

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 7, 2014
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 Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas (excused)

No audience was in attendance.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Schafer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 17, 2013. Councilperson Schafer clarified under Committee reports that the Library Board did not meet, but had an electronic discussion and vote through email. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the Park and Recreation 5-year Plan. Suggestions and changes were made to the original draft and Rowe was to incorporate them for introduction. She further reported they met again to review the 2012-213 Fiscal Year audit with Christina Schaub from Roslund Prestage and Company. The committee recommends acceptance of the audit.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to accept the 2013-2013 Fiscal Year audit. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if the audit services were bid out. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated yes and was approved by the Council. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met with Steve Clark from Rowe and the architect to review the building renovation plans. Inspector Sherman was to find the original plans of the building for the architect. The board feels more confident in this process, but the cost is increased due to the required exits for a basement. City Manager Zins added the project would be done in two phases, exterior and interior. Councilperson Schafer stated the libraries in the County would be meeting January 22nd to discuss a district library or millage.

Department Reports

Lieutenant McCollum reported on the December and Annual activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported December was fairly quiet, but they are running into some issues with the snow piles and parking. Inquired how Council would like the issues addressed, door knocking or citations? Discussion and direction given for verbal first warning and citation beyond that. He reported on the annual report highlighting that the large increase in activity is due to officers being more active on duty and patrolling more. He noted the car cameras were approved by the CGAP grant and requested approval for the purchase of a tablet as previously presented, with the city paying half of the cost.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to approve the purchase of the tablet at half of the cost not to exceed \$250.00. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked who would own it. Discussion and decision it would stay with the County and be addressed if separation were to occur. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to receive the December Police report and annual report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins stated he had a conversation with Tom McDonald regarding the sidewalks on west and south of the building and Tom wants the sidewalk on the west removed. He informed Mr. McDonald he would discuss with Council but nothing could be done until spring. He has turned down an offer to insure it. Councilperson Schafer stated that Mr. McDonald insisted that the sidewalk be put in. Councilperson Hollenbeck agreed that he addressed them prior to the work. Council directed Manager Zins to check into the change orders of the project.

City Manager Zins informed Council that the appraisal for the ICM site was just over \$62,000.00 which was more than originally estimated. The attorneys want to meet however we are still reviewing the numbers and anticipate they will be looking for some kind of settlement. Both appraisals are in no and more will be discussed on the 14th. He further informed members that we are down to eight horses at the stables which are down from 20, so we shall see how that progresses.

Manager Zins updated Council on the MDOT Center Street construction project, informed them that the Elm Street water line is on hold until payment is received from the resident, will be meeting with the Village of Howard City on merging their police department with their county and informed them that due to weather conditions and snow storms...many water meters will be estimated this quarter.

Manager Zins said GAS has yet to sign the lease agreement, but is posting and planning all of its events as if it has. Members of GAS have contacted Troy Turner on moving the RC Racetrack for their events and caused some dissention. He instructed Mr. Turner that his lease is with the City and GAