246, EFT123-EFT126 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Gruesbeck second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 18, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Don Schurr, Bill and Candy Henderson.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 4, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Fair Board met.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to review the recommendation of Clerk Fandell for the receptionist clerk position and fire and rescue personnel hiring.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to authorize Clerk-Treasurer Fandell to offer the Receptionist Clerk position to Jennifer Reed and further authorize the Chief Nelson to advertise to fill the vacant fire and rescue personnel positions. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Ways & Means Committee met to review the 2012-2013 Budget Amendments and discuss the Ithaca Community Alumni Association (ICAA) park project funds left by the City Manager and the City handling the funds for the organization during the project. The committee recommends adoption of the budget amendments as proposed and turning the funds for the park project back to the ICAA.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to amend the budget as presented by the City Treasurer as follows:

Fund/Department	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
General Fund			
General Government	150,925	24,000	(126,925)
City Council	30,619	33,000	2,381
City Manager	59,632	74,000	14,368
Clerk-Treasurer	115,291	154,000	38,709
Technology	10,000	14,000	4,000
Board of Review	1,560	600	(960)
Elections	5,485	5,700	215
Other Building & Grounds	20,320	32,000	11,680
City Hall	59,190	34,190	(25,000)
Attorney	18,000	16,000	(2,000)
Police Department	431,341	401,000	(30,341)
Building Inspector	50,872	86,000	35,128
Public Works	85,050	117,000	31,950
Drains At Large	42,000	42,600	600
Alley Maintenance	49,615	42,000	(7,615)
Street Lighting	54,800	46,000	(8,800)
Rubbish Tags	7,000	5,600	(1,400)
Industrial Park	3,700	4,400	700
City Parks	40,172	47,000	6,828
McNabb Park	33,075	29,000	(4,075)
Tax Tribunal Refunds	158,821	300	(158,521)
Transfers Out	125,558	135,558	10,000
Net Adjustments			\$ (209,078)
General Fund			
Caldwell Fund			
Revenues	-	685,950	685,950
Expenditures	-	255,000	255,000
Economic Development	34,400	35,600	1,200
Downtown Development			-
Revenues	27,000	247,000	220,000
Expenditures	27,000	247,000	220,000
Crime Prevention	-	100	100

Crime Victim's Rights	-	124.22	124.22
Drug Law Enforcement	-	1,120.40	1,120.40
Police Education & Train	1,000	2,137.39	1,137.39
Library -Revenues	96,750	129,750.00	33,000.00
Grant Program	218,209	540,000.00	321,791.00
Water-Tax Tribunal	41,000	-	(41,000.00)
Equipment Fund			
Revenues-Rent to other	9,000	-	(9,000.00)
Expenditures	164,150	296,000.00	131,850.00

Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to return the funds for the Ithaca Community Alumni Association park project back to the organization for it to do its own accounting and the Clerk-Treasurer to correspond the Council's decision and arrange for their return. Motion carried.

EDC & Ag Millage

Don Schurr gave a presentation on the Economic and Agriculture Development Millage as a representative of the Friends for Gratiot. This organization was formed to promote the millage on the ballot for the August Special election as approved by the County Board of Commissioners. The group has found that residents are not fully aware of the millage, so education and getting the word out is its key focus. The Friends of Gratiot have asked the municipalities for resolutions of support. The millage will move the annually applied PA88 millage to a voted millage with a five-year term. The brochure presented shows and research that without the industry and agricultural base, Gratiot County will struggle.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2013-12 Support of Levying Millage to Fund Economic and Agricultural Development in Gratiot County. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Mayor Bailey stated it was time for the Public Hearing on the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate Application submitted by Aircraft Precision Products, Inc.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried. Mayor Bailey opened the hearing at 7:15pm.

Don Schurr reviewed the application and explained it was for personal property being installed. The request is for a seven-year abatement. The personal property tax law change is not slated until after the election of 2014 and the State has instructed them to continue with business as usual. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell commented that this equipment would not be affected by the proposed changes to the law due to the amount of personal property they have currently. Aircraft is above the \$40,000 limit, so it would still qualify to be on the roll.

Bill Henderson, President of Aircraft Precision Products Inc. spoke to the equipment addition. He said the company was in good times right now and its largest customers have announced that business will explode in 2016. Announcements have also been made by two more major customers that they will be expanding also. He informed members that the last time they asked for abatement; eight pieces of equipment and 20,000 square foot of building were added. The company expected to hire five new employees at that time, but instead was able to hire ten. He further stated that all of the money saved on the taxes rolls back into the ESOP plan for the employees. Mr. Henderson added that with the new equipment, he hopes to add six additional jobs and retain twenty.

Councilperson Schafer asked how many were currently employed. Mr. Henderson stated 67, however by 2014 it should be 70-75. He added that over 50% of his employees have 20+ years with the company.

Mayor Bailey asked to for other comments. None were offered.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey closed the Public Hearing at 7:30pm.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2013-03 Approving the Application of Aircraft Precision Products Inc for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for a Manufacturing Facility. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mr. Henderson thanked Don Schurr for his help now and through the years. Don has worked with Bill, his father and grandfather. He was instrumental in setting up the company's ESOP and it was a text book success. He further thanked the Council for their continued support.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Fandell presented the names of interested persons for appointment to the various city boards and commissions. One position remains vacant on the Downtown Development Authority.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to appoint Neville Pitcher, John Wilson and James Gruesbeck to the Planning Commission, Kevin Collision to the Downtown Development Authority, Mark Barrows to the Board of Review, for terms expiring 6/30/2016; Davin Evon to the Thompson Home Public Library Board for a term expiring 6/30/2018, and Dave Nelson to the Greater Gratiot Development Board for a term expiring 6/30/2014. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey presented Resolution 2013-14 Recognition of Jack Martin for his years of service. Jack is retiring after 28 years of service and will be hard to replace.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2013-14 Recognition of Jack Martin. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the Fireworks permit for the State of Michigan as requested by Gratiot Agricultural Society for fireworks in McNabb Park on June 29, 2013. Mayor Bailey stated the proper paperwork and insurance coverage is in order. Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to approve the Fireworks Permit for the Gratiot Agricultural Society as submitted. Motion carried.

Councilperson Timmons reported that Fun Fest planning has begun and they IPC questions how the hospitality tent will be handled now that the City owns the land. Clerk Fandell and Councilperson Thomas met with the MML on the insurance renewal and the city need to be a named insured and endorsed. Barb will correspond with the Chamber of Commerce for this.

Councilperson Shafer stated she is seeing the police each morning all over town. Questions on the Gilboe's Safe and Lock and MAGNET bills. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell explained that the safe needed to have the combination changed due to the amount of change over in personnel and found it was in need of repair also. The MAGNET bill is our annual contribution to the program..

Councilperson Shafer notice additional testing on the B&B site. Mayor Bailey stated a notice was received that they failed the remediation plan and test and have to do a new plan as noted by the DEQ. She also stated a group of about 100 volunteers have been in the area helping to fix and paint homes.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39465-39516 and Payroll Checks #12070-12086, DD247-DD253, EFT127-EFT131 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 9, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was John Evans.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 18, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None was given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported the IPC was in full planning of the Fun Fest.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee had met to telephone interview and review city manager candidates. The Committee recommends extending an offer to three candidates for an in-person interview. Discussion on when to hold interviews.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to interview the three Personnel Committee recommended candidates on July 22, 2013 starting at 2:00pm. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the June activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported that new tires will be needed for one of the patrol cars prior to winter. He informed Council of two newly hired part-time officers, Pat Myers and Brett Morel. All part-time officers are shared with the County patrol units. He further reported that miles are not being tracked on the bike patrol, but hours are. To date, there are eight hours logged and it will be utilized during the week of Fun Fest activities. Lt. McCollum reported the inmate trustee program began and would be utilizing them for miscellaneous work throughout the County.

Move by Timmons, second by Thomas to approve the Police report. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if the new part time employees could come to Council. Lt. McCollum explained that their schedules make that difficult, but will try if they are on duty; he also noted that each have been brought into City Hall and have met the staff and Department Heads. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Bailey presented Resolution 2013-15 and explained that this was required by MDOT to be updated before any municipal work could be permitted in the State Trunkline Right of Way.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2013-15 Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey read the slate of candidates for the MML Board of Trustees Workers Compensation Fund ballot. All seven candidates are incumbents.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to cast votes for the candidates as slated on the ballot for the MML Workers Compensation Fund Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell requested the Council appoint an Election Commission member which must be an officer of the City. A list of eligible officers was presented for consideration. As per City Charter, the City Clerk and City Assessor are members.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to appoint Fire Chief Dave Nelson to the Election Commission. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated she received an email request from Heather Kesselring-Quackenbush for a donation from the City to the Evening in the Park. She stated Evening in the Park will be hosting two events in Ithaca this year and the last time the City made a donation was in 2011, however it does do an in kind donation by allowing use of the Community Center as a backup for bad weather.

Discussion held and determined that a request for funds should be made in person and a request of Ms. Quackenbush will be made to do so.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell received another inquiry from Jim Wideman regarding the property taxes for the 1008 E. Center property sale. Further research, shows that the taxes for the current year, of the purchase agreement, were to be prorated. Calculations of the proration were analyzed and agreed to by Jim Wideman. The City is responsible for approximately \$645.00 which includes interest.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to pay the prorated taxes as agreed in the purchase agreement for the property sold at 1008 E Center Street (29-52-662-036-40) at an amount not to exceed \$645.00. Motion carried.

Councilperson Timmons informed members that IPC intends to use the inmate trustee program that Lt. McCollum reported on for cleaning up after the Fun Fest activities.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked for the Cable Consortium minutes. Councilperson Timmons stated that when they were available, they would be included, however there was no quorum this month so there would not be any minutes for June.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported that Inspector Sherman said the DPW building addition and the Fire hall building repairs were completed.

Councilperson Thomas stated he would like to readdress the motion made at the last meeting to not get involved with the ICAA park project funding. There was a misunderstanding that the ICAA was requesting the City to be the fiduciary for all projects, but they only want the City to do it for this one park project. The previous City Manager committed the City and it is possible for the City to be the fiduciary of the funds, with restrictions. Councilperson Thomas felt the City should be involved. Mayor Bailey stated only for this Perk up the Park project, and not any other project or any other funds of the ICAA.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to work with ICAA to handle the Perk Up the Park project and handle the funds for that specific project only. Councilperson Gruesbeck asked how it would work with the checks made out to ICAA. Mayor Bailey stated we could only handle those made to the City and/or the project and that a meeting would be held tomorrow with Treasurer Fandell, Paul Hornak, Bill Hirschman and Christina Schaub of Roslund Prestage & Company and John Thomas to work out the details. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer noted the correspondence on the Liquor License Transfer. No action is required from the City unless Council has objections or issues. Mayor Bailey asked if there were any issues. None were given.

Councilperson Schafer said she was a volunteer at the Gratiot Ag Expo (fair) this year and has seen first hand how they are struggling for participants and exhibits. There were only three pigs for the pig scramble and is concerned that it is costing the City money to have the fair. They were short on volunteers and very few participants were from the City and most were from out of town and other cities and counties. This needs to be reviewed. Mayor Bailey stated that the Council has tried to address this in the past and will talk with President Allen to set up another meeting of the two Boards. Councilperson Timmons asked is the lease was even active. Mayor Bailey stated it has been expired. Councilperson Schafer asked for an update from Inspector Sherman on the letter which was sent to GAS.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39518-39575 and Payroll Checks #12087-12118, DD254-DD263, EFT132-EFT136 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 23, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Bailey opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Audience in attendance was John Evans, Jeff Markstrom, Annette Helms, Penny McCormick, Nicholas Cox, Mark Hull, Kristi Caszatt, Dick Davis.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 9, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported the IPC is working on the Fun Fest schedule and everything should be solid by the first part of August.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Fair Board met.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Committee of the Whole met and would defer the report until New Business portion of the meeting.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and summer reading program is going well. The Board discussed fund raising events for September and are hand delivering letter to potential donators to the project. The officers were all reappointed. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell added that penal fines were received and were about \$13,000 less than budgeted/projected. At this rate, fund balance will begin to decline over the next few years.

Department Reports

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the quarter activity of the Fire-Rescue Department. He added that the last repeater license has been received. The GPS mapping is currently being worked on with the State Police and mark Duflo in Gratiot County for collaboration on the system. Gratiot County may be the pilot program for the system which has the capabilities to track each department's vehicles. The department is currently working to set up an EMS simulation drill/training with the hospital and neighboring departments.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

Dave Nelson reported on the Greater Gratiot Development Inc board information. The board is encouraging residents to get out and vote in the special election to support the Economic and Agricultural Development funding proposal.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the report on Greater Gratiot Development Board. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported on several items and updated members on the status of the Ethanol Site MTT, the McNabb Park, MSHDA Rental Rehabilitation, DIG Alley and EVIP grants, the B&B gasoline leak, ICAA Perk up the Park, SAW grant, storm sewer projects, the server changeover, the North Star 425 Agreement and 2012-2013 Fiscal Year audit.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to receive the Clerk-Treasurers report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Bailey present the METRO Act Permit Application received from Great Lakes Comnet Inc. He explained the work to be done by request of permit and stated it was needed for them to work without hindrance in the right-of-way. Clerk Fandell added that the company was hired by Skyweb as a new provider to replace Charter and the result will be better service to their customers.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to approve the METRO Act permit application as submitted by Great Lakes Comnet, Inc. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked Attorney Arnold if he had a chance to review the permit. He stated yes. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Committee of the Whole met to interview candidates for the City Manager position. Three personal interviews were conducted and the Committee recommends performing background checks and pending the results, offering the position to Craig Zins.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to perform background checks on the candidates and allow the Personnel Committee to make an offer for the position pending the result of the checks. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey called for discussion on the Meadow Lane paving proposal. Jeff Markstrom of Rowe Professional Services reviewed the options as previously presented by Steve Clark. Option #1 does a complete crush and shape of the street and is the most costly but will last 25-30 years. Option #2 is less costly, as it is a crush and shape and the ends and seal coat in the middle. Potential life on this would be 25 years for the ends, but the middle would be 5-8 years. Councilperson Schafer asked what Mr. Roslund's decision to cost share was. Mayor Bailey stated he was not interested in doing so. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated his displeasure with that decision. Mayor Bailey said it should be fixed properly and would take a large portion of the budget for other paving in this year. Councilperson Schafer asked what Director Studt felt. Mayor Bailey said he preferred Option #1, but if cost is a factor.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to approve Meadow Lane Paving Project Option #1 at a cost not to exceed \$80,197.75 to Rowe Professional Services. Motion carried.

Councilperson Timmons inquired on the progress of the RC racetrack. Mayor Bailey stated it was progressing nicely.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported the public testing of the voting equipment would be the next day at 10am.

Councilperson Thomas gave a review of the 9-1-1 Board and number of calls received for May and June. A brief overview of the Central Dispatch activity was reported on.

Councilperson Shafer offered thanks to the DPW staff for the additional trash barrels in the park and commented on Dr. Prouty's citizenry for picking up trash in the park on his morning runs. She also thanked Dave Nelson and Barb Fandell for their work on the EVIP grant and complimented the Police Unit for their presence in the early morning hours as it has helped to slow traffic down on the streets.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39577-39627 and Payroll Checks #12119-12136, DD264-DD270, EFT137-EFT140 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments.

Nicholas Cox introduced himself and other business owners in the audience and shared their concern of their business suffering and asked for more communication between the City Council and the businesses. He offered his help to work on that communication and any other suggestions Council may have. Mayor Bailey asked if they had spoken with DDA Director Symonds. Nick replied yes, but additional help is needed for the struggling stores. Mayor Bailey offered that as business owners, the DDA, IPC and Chamber of Commerce are the avenues for the help they seek and agreed that all should work together. Councilperson Thomas added that the Council has the charge to serve all members of the community and provides good infrastructure, streets, help with building renovations, a DDA and it has been doing that. He discussed that the IPC is the group that can help them and that merchants needed to work together with events, hours of operations, etc.

Penny McCormick stated she was unaware of the meetings and meeting times were hard for her to attend. She wanted the City Council to be aware that there are four potential businesses considering closing their doors due to lack of business.

Discussion held on history of items and events the downtown businesses have been involved with. Dave Nelson added that the loss of the hardware did hurt, but that the City and DDA are working hard to get the building sold and filled. Discussion held on meeting times and the former Merchants Committee. Mayor Bailey offered to host a meeting and help to restart the committee if Nicholas could rally the merchants to attend and include the East Center Street merchants. Mayor Bailey thanked them for bringing their concerns to the Council and would have DDA Director Symonds continue to work with them on communications.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Schafer second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 6, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, DPW Director Bob Studt and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was John Evans, Steve Clark, Sean Middleton, John Tanner, Peter Walker, Rick Koppleberger and Tim Palmer.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 23, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to hire the City Manager. Craig Zins will start on Thursday and has found housing within the city.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Fair Board met.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and would like to have an event fund raiser which will be sponsored by Hometown Cellars and will be a wine and beer tasting event. The Library Board is seeking approval from the City Council, due to it being an event involving alcohol. Clerk Fandell has checked on the requirements for insurance and liability and Director Root has confirmed with Hometown Cellars that will be in order for the event. Mayor Bailey confirmed.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the July activity of the Ithaca Unit. Council should see a leveling in all areas. The shift bid will be let out in October for the next year and Chad Rousseau has been hired to fill a full time position with the County. Mayor Bailey asked if there was extra time scheduled during Fun Fest and if that included bike patrol and if the Lt. and/or Sheriff would be around during the events. Lt. McCollum confirmed on all accounts.

Moved by Thomas, second by Hollenbeck to receive the Police report. Motion carried.

SAW Grant

Mayor Bailey acknowledge the engineers in the audience and afforded Peter Walker of Jones & Henry the opportunity to present his proposal as the others had presented theirs at earlier opportunities. Mr. Walker reviewed his proposal for the Council.

Mayor Bailey asked that members select a firm based on the proposals received so that the grant application work could begin and the meet the deadline. Discussion on proposals and costs. Councilperson Schafer noted all firms are very capable. Director Studt was asked for his recommendation and he confirmed any of the firms would be good to work with. Mayor Bailey stated Rowe was in a unique position because of the bond work and knowledge base of the system. Further discussion on advantages/disadvantages of selecting a firm other than that of record.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to award the SAW Grant application and project to Rowe Professional Services. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey thanked all of the firms for their efforts and invited them to submit on future projects.

New/Old Business

Councilperson Timmons explained the repair that was needed on the downtown speaker system. Some of the repair is due to the Beebe Windmill Farm jamming the frequency of the system. Councilperson Thomas stated that Beebe Wind is working with residents in the area who have similar issues, and maybe some reimbursement could be pursued from the company. Councilperson Timmons will work with Mike Roseto to validate that the wind farm is causing the issue. Councilperson Timmons stated the problem is big and some speakers do not work, nor does the portable microphone. The cost of the repair is \$400.00.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to repair the speaker system at a cost of \$400.00 and to address the issue with Beebe Wind Farm for possible reimbursement. Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired if there was someone more local that could do the repairs. Councilperson Timmons stated that

the technician had been working on the system for four years and no one local will touch the system due to its specialty. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to allow the Library the permission to have Hometown Cellars sponsor the wine/beer tasting fund raiser event and the condition be met that the liability insurance have the City of Ithaca as a named insured on their policy for the event. Motion carried.

Steve Clark of Rowe Professional Services gave an update on the current projects the firm is working on. These included the Center Street Paving plan review; Meadow Lane bid documents and schedule, South Street drainage survey work (being done at no cost to help the DPW install the drain previously approved), McNabb Park Master plan status, the North Elm Street drainage issue progress and the survey on the sidewalk from the DIG Alley grant.

Councilperson Timmons asked how the residents of Gwinner Street responded to the solution. Director Studt state one was pleased, one is not and the third has yet to make contact.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell informed the Council that the Stonehouse Amendment to the Agreement has not been signed and an email from Mr. Merchant indicated that his attorney would be in direct contact with Attorney Arnold. Attorney Arnold added that Mr. Merchant is not going to sign it. The new agreement was drafted to correct the assignment of the loan to any other party and stop it from happening in the future. Former Manager Foster had indicated Mr. Merchant was in agreement prior to Council approval. Mayor Bailey requested Attorney Arnold bring it back for more discussion.

Councilperson Gruesbeck stated the Ways and Means Committee was asked to review the itemized Seifert Concrete invoice for the sealing of the downtown sidewalks. The bill was previously held pending receipt of the itemization. The itemization show a 25% company profit in addition to labor and materials. The committee feels 25% is too high and industry standard is 8-10%. DPW Director Studt stated a written contract was not signed nor a written quote received. Mayor Bailey stated that the amount was approved in the budget as placed by the City Manager. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated the Committee would like to pay the invoice with a 10% overage and not a 25%. Councilperson Henderson questioned if the City could change his bill. Councilperson Thomas commented that if the lower amount is paid it will either open the bill for discussion or be accepted.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to approve the payment of the invoice from Seifert Concrete in the amount of \$6,204.00 for the sealing of the downtown sidewalks. Motion carried.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39628-39679 and Payroll Checks #12137-12181, DD271-DD277, EFT141-EFT144 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments.

Representative Tom Leonard arrived and gave a legislative update and contact information. He informed Council that the budget was passed, and though it was not perfect, it is a good budget and he supported it. It keeps the growth of government below the COLA limits, invests \$400M in public safety and infrastructure, gives our district a \$30 per pupil increase (larger districts are receiving \$5 per pupil) and a 4% overall increase to the revenue sharing program. It is not ideal where we would like to be, but is a start in the right direction.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Hollenbeck second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 20, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Hollenbeck opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark, Gordon Van Wieren, David Revore, Jessica Walker, Helen Sodderberg and Tim Palmer.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 6, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported that Cable Consortium met and minutes were included for member review. She also reported on the IPC and upcoming Fun Fest activities.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met. The City has received several complaints on the condition of the cemetery and discussed cemetery lawn mowing and various options for getting it into shape including contracting out the service and utilizing community service labor as is available. The Committee is recommending getting bids to mow parts of the cemetery and parks to help with the upkeep. Councilperson Thomas asked for more information. Manager Zins explained the equipment is getting dated and the mowers used in the cemetery are smaller and hard to replace, in addition, we will need to look at seasonal employee options for the future to help in maintaining cost. Manager Zins will speak with the DPW crew and prepare the bid document for mowing to start in September-October and pick up again in the spring. He added that the bid will include sections and can be accepted or rejected however we choose.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated a request was received from the Ithaca Dog Park group who would like to hold fund raisers and donate the money to the City for play equipment for the dog park. It will take them some time to raise the funds and would like the City to hold the donated funds until enough is raised for the purchase. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell said the donated funds could be held in the current Woodland Park account. This would be different then the ICAA as it is a straight donation with a request for purchase, similar to the memorial benches purchased last year.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to allow the City Treasurer to accept the donated funds for the dog park equipment and place in the Woodland Park account in the General Fund. Motion carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck continued that a request was received from Shannon Madden to sign out a pavilion in Woodland Park for a fund raising event. Ms. Madden's event has grown and does not fit Woodland Park use any longer. She will bring in inflatables, pony rides, hold a silent auction and the event draws 200-300 people. The Committee recommends renting her a space in McNabb Park for a cost of \$50.00 as she is not a resident and city expenses need to be covered; the cost is to be reviewed next year.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to allow Ms. Madden to hold her event in McNabb Park at a cost of \$50.00 to cover the expenses of the City. Motion Carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated lastly the Committee reviewed some new signage to the McNabb Park entrances. Staff received estimates as the current signs are in bad shape; the cost is not budgeted as a separate item, only under repairs and maintenance. Councilperson Thomas stated since the cost was over \$2,000 a bid should be let. Councilperson Timmons added that if it were bid out, Woodland Park should be included also. Mayor Bailey instructed the City Manager to prepare the bid documents for the signs and take it back to committee when received.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Senior Activity Board met and have submitted its list of candidates to fill the seats of the 2013 Board of Directors and ask that Council approve the nominating committee's recommendation.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to appoint Thelma Thomas, Vicki Parling, Dick Abbott and Brian Godley to the Senior Activity building Board for the 2013 term. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board reported the Library Board would be meeting and fund raising efforts, including grants, have reached \$53,000+. The Seniors have decided to donate the proceeds from their September Sub sales to the Library project.

Resolution

City Manager Zins reviewed Resolution 2013-16, a resolution supporting the MDOT Complete Streets Initiative as passed by Public Acts 134 and 135 of 2010. He explained that approval will allow the City to go for grant funding on various projects such as streets, sidewalks and non-motorized bike paths, etc.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2013-16 Supporting the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Complete Street Initiative as Outlined in Public Act 134 and 135 of 2010.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated that approval of the resolution can give MDOT the authority to change the bike lanes on Center Street without City approval. Discussion was held on current Center Street project and past issue with the restriping of East Center Street and effect passing the resolution would or could have. Steve Clark, Rowe Engineering, recalled the striping was halted by City efforts; however MDOT did start grinding off the lines, and can do at any time without City permission because it is a trunkline. Councilperson Thomas asked for the negative effect if not passed. Manager Zins stated the City would not be eligible for grant funding on non-motorized construction without it.

Mayor Bailey called for the vote. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion Carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins reported that he is getting settled in and is getting a lot done. He noted he has an excellent staff to work with and will provide a more detailed report at the next meeting.

Councilperson Hollenbeck would like a meet and greet held for Manager Zins in the near future.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell request that Council make delegate appointments for the MERS annual meeting and the MML annual convention. The employees have selected Rick Wymer as their MERS delegate and Mike Allen as the alternate.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to appoint Craig Zins and the MERS Officer Delegate and Bob Studt as the MERS Officer Alternate Delegate. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to appoint L.D. Hollenbeck as the MML Convention delegate and Craig Zins as the alternate. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins stated four bids were received for the Meadow Lane resurfacing project. The low bid was Crawford Contracting at \$76,126.12 which is 1.45% off the engineers estimate and is the recommendation to award.

Moved by Timmons, second by Gruesbeck to award the bid for Meadow Lane Resurfacing project to Crawford Contracting in the amount of \$76,126.12. Motion carried.

Councilperson Timmons asked for an update on the status of sidewalks. City Manager Zins has talked briefly with Director Studt, and will update once specifics are determined.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell informed Council that the November election is now a countywide election and possibly a State election if representatives choose to put the sales tax on the ballot.

Councilperson Schafer shared that comments are being received from residents that they are pleased with seeing more police presence in the City.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39681-39737 and Payroll Checks #12182-12200, DD278-DD285, EFT145-EFT150 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey stated the Council would be entering into closed session to discuss a litigation matter. The audience was excused.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to enter into closed session to discuss the litigation between ICM, Inc and the City of Ithaca. Motion carried.

City Council entered closed session at 7:43pm.

City Council returned to open session at 8:40pm.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to allow staff to continue working with Thrun Law Firm on the ICM, Inc Michigan Tax Tribunal case. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey stated that due to the late hour, the work session would be cancelled.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Hollenbeck second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:430pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 3, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Absent were Councilpersons James Gruesbeck and Cathy Timmons.

Audience in attendance was Wilbur Rykert, Rick Koppleberger and Tim Palmer.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 20, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None was given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met with the Manager Zins and John Tanner of OHM Engineering to work on additional specs for the project addition. The fund raising event at Hometown Cellars for the library is scheduled for September 21st from 7:00-10:00pm and tickets can be purchased at Hometown Cellars. Vicki Parling and Linda Crumbaugh have placed a display of the silent auction items in the window of the Hardware building as part of that event. In addition, Vicki Parling will be hosting a tea to benefit the library.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the August activity and Fun Fest event coverage of the Ithaca Unit. He stated Fun Fest had no issues and bike and foot patrols were out. He reported that the bid schedule was complete and Chad Chase would be going into the county and Mark McBride would be the new full time officer for the Ithaca Unit. He introduced Officer McBride and informed members of the officer's rotation schedules.

Move by Thomas, second by Schafer to receive the Police report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins reported that he met with County Administrator Jeff Huff to try and define the minutes of the County Commission meeting minutes on the sharing of the legal costs associated with the ICM tax tribunal. There was no formal action to obligate the funds, only approval to say they "will stay aware of it". Mr. Huff confirmed that no action to obligate was taken.

He reported that he is working on a grant for the sidewalks and curbs in the downtown area and cost to repair will be \$150,000 plus. In order to add a sense of place, we will need to tie into the current streetscape. Currently, waiting on cost estimates for the project. He updated members on the bid documents for the mowing and signs and will have recommendations at the next meeting. He further informed members that Director Studt is working on the sidewalks and Meadow Lane resurfacing is scheduled to begin September 9th with a completion date of September 13th.

Manager Zins requested that Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours be set. The neighboring cities will be holding theirs from 5:30-7:30pm.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to set Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours from 5:30-7:30pm on October 31, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Councilperson Henderson asked for the status on the pay loader. Manager Zins will check, but it is budgeted.

Councilperson Hollenbeck requested a more comprehensive sidewalk repair plan.

Councilperson Schafer informed members that Assistant Library Director Smaltz has accepted a full-time position with CMU and her last day will be September 13, 2013.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39738-39769 and Payroll Checks #12201-12222, DD286-DD293, EFT151-EFT154 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 17, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas.

Audience in attendance was Larry Trexler and Matt Searles.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 3, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Henderson had no report, but noted the DPW was testing pay loaders.

Councilperson Timmons reported the IPC had a successful Fun Fest and the mums would be placed that day.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review the mowing services bids, but the committee has no recommendation for the Council. He asked if members would like to discuss the bids. Discussion held regarding funds, manpower, equipment life, resident complaints, areas of bid, etc. Manager Zins explained that the bid could be awarded by individual park, cemetery or combination of, but is priced per mow. Manager Zins' recommendation would be to segregate and award the cemetery as that area is not being done adequately.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to award the bid for mowing services for the Cemetery, Woodland Park and Atkinson Park to Searles Lawn Care and authorize the City Manager to draw up the contract and sign. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey reported for Councilperson Thomas on the Ways and Means Committee which met to review the financial overruns on the RC racetrack project. Discussion on construction changes to the tower and handicap accessibility which led to an increase in the project cost beyond the previous approved \$50,000. The committee recommends approval of an additional \$4,000 to complete the project. Councilperson Henderson questioned the additional work the crew has done beyond the tower. Discussion held.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to approve the additional work required for the RC Racetrack and authorize \$4,000 additional from the Caldwell fund to be repaid through race proceeds. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety Committee met to review Fire/Rescue Department officer appointments. The committee recommends re-appointment of Jamie Gulick to the 2nd Lieutenant/Medical Officer position.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Timmons to appoint Jamie Gulick to the 2nd Lieutenant/Medical Officer position. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer updated members on the Library's fund raiser and silent auction for September 21, 2013. Have raised nearly \$62,000 and have written two additional grants. Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Senior Sub sales, sold 150 subs with proceeds going to the project as well.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins reported that the MDNRTF grants require the City have a 5-year Recreational Plan adopted and the current plan needs to be redone. He has asked Rowe Inc for a cost proposal. Grants are due in June, so work on the Recreational Plan can be done over the winter months. He led a discussion on the lack of recreational fees for the city parks, using as an example the Cyclocross Race that took over the entire Woodland Park and residents were not allowed to use the park during that day. Members were unaware that the event did not allow residents access to the park. Mayor Bailey will have a Committee of the Whole meet to discuss this after the meeting with G.A.S.

Manager Zins reported on the sidewalk replacement process and noted the current ordinance is not being followed where cost sharing with the residents is concerned. He stated common practice among

communities is to have residents pay for the materials and the City covers the cost of the labor. The DPW crew could do the labor. Councilperson Gruesbeck noted that the Council had approved that cost sharing and the ordinance was to be followed effective July 1st. Mayor Bailey stated before work was done and the residents charged, that notification needed to go out. Councilperson Timmons asked that it be placed in the next newsletter and Gruesbeck added that hardship cases need to be addressed. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell can notify residents, however a policy needs to be adopted first.

Manager Zins reported that the DDA would be using the hardware building to do a cooperative "Ithaca Market". Space for the co-op will be leased based on square footage and spaces taped on the floor. He further noted the MDOT emergency Freeway Closure Plan was enclosed with the report and informed members of upcoming meeting he would be attending.

Manager Zins reviewed the DIG Grant project he would like to submit for. This project would complete the downtown and eliminate the trip hazards and add benches, bike racks and an improved farmers market. He stated the grant requires a 10% local match and the DDA has agreed to cost share \$35,000 toward the match. The City's match from general fund would be \$40,508.47. The total project cost is estimated at \$825,508.47 and he requested approval to write the application and secure the funds.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to allow the City Manger to proceed with the grant application for the DIG Grant at a project cost of \$825,508.47 and the local match of 10% to come from the City general fund of \$40,508.47 and DDA funds of \$35,000 for a total \$75,508.47. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the City Manger report. Motion carried.

Ordinance Amendment

City Manager Zins presented Ordinance Amendment Section 36-5 if passed would ban through truck and bus traffic on Center Street between Pine River and Main Streets. He spoke with Sheriff Wright and passing would allow them to and they would enforce it. Any protest regarding ticketed violations would have to be prosecuted by Attorney Arnold as the courts will not do it on the City's behalf. Discussion held on authorizing special vehicles and city vehicles. These will need to be added to the draft

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to introduce Ordinance Amendment Chapter 36 Traffic and Vehicles, Article I, Section 36-5 Ban of Through Truck and Bus Traffic on Center Street Between Pine River Street and Main Street. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Bailey asked City Council to consider changing the October regular meeting dates due to staff absence on October 1, 2013.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to change the Regular Meeting dates for October from October 1st and 15th to October 8th and October 22nd. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins showed the lanterns to members that are to be released during the homecoming festivities. MDOT was contacted and highly discourages the release of the lanterns over the highway, but has no authority to enforce that request. He requested they move the location, and Mandy Symonds stated they could move it to the front of the high school, but the results will be the same. Audience Larry Trexler stated there is current legislation to stop these releases. Council members expressed concern if the DDA was involved with a school function and the City's possible liability. Mayor Bailey and members asked Manager Zins to talk with the school on MDOT's concerns, the DDA Director and make sure the City is not liable for this event.

Mayor Bailey asked members to set the public hearing for the Ordinance Amendment previously introduced.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to set the Public Hearing on Ordinance Amendment Chapter 36 Traffic and Vehicles, Article I, Section 36-5 Ban of Through Truck and Bus Traffic on Center Street Between Pine River Street and Main Street for October 8, 2013 at 7:10pm. Motion Carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell informed members that absentee ballots were to be received by Saturday and also on the rules of political sign placement in resident yards. They follow the same ordinance as garage and yard sale signs and have talked with the police department regarding enforcement of all signs.

Councilperson Gruesbeck informed that the Senior Activity Building is celebrating 20 years October 1st.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39770-39823 and Payroll Checks #12241-12274, DD302-DD309, EFT160-EFT165 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were given.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 8, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Hollenbeck opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark, Damien Howell and Andrew Whitaker.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 17, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey welcomed the government class students and asked to receive public comments. None were given

Committee Reports

Councilperson Henderson reported the Equipment Committee met to review the quotes for the new pay loader. The DPW tested three and preference the John Deere model which is mid-priced but provides more safety features and has more performance capability. The Committee recommends the purchase. The committee also discussed the potential need for a wood chipper for the brush pile.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to authorize the purchase of the John Deere pay loader from AIS and trade-in of the current pay loader at a net cost of \$92,669.00. Motion carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met regarding McNabb Park. The Committee recommends the City take over the horse boarding operations from Gratiot Ag Society and having staff do a cost analysis to repair the barns. Mayor Bailey asked members to review the lease draft prior to attending the GAS meeting on Thursday and asked Councilperson Hollenbeck when the agreement should be presented for approval. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated the agreement should be presented at their meeting, receive their input and be brought back for Council approval. Discussion held on the lease agreement, horse boarding and funds of barn account.

Ordinance Amendment

Mayor Bailey stated it was time for the public hearing on Ordinance Amendment 36-5. Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to open the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:16pm.

City Manager Zins stated the amendment had added new Section number 4. Exceptions, and renumbering of items 4 through 8. The suggested change was brought from public attention for RV consideration and other maintenance vehicles.

Councilperson Thomas asked for consideration of the 40 foot motor home that would scrape the middle as an example, and for the reference to commercial plated vehicles that may have commercial plates but not trailers. Councilperson Henderson added that they shouldn't be allowed through. Mayor Bailey stated the intent is to stop trailers, large vehicles, etc and suggested rewording the commercial plate portion. Attorney Arnold said it is written to stop the big vehicles and some discretion should be left to the police officers interpretation. If the amendment does not accomplish the goal, it can be changed.

Lt. McCollum added it probably was not necessary to change the wording to accomplish the intent. Councilperson Thomas suggested changing the wording to "other vehicles longer than 30 feet in length". Mayor Bailey stated signs needed to be placed prior to enactment.

City Manager Zins read the correction to Section A. Councilperson Timmons asked if violation penalties should get progressively higher for repeat offenders. Councilperson Henderson said the attorney's expenses would be included so it's actually more than the \$150.00.

Mayor Bailey asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey closed the public hearing at 7:28pm.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to adopt Ordinance Amendment Chapter 36 Traffic and Vehicles, Article I, Section 36-5 Ban of Through Truck and Bus Traffic on Center Street, Between Pine River Street and Main Street with the change to Section A to read "Vehicles used in the transportation of

inflammable or explosive or heavy lumber, farm products, heavy trucks, semi-tractors, trucks with trailers, non-commercial trucks/cars with trailers and other vehicles over 30 feet in length”.

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion Carried.

Committee Reports (con't)

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to review the security of City Hall and suggested the City Manager look into some surveillance equipment and contact MML Risk Management. Lt. McCollum had input at the meeting and there are no recommendations at this time.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Committee met to review the IPP program and cost involved with the required study which exceeds \$10,000.00. Director Studt recommended a fee of \$150.00 for categorical and \$300.00 for non-categorical used to cover the cost of the annual inspection. The city has three IPP users and a discussion was held on placing an IPP charge on the quarterly water bill for these users. The committee recommends setting fees for the IPP users and having staff bring back all fees prior to the first quarter of 2014.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to proceed with the study and prepare a resolution for the IPP program fees and sewer discharge. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer stated the committee also reviewed the 200 Block of Nelson Street ~~water~~ sewer main. Five homes are serviced with a four inch main and it is causing issue. Rowe Inc has provided a quote of 43,500 for planning and securing permits to upgrade the line and DOP staff can do the work at an estimated cost of \$3,000 for material and labor would be additional. The road would have to be repaired due to the main replacement and cost could be expended from the ~~water~~ sewer fund. The total estimated project cost is \$35,000 with the \$3,500 engineering cost being immediate and the project to be done in the spring.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to proceed with the Nelson Street ~~water~~ sewer main project and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract with Rowe Inc for the engineering services. Motion Carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Patrice Hornak hosted a tea fund raiser for the Library building project. Total funds and grants raised to date are \$77,000. She reported Abby Throop had been hired as a new part-time employee.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the September activity the Ithaca Unit. He reported the Unit is being more proactive with the schools and officers having presence in the schools. He reported part-time officers will be filling in on the day shifts and the County is changing over its computer system which will offer some changes to the reports. He introduced Deputy Sean Fulco and Mr. Fulco gave a brief biography. Councilperson Thomas stated a noticeable change at community events and football games between the officers and students. Councilperson Schafer complimented the department on the parade traffic control and safety for the children.

Move by Thomas, second by Timmons to receive the Police report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins presented a map of the Ithaca Grand Prix held in Woodland Park and what the race does to the condition of the park. The race drew 200 racers at \$30 per racer. This needs to be kept in mind when working on the fee structure for the parks. He further informed members of correspondence from Mrs. Madden who used McNabb Park for a large event and wasn't satisfied with certain aspects. She was charged a small fee for usage of the park. He reported that the city received a \$1,000 tree grant and they will be planted in the park with one free tree for the downtown area. The Old US27 Car Cruise is planning to place signs from border to border upon MDOT approval.

Manager Zins updated members on the Personal Property Tax, the water treatment plant research and financing and chip and seal alternatives to full paving repairs on streets. He further updated members on the SAW Grant application process and the change made by the State from first in for award to a lottery pool.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to receive the City Manager's report. Motion Carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager Zins stated the Freestanding Sign bids came in between \$7,000 and \$22,000 which was much higher than originally proposed. He recommended that all bids be rejected.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to reject all Freestanding Sign bids. Motion Carried.

City Manager Zins presented Change Order #1 for the Meadow Lane Resurfacing project. The change is a reduction due to actual quantities.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to approve Meadow Lane Resurfacing Change Order #1 in the amount of a reduction of \$638.60. Motion Carried.

City Manager Zins updated members on the Park & Recreation Five-Year Master Plan. Steve Clark of Rowe Inc presented a proposal for the service. He stated the last plan was drafted by the former City Manager and prior to that, it was done professionally. He stated that Rowe could incorporate the McNabb Park Master plan into this document. The proposed schedule is aggressive as the deadline is slated for March with a proposed fee of \$4,500.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to conduct a Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan, authorize the City Manager to sign a contract with Rowe Inc for its services in the amount of \$4,500 and the City Treasurer to amend the budget accordingly. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck asked the status of the Dog Ordinance as it has not had activity since the public hearing. City Manager Zins stated he began reviewing it that day and will bring back to the full Council for comment.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked the status of sidewalk repairs. Discussion held on cost and resident participation. Mayor Bailey directed staff to bring a resolution for the cost sharing to the next meeting.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39738-39769, Grant Program Fund Check #1036 and Payroll Checks #12241-12274, DD302-DD309, EFT160-EFT165 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments.

Steve Clark shared appreciation to the Council for the new contracts and informed them that he was working with the MDEQ for determination of disadvantaged community status for the SAW Grant. The delay is due to the Federal Government shut down and inability to access the Census data required.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to enter into closed session for a litigation matter. Roll Call.

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Bailey entered into closed session at 8:25pm.

Mayor Bailey returned to open session at 8:37pm.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to retain the services of MR Valuation Consulting LLC for valuation advisory and consulting services at a cost of \$225.00 per hour and Vertalka & Vertalka Inc for real estate appraisal and consulting services at a rate of \$6,500 for two years of valuation plus \$90-\$220 per hour for additional services at the recommendation of Thrun Law Firm PC, for the ICM, Inc Michigan Tax Tribunal case. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 22, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron, DDA Director Mandy Symonds and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Audience in attendance was Tim Palmer, Brook Daniels and Dana Daniels.

Councilperson Henderson stated that the minutes of 10-8-13 need to be corrected to reflect that the Nelson Street Project was for a Sewer Main and not water as stated.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 8, 2013 with the correction under Committee Reports all references to read Nelson Street sewer main. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported that the Ithaca Promotional Committee is working on the Christmas celebration to be held downtown on December 6, 2013.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Senior Center Board met and he was advised that the ten year Operational Agreement with the City needs to be renewed. The seniors' expressed their concerns over the railroad crossing on South Pine River; they feel that a stop sign or flashing signal crossing bars would be an added safety measure for everyone.

Mayor Bailey reported that the Committee of the Whole met with the Gratiot Ag Society Board regarding McNabb Park; also stating that the new lease between parties has not been signed to date. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated that the G.A.S. President Lester Allen informed him that G.A.S. would not sign the lease until they have it reviewed by a lawyer. Discussion was held on whether the City would take over the horse boarding operations now or wait for Mr. Allen to respond.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to proceed with the implementation of the City of Ithaca Self Care Horse Boarding Agreement with the horse owners that will board horses at McNabb Park. Motion carried.

Council members discussed the condition of the barns and the need to repair them and the responsibility for both the City and horse owners. Councilperson Schafer discussed the owner responsibility in the agreement. Mayor Bailey suggested postponing the repair schedule until the agreements are signed.

Department Reports

DDA Director Symonds reported on the activity during the last quarter. She updated Council on the status of the old hardware building, which is currently listed for sale with a local realtor. She informed Council that a meeting was held with a developer who is interested in purchasing the property behind the Shell gas station for a 32,000sq foot retail shop. More information will come.

The DDA Board approved to give the City \$35,000 towards the farmers market enhancement if the DIG Grant is awarded however contribution of the funds is contingent on the sale of the hardware building.

DDA Director Symonds reported that the RC track has been completed and that two races have been held with another planned this weekend. A lot of interest in the races has been spreading nationally. Four business men from Hong Kong were at the track on October 7th and met with the race organizer Troy Turner and expressed interest in using the location as a new testing site for their product developments.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the DDA Director's report. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Dave Nelson reported on the activity during the last quarter stating total runs for Fire were 21 and Rescue had 71. He reported that a county-wide mock disaster drill was held and went very well. The Gratiot County Fire Chiefs Association is in the process of updating our county wide mutual aid agreement and is working on a formal county wide standard operating procedure for emergency response to wind turbines.

Fire Chief Nelson informed Council of House Bill 4984. If enacted, it would shift the authority for determining which agencies could respond to emergencies in a given community from the local government to the applicable medical control authority. This may result in a case where we are required to cover an area which we are not contracted to cover or a rescue from another area may be dispatched to our area if they are closer to the call. This mandate would not easily work with the current contract structure we have with our township partners. He will be watching this legislation closely and keep Council updated.

Fire Chief Nelson reported that four new firefighters had been hired; Brandon Ester, Rick Bongard, Philip Rondy and Joe Vozar. He also advised Council that David Wetzel has resigned/retired from the Fire Department after 52 ½ years of service. Thanks to Dave for his dedication to the community, his positive attitude, ability to mentor and train all those new recruits to the brotherhood.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins presented a draft of a sign as previously discussed to enforce the no vehicles over 30' allowed through the downtown mall area. Further discussion was held as to the size of the sign and how it should look and read. He informed Council that the Muffin Monster equipment broke that is used at the lagoons and authorized the purchase of a rebuild model for \$11,000 plus installation as soon as possible. The cost to purchase a new one is \$25,000 and the rebuild has the same warranty.

City Manager Zins reported that he has been in communication with a development company who is interested in purchasing the 5.6 acres behind the Shell gas station to build a 32,000 sq foot retail outlet. Manager Zins has contacted MDOT to discuss the project and the impact to the intersection of Croswell Road and East Center Street. Discussion was held regarding the prospect of using Dilts Road as a possible option for traffic flow. He also updated Council on the library project issues and bid process. Bids will be due on November 14, 2013. Manager Zins informed members that he discussed public use of the RC racetrack with Troy Turner. He stated that if people "friend" them on Facebook, the public schedule is posted there.

He further reported that the RESD millage will be on the ballot in November to help fund vocational education in the district. There has been word that a resolution of support may be forthcoming to the Council, however he has not received a request as of yet.

Councilperson Hollenbeck questioned the availability of G.A.S. to use the RC Track area as this was agreed upon during the initial contract talks with Troy, but now seems that is not the case. Manager Zins has discussed this with Troy Turner and we will have to revisit the practicality of it according to the terms of the two leases. DDA Director Symonds stated it was presented as they would be able to use it in accordance with their annual rodeo and fair and not whenever they wanted. Discussion was held regarding the use of this area and Council feels there is a misunderstanding between the parties that need to be worked out.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Bailey presented the draft for the Outdoor Burning Ordinance for Council review. Councilpersons added comments for committee consideration. Councilperson Schafer asked that residential developments be defined. Mayor Bailey directed the Outdoor Burning Ordinance be sent to the Public Safety Committee for additional work and a final draft to be re-submitted to the full Council.

Mayor Bailey presented the Ithaca Community Alumni Association Agreement as presented by Clerk-Treasurer Fandell. The agreement was drafted by City Attorney Arnold. Mayor Bailey stated the agreement was drawn up with the Clerk-Treasurer, attorney and auditor approval for handling the funds.

Moved by Thomas, second by Timmons to adopt the Ithaca Community Alumni Association Agreement. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey presented Resolution 2013-17: Authorizing Subrecipient Agreement for Revolving Loan Funds. Manager Zins explained that Saginaw Future wasn't able to accept the funds without reforming a new entity which they have done. The City has the option to join the regional fund or send the money back to the State of Michigan. The \$47,000+ we contribute will come back to Ithaca through the loan process to the private sector.

Motion by Schafer, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2013-17: Authorizing Subrecipient Agreement for Revolving Loan Funds. Roll Call.

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey presented Resolution 2013-18: Amending Sewer Rates for Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) Violations. Mayor Bailey explained that the permits will be issued by the City and must comply to stated standards. Violation fines for non-compliance need to be adopted.

Motion by Henderson, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2013-18: Amending Sewer Rates for Industrial Pretreatment Program Violations. Roll Call.

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey
Nays: (0) None
Abstain: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey presented the draft review of the Sidewalk Ordinance. Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired how residents would be informed if there is a change in policy. Councilperson Timmons inquired if public hearings would be part of the process. City Manager Zins stated there is inconsistency among the way sidewalk repairs and cost sharing have been handled. The current ordinance states Council can decide and most communities charge their residents for sidewalk repairs and suggested a 50/50 cost share with residents. A consistent method needs to be decided upon and we are looking at probably 3,000 sections to replace. Manager Zins gave some financial options. Councilperson Schafer discussed the funding recession and historical the Council has talked about cost sharing. Further discussion held. Mayor Bailey stated that this draft will go to Streets & Parking Committee for further discussion and have a final draft resubmitted to Council.

Mayor Bailey presented the draft review of the Dog Ordinance. Mayor Bailey asked if Council wished to proceed. Councilperson Timmons asked if Attorney Arnold has reviewed it. Attorney Arnold stated he had not. He instructed City Manager Zins to follow up with City Attorney Arnold for his review and plan to set a public hearing at the next council meeting.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39892-39936 and Payroll Checks #12275-12331, DD310-DD3323, EFT166-EFT174 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Councilperson Schafer inquired on repairs done to unit #38 and water repairs at the RC Racetrack, and the campground license fees. Councilperson Timmons asked if the license could be changed to McNabb Park. Motion carried.

Manager Zins informed members that a new non-resident request was received to use the red barn at McNabb Park.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None was given

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Hollenbeck to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Cathy Cameron, Deputy Clerk

George Bailey, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 5, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Sheriff Doug Wright, Tim Palmer, Melissa Ackley, Kodi Feldpausch, Christian Rodger, Alyssa Morrison, Tyler Welch, Shaley Harrison, Ali Carmen, Coral Williams and Kathy Williams.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 22, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey welcomed the government class students and asked to receive public comments. None were given.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Streets and Parking committee met to review sidewalks. No recommendations at this time.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety committee met to review the dog ordinance, burning ordinance and police equipment request. The committee recommends introduction of the dog ordinance and are waiting on grant information before making a recommendation on the equipment request. There is no recommendation for the burning ordinance at this time.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Technology committee met on the computer system in City Hall and future replacement plan. No recommendation at this time.

Mayor Bailey reported the Committee of the Whole met regarding the Park and Recreation Master Plan. The committee met as part of the planning process and to review the steps and procedures involved with writing the plan. The plan is required in order to receive MDNRTF grants.

Department Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported on the Fiscal Year ending June financials. An update on the status of the Firstbank/Mercantile Bank merger was reported.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to receive the June financial reports and place on file for audit. Motion carried.

Lieutenant McCollum reported on the October activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported that Deputy McBride started and has been involved with the community policing and the school. He gave a brief overview of the police cameras request and their importance to safety and protection of cases. Councilperson Hollenbeck questioned the cost and that it was additional equipment beyond the contract. Councilperson Timmons affirmed that according to the contract, the Council has the final decision on the purchase. Lt. McCollum stated the cameras in the vehicles are unserviceable and he had not been able to get the company to respond. They are not compatible with the County's system. He is working to obtain grants for their replacements. Sheriff Wright added that it is not only a safety issue for the officers, but a liability issue for the department. He added that the County would pay half of the tablet cost. Lt McCollum reported on the new procedure officers have initiated to clear traffic after the football games.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to receive the Police report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins provided a list of sidewalks to be repaired and informed Council that letters had been sent to the homeowners with their shared cost. He also provided data on the Ithaca Grand Prix Cyclocross race of where money was spent in the city from participants. Discussion on how little was spent. He informed members that he received another request for bike race on the Jailhouse Trail and informed the group that there may be a fee. A proposed fee schedule was distributed to members and there was no objection to them as presented and directed him to bring to the next meeting for adoption. Manager Zins updated members on the McNabb Park soccer fields and reported that they were built to spec and the DPW will be fixing the drainage issues this fall, he will communicate the completion with the school. He showed the downtown truck ban sign to the Council and members approved the design for production.

Manager Zins updated members on the horse stalls and the unsigned GAS lease agreement. He reported that President Allen was informed that the original agreement was the only one that would be accepted but have not heard back from him. He updated members on the Park Master Plan survey and noted it had been delivered to the Senior Center, Library, Friday folders, and is available on the city's website, facebook page and surveymonkey.

Manager Zins discussed the City's trash collection contract and yard waste omission when it was renewed and the switch from tags to carts was made. He is working with the company on a quote for brown bag disposal. Further updates were given on the thermo camera, Crosswell Road/Dilts traffic regulation, SAW grant, lagoon capacity and the broken Frontier pole on the corner of Jeffery and Center streets.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Bailey asked for action on the Code of Ordinance Amendment for Chapter 6: Animals, Article II Dogs.

Moved by Timmons, second by Gruesbeck to Introduce the Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 6: Animals, Article II Dogs. Clerk Fandell called the roll.

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to set a Public Hearing to take comment on the Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 6: Animals, Article II Dogs for November 19, 2013 at 7:20pm. Motion carried.

Mayor Bailey asked for action on the Code of Ordinance Amendment for Chapter 32: Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article II Sidewalks.

Moved by Timmons, second by Thomas to Introduce the Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 32: Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article II Sidewalks. Clerk Fandell called the roll.

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer, Thomas, Timmons, Bailey

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Hollenbeck to set a Public Hearing to take comment on the Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 32: Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article II Sidewalks for November 19, 2013 at 7:35pm. Motion carried.

Councilperson Timmons asked the City Manager to look into the downtown speaker issue.

Councilperson Thomas asked the City Manager to look into the light on Union/St. Charles as it is on all of the time.

Councilperson Schafer reported that Representative Tom Leonard is still available for residents the third Friday of each month at the Hearthstone Oven.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39937-39971 and Payroll Checks #12332-12352, DD324-DD330, EFT175-EFT179 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive Public Comments. None were offered.

Mayor Bailey asked the government students to introduce themselves and thanked them for coming.

Mayor Bailey asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 19, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor George Bailey and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Cathy Timmons and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Tim and Janine Palmer, Rick Koppleberger, Journey Teegardin, Charlie Teegardin, Mandy Symonds, Bob and Leona Koppleberger, Larry Trexler, Bill DeVuyst, Dave Nelson and Jeff Markstrom.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 5, 2013. Motion carried.

City Council Organization

Mayor Bailey excused Councilperson Timmons and himself and passed the gavel to Tim Palmer.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office for City Councilperson to Rick Koppleberger.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office for Mayor to Tim Palmer.

The new members were seated.

Mayor Palmer asked for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tempore. Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to elect Alice Schafer as appointee for Mayor Pro-Tempore.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated that the appointments did not need to be made at this time, but by Charter could wait for one week. Councilperson Thomas asked why members would want to spend the money on a special meeting when the organizational business could be handled then. Mayor Palmer asked for further discussion and comments. None were offered. He called for a vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to replace former Councilperson Timmons' seats on committees with Councilperson Koppleberger until the end of the fiscal year.

Councilperson Thomas stated that all of the committees have active projects and this would keep some stability, Councilperson Schafer added that all meetings are open and this makes it palpable. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if the Chairs would remain the same. Mayor Palmer stated yes. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if the June 30th date was solid or if changes could be made prior. It was understood that the Mayor could make changes with Council approval. Mayor Palmer called for the vote: Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked for consideration of Resolutions 2013-19 and 2013-20.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2013-19 Recognition of Cathy Timmons. Motion Carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2013-20 Recognition of George Bailey. Motion Carried.

Mayor Palmer presented and read the Resolutions to Cathy Timmons and George Bailey.

Public Hearings

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing.

Moved by Schafer, second by Hollenbeck to open the public hearing to take comment on the Ordinance Amendment for Chapter 6 Animals, Article II Dogs. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:21pm.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell distributed written comments from resident Brad Heffner regarding suggested changes to Sections 6-37 and 6-47(1). Councilperson Thomas asked Attorney Arnold his opinion. Attorney Arnold stated they are good and acceptable changes and add to clarification.

Councilperson Henderson stated on page 2, the definition of Dangerous Animal should state “does not” instead of “does”.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comment. None was received.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:27pm.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to adopt Resolution 2013-21 Amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 6 Animals with change to the definition of Dangerous Animals to read “Dangerous Animal means any animal, which bites or attacks a person or animal but **does not** include the following” and change to Section 6-37 to read “No person shall keep or harbor a continuous barking dog to the annoyance of persons within the neighborhood” and change to Section 6-47(1) to read “State Law Offenses: Violations of the ordinance that are also violations of State law, under MCL 287.261 et seq., may be prosecuted under either”. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Bailey asked to receive public comments.

Charlie Teegardin asked what ordinance was just passed. City Manager Zins gave an overview and outline of the ordinance and explained that it defined a vicious dog and also the care of animals and dogs and responsibility of the owner. He explained it also set up rules and penalties for violations.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Fair Board met. Clerk Fandell stated their minutes needed clarification regarding the grounds and building ownership. Councilperson Schafer stated the minutes said they own the barns and the City owns the land, so they own the land. That was not the conversation at the meeting or what is stated by the lease agreement. The agreement states the buildings belong to the City and that was agreed at the meeting by all in attendance.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported that officer names were to the City Manager to update the agreement on the senior building for future approval.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and have now raised \$82,000 toward the building project. The Board has given the City Manager a list of priorities for the renovation project and since no bids were received, Rowe will be assisting in the new bid process.

Public Hearings

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to open the public hearing to take comments on the Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 32, Article II Sidewalks. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:35pm and asked for comments.

Bill DeVuyst stated his understanding of the amendment is that work would be done at a 50% cost to the residents. He wondered about the spots that have been complained about for years; would the resident still be responsible for 50%. Manager Zins explained that the sidewalks have been neglected overall and only piece repaired the past few years. The new process would break the city into quadrants for repair, and would be done by workers or through bid, whichever is cheaper so that the City and resident will benefit. Mr. DeVuyst asked if the City would oversee the bid process. Manager Zins stated yes, as it would with new construction also. New construction and damage to existing walks would not be cost shared, but the full responsibility of the home owner.

Dave Nelson ask if the City decided to go out Center Street where there is no existing walk, would the City still go after grants and inquired if there would be a payment schedule? Manager Zins explained the process of evaluation and notification to repair walks. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell explained the payment process and how delinquent bills would be transferred to property taxes.

Charlie Teegardin expressed concern that this would open a hornet’s nest with all of the broken sidewalk around town. Councilperson Schafer shared that when the research was done, most communities charge the property owners 100%. She added that the times of the City being able to fund the entire cost are now

in the past with the current funding going down. Mr. Teegardin stated that for years the City wouldn't allow residents to fix the walks and was too nice, now they have to take it away and that will be hard.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:45pm.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to adopt Resolution 2013-22 Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 32 Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article II Sidewalks. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Kopplesberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins updated the Council on the Center Street utility pole, the sidewalk title search from the DIG alley project, the recreation needs survey, SAW grant, Castillo parking spaces and land sale from 2005, the library building project and informed members that he offered to lease the old police department building to the County Administrator.

City Manager Zins reported the Seaver Street bike path would require a public hearing and currently cost estimates were being worked on to write a grant if support is received from the residents. He shared that many of the surveys have shown a need for more picnic tables in Woodland Park for families. He asked permission to expend some of the Fraker funds to have twelve picnic tables constructed by the St. Louis Correctional Facility at an estimated cost of \$110 per table.

He further reported that a request was received from Marie Green who runs a rescue mission to save dogs and cats. She has received an abundance of calls about stray cats in Ithaca and would like to hold a clinic to catch and neuter stray cats. Her request is that the City contributes \$10.00 per cat to help offset the cost of the Mission.

Manager Zins informed Council that the fiberglass street light poles have a lot of cracks and contact is being made with the manufacturer as to what can be done. He also reported that the City received a DIG Grant for the downtown in the amount of \$750,000 and reviewed the project scope and farmer's market.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to receive the City Manager's report.

Councilperson Hollenbeck stated that if Seaver Street is done, there is no sidewalk for the children to get to the school. That needs to be looked at with the project. Manager Zins said that MDOT requires a 10-foot pathway and that would be the connection for both. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked for action on the picnic table funding request.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to authorize the use of the Fraker funds for the purchase of twelve picnic tables through the St. Louis Correctional Facility prison carpentry shop at a cost of \$110 each. Councilperson Kopplesberger asked how much money was in the fund. Treasurer Fandell stated just over \$18,000. Motion carried.

Ms. Green asked to address the Council on the Rescue mission for cats. To date she has held five clinics, two at Newark Township Hall and three in St. Louis. The outreach targets community cats, ones that are not owned by anyone but are cared for by people. In Ithaca, a colony was starting problems and she has found a farm for some of them. Ms. Green is proposing Ithaca hold a clinic to help reduce the feral cats. The charge to people is \$20 per cat. The \$10 the City would contribute would reduce the amount cost to the memorial fund, which is \$50 per cat. The clinic can be done by zip code, or any guideline. Councilperson Henderson stated he would be troubled with fixing the cats and then releasing them back as it doesn't solve the entire problem.

Mayor Palmer explained that City funds could only be expended for City residents and would like to take some time to think about her request. He thanked her for the information and for coming.

New/Old Business

City Manager Zins presented the SAW Grant overview and application description.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2013-23 Approval of the SAW Grant Agreement. Councilperson Henderson asked if the City was obligated or if there would still be an option to turn it down pending the low/mod income outcome. Manager Zins stated it could be turned down, but the grant is based on a lottery and ours could be perfect and still get turned down. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked what the match was. Manager Zins reiterated it would depend on the low/mod income status determination. If determined that the City is not, the match would be 10%. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Abstain: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion carried.

City Manager Zins presented the Park and Recreation Fees. He explained the bike races are driving the need for the fees. The fees presented are for exclusive use or reservation of the parks and community center, but does not restrict other use.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to adopt 2013-24 setting the Park and Recreation Fees. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Abstain: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion carried.

City Manager Zins presented the Title VI Plan as required by MDOT to be eligible to receive grant money.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to adopt the Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Abstain: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer noted the activity at the B&B gas station and the newspaper covered it well. She noted the storm damage and trees broke in the cemetery. Dr. Prouty helped with the clean up in the park.

City Manager Zins requested that the Council go into closed session for a litigation matter.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #39972-40050, Water/Sewer Bond Debt Retirement Check #1030 and Payroll Checks #12353-12369, DD331-DD337, EFT180-EFT183 as listed in the Check Register Book.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive Public Comments.

Will DeVuyst asked if the new park and recreation fees would go to the parks. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated yes and they would go into the general fund where the park expenses also are.

Mayor Palmer stated a request was made from the City Manager to go into closed session.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to enter into closed session to discuss the litigation between ICM Inc vs. the City of Ithaca. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Abstain: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer excused the audience and entered into closed session at 8:24pm.

City Council returned to open session at 8:35pm.

Mayor Palmer asked for any additional business to come before the City Council.

Councilperson Henderson stated it is inappropriate for Council to direct staff. Any and all concerns need to go through the City Manager. Members were in agreement.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 3, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Account Clerk Jamie Space and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Absent was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Richard Heathcock and Wilbur Rykert.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 19, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Wilbur Rykert welcomed the new Council members. He shared disappointment that the hardware buildings' selling price was so low compared to the purchase price, considering the funds to purchase it were from a generous resident and his memory wasn't being preserved. Felt the seller took advantage of the DDA and hopes the Council will oversee with the DDA on future dealings so they are not misled in the future.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the 911 Board met. The cameras are currently being installed in all of the units and things are running smoothly.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and have raised \$93,000 for the building addition. This includes a \$10,000 grant from the Dow Foundation. The Board will be meeting with the engineers from Rowe and begin new bid specs and plans. Discussions have begun with the other libraries in the county on forming a district library or going out for a county-wide millage.

Department Reports

Lieutenant McCollum reported on the November activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported the City patrol units had some repairs and were off the road for part of the month so the Sheriff authorized the use of County patrol cars. He noted the involvement of the officers with community events and traffic control. Mayor Palmer stated people are happy with the services being provided. Lt. McCollum addressed the new signs for the downtown area and reported that there have not been any stops or reports of violations that he had been made aware of. Councilperson Koppleberger said he has seen several trucks drive through while at his business. Discussion held, the officers will maintain watch of the area.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to receive the Police report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins updated Council on the horse barn lease agreements, payments and general happenings with the horse owners. Some have complied, but those that have not may have to be evicted. He updated the Council on the Casair.net request, the delay of the sidewalk repairs due to weather, update on meetings attended for Greater Gratiot Development and the Cable Consortium. He reported the Nelson Street sewer line upgrade was complete and the excavation area would be restored in the spring so the work area has time to settle. He further reported that the DPW will be installing a water line on Elm Street as a result of a resident's well failure at a 532 Elm Street. The property owner will be paying about 30% of the installation cost.

City Manager Zins update the Council on the ICM, Inc Tax Tribunal status and current projects in the works and underway. They include the SAW Grant, Seaver Street Pathway, McNabb Park and Park and Recreation Plan, Water Treatment Plant, DIG Grant schedule, and the potential arrival of a Tractor Supply retail store.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager's report. Councilperson Hollenbeck questioned the sidewalk repair schedule and whether it would be completed in the spring. Manager Zins assured him it would. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager Zins presented the Operational Agreement for the Senior Activity Building for approval. Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the Operational Agreement for the Senior Activity Building. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins explained the request and need for new fees to be added to customers using the Industrial Pretreatment Program to help cover the increasing cost for its operation and maintenance.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2013-25 Amending Water and Sewer Rates 2013-2014 for the new Industrial Pretreatment Program fees. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated a request was received to set a public hearing to take comment on the CDBG DIG Grant: Sidewalk, Curb and Farmers Market Improvements.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to set a public hearing to take comment of the CDBG DIG Grant: Sidewalk, Curb and Farmers Market Improvements for Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins discussed the re-submission of Resolution 2013-04 which if enacted would change the City election dates from odd year to even year election cycle. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell submitted written information and data as formerly requested by the Council. Councilperson Thomas shared additional information, as discussed with the City Clerk, regarding millages and placement of offices and millage request on the ballot. He also shared the next possible millage renewal dates with members. Discussion held further on the size of ballots and amount of voted items placed on them. Councilperson Schafer questioned if it were passed, could it be changed back if it wasn't perceived well. Discussion on the cost of change.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to table the item of changing the City election cycle until the next regular meeting of the City Council. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer commented on the request of Marie Green for the stray cat clinic and stated she spoke with the Animal Control office and they provide a lot of the services that Ms. Green spoke about and wondered whether contact should be made with Tom Clark regarding them and the expense, so that services aren't being duplicated. Councilperson Thomas questioned what would be gained from Ms. Green as the cats would be re-released.

Councilperson Schafer shared appreciation for the solution to the North Street water and sewer problem.

Mayor Palmer will be scheduling a Committee of the Whole to bring new members up to date on current projects and happenings.

Councilperson Koppleberger asked for updates on the DDA and Hardware buildings as he can not attend the DDA meetings.

Councilperson Henderson inquired on the date for the Employee Appreciation Dinner. Councilperson Schafer will work with Clerk Fandell on the details.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #40051-40097 and Payroll Checks #12370-12389, DD338-DD345, EFT184-EFT188 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive Public Comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

Recording Secretary: Jamie Space

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2013
7:00pm

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Thomas opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 3, 2013. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None was offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Technology committee met to review the proposals for upgrades and replacements of the City Hall computer system. The committee recommends approving the proposal provided by IT Right. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if the equipment was bid out. Confirmed proposals were received from multiple vendors and provided to the committee for review.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to approve the proposal as provided by IT Right in the amount of \$8,003.80 for upgrades and replacements to the City Hall computer system and amend the budget if necessary. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck further reported the Public Safety Committee met to review the draft burning ordinance. No recommendation at this time as further work is required. He also reported the Senior Activity Board met and inquired as to if the City's liability insurance covers their treasurer and liability with finances. Clerk Fandell is to check with MML and report back.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to review the video surveillance system at for City Hall and would like to make it part of the retreat discussion and also met regarding the employee health insurance plan. The committee is recommending changing to the Community Blue Platinum 500 plan with employees contributing 12% of the health insurance premium. This maintains the share for both about the same current rate and allows the City to meet the State of Michigan and Affordable Care Act requirements.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to change the health insurance plan to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Community Blue Platinum 500 plan with 12% contribution from the employees. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas stated the committee also reviewed a progressive discipline policy and is recommending its adoption. Councilperson Henderson questioned that it affected the union. Manager Zins stated he spoke with the union members and they will follow, however they still have their grievance procedure.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to adopt the Progressive Discipline Policy. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked what we have in place in the past. Thomas stated back in the 90's we had one but hasn't been followed or is gone. Councilperson Schafer asked if it would cover all employees, including fire/rescue. Manager Zins said yes. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board ~~met and~~ approved **by email** the purchase of a replacement computer to be purchased when the City Hall order is placed. The Board will be meeting with the engineers the next day to review the building addition bid process.

Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to open the public hearing on the CDBG DIG Grant for Sidewalk, Curbs and Farmers Market Improvements. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:15pm.

City Manager Zins reviewed the project scope and award. This grant will allow the City to add the needed parking and make use of the area from Self Serve Lumber to Center Street and add the improvements for the Farmers Market in the city lot on the corner of S. Pine River and Center Street. The sidewalk and curbs will be updated to match the rest of the downtown and bike racks and bench seating will also be added. These additions will allow visitors to linger and stay longer. The east end of Center

Street will also have aprons that will draw focus to the downtown direction and the Post Office apron will be replaced, thus making it more useful and safer for pedestrians.

Manager Zins stated he attended the DDA Board meeting and they shared concerns about retaining parking and not losing any with the Farmer Market additions.

Manager Zins shared that historical photographs will be provided as part of the grant to assure the downtown retains its look and is not completely changed.

Councilperson Shafer commented that since Simmet Insurance is so close to the Farmers Market area and uses the lot, that it should be considered for input. Manager Zins reviewed the plans for the Farmers Market area.

Steve Clark stated the barrier free standards added a lot to the award. All of the corners will now be barrier free and additional decorative lighting will be added on the side streets.

Mayor Palmer asked where the project would be in construction during the Fun Fest. Steve Clark stated hopefully it would be completed. They will be looking at staging the project so the entire downtown is never shut down. Manager Zins stated that all of the deadlines are being met and the outcome will be determined by weather and the unknowns.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:24pm.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2013-26 Downtown Infrastructure Grant – Sidewalk/Curb and Farmer’s Market Improvements Community Development Block Grant. Roll Call

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Thomas, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Zins presented the engineering service proposal as provided by Rowe Inc. He reviewed the grant and the engineering costs. Steve Clark stated the proposal provides for design and for the construction phase at fifty hours per week plus inspections.

Move by Schafer, second by Thomas to approve the engineering proposal of Rowe Inc for the DIG – Sidewalk/Curb and Farmers Market Improvements CDBG grant contingent upon successful execution of the grant agreement in the amount of \$107,675. Motion carried.

Appointments

Mayor Palmer stated a request was received from the DDA to fill the vacancy on the board with Lillian Smith. He stated he was fine with their recommendation and asked for comments.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to appoint Lillian Smith to the Downtown Development Authority to fill the vacant position with term expiring 6/30/2016. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated the City must re-appoint a member to the Airport Authority Board. He discussed filling the position with City Manager Zins and he is agreeable.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to appoint Craig Zins as the representative to the Airport Authority Board. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins updated Council on the disintegrating condition of the hardware buildings and possibility of writing a façade grant if available. He informed that the Tractor Supply Co has purchased the property behind the Shell station but is still exploring the property off the highway ramp. This property, as they have been notified, has no utilities, zoning, etc and it will be very expensive to run sewer and water service to it. The city is being responsive to their questions; however they need to let us know where they intend to build before any decisions/discussions can be made. He requested approval to have a survey done on the sidewalk by the Gratiot County Herald building. The past City Manager ordered the sidewalk to be placed during the DIG grant and was placed on their property so a survey will need to be done to confirm and obtain an easement. City Manager Zins updated members on the activity of the ICM site and sale with the potential development of a grain storage and Fertilizer plant. They have requested the City upgrade the road and maintain it and install water and sewer services.

Councilperson Thomas asked if the road had been built to Act 51 standards. Manager Zins stated no. He said in the past, the City has required the homeowner or business to bring it to standard and then we would take it over. Councilperson Thomas stated we should ~~be~~ not be quick to accommodate. Councilperson Henderson agreed and stated in the past, residents have had to do it so the same policy should be followed.

City Manager Zins updated Council on the horse barn rentals. One boarder has left and Mr. DeMull has reduced his to ten horses. We will be moving them into one barn and assigning stables so damage assessment can be done. He further reported he met with MDOT regarding the pathway and bike route for connecting the schools/city/parks and also talked about the Dilts Road reconstruction. He gave an update on the Library project design, Parks & Recreation Survey, Elm Street water line and broken water lines repaired by the DPW.

City Manager Zins reported a meeting was held with the USDA regarding funding and scope of the water treatment plant. The City may be eligible for 45 % grant and the remaining as a loan with a 3.75% interest rate. A brief discussion was held on the budgetary effect the ICM MTT case will have on the City as well as the new Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption that was passed into law.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the Annual Poverty Exemption Application Guidelines for adoption as requested by the Assessing Department.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to adopt the Poverty Exemption Application and Guidelines for 2014. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins requested approval to have a boundary survey done on the property purchased by the Castillos back in 2005. He stated the city sold him land to provide parking for the upstairs apartments and what was sold created an island and he wants it changed. The deed was never recorded when the property was purchased so it was never transferred or taxes paid on it. Attorney Arnold added that the deed was prepared and signed, but never recorded by either party. Steve Clark explained the scope of the work involved with the survey and easements.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to authorize the boundary survey for the Castillo property by Rowe Professional Services Company at a cost not to exceed \$1,250.00 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer called the discussion on the change of the City election cycle to even year to the table. Councilperson Thomas stated he was not comfortable having the terms extended when the residents have voted members for a certain term. Mayor Palmer agreed and would like to keep it as is. Councilperson Schafer asked if the change was made, could it be changed back if the Council chose to. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated no; the State is allowing a one time change, by resolution, for communities that opt to. The largest advantage is the cost savings of \$2,000 per election and explained the cost for various elections when the schools, county and State have items on the ballot. She further explained how the items on the ballot are laid out, ballot size issues, and training of inspectors. An analysis of voter turnout percentages was also provided.

Mayor Palmer asked for action on the Resolution 2013-04. Council remained silent, no action taken. Resolution 2013-04 dies.

Councilperson Thomas stated he was leaving town for the next couple of months and would like to be excused during that time. Clerk Fandell stated she was asked to research if a member could participate in a meeting via electronic means and if voting on issues was allowed. Discussions with the MML and Attorney Arnold stated the member can participate via telephone or electronic device, however voting is a grey area in regards to the Open Meetings Act (OMA). The OMA was written before technology graduated to the level it is and it is not addressed. Communities are allowed to pass their own rules and policies and it varies among communities. According to the MML, no one has ever challenged a vote via electronic means, so there is no court ruling as to its validity.

Councilperson Schafer stated he should be excused and have a vote count. Councilperson Gruesbeck agreed. Attorney Arnold was asked to draft a policy for future consideration.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to excuse Councilperson Thomas for the meetings from January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated he felt it was wrong because a person who wanted to serve on the Council should not leave for an extended period of time. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated a precedent was not being set. Councilperson Schafer added that former member Bob Monroe used to leave every winter and was excused, as was she when she had a family illness to attend to. Clerk Fandell stated the City Charter allows a member to miss four consecutive meetings without being excused. Councilperson Thomas abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck ask the Mayor for a count. Mayor Palmer granted and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Abstain: (1) Thomas

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if he would be paid. Mayor Palmer said it would be addressed in the policy.

Councilperson Schafer congratulated Clerk Fandell on her election to the MMTA Board of Directors as the Secretary of the Board.

Mayor Palmer stated two Committee of Whole meetings needed to be set as well as the Council retreat. The retreat was set for January 14, 2014 at 6:00pm at City Hall. The Committee of the Whole meetings were set for December 19th at 7:00pm for the Park and Recreation Master Plan and December 23rd at 4:00pm for the 2013-2014 Audit review.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to say Committee for payment; Accounts Payable Checks #40098-40143 and Payroll Checks #12390-12405, DD346-DD353, EFT189-EFT192 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive Public Comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor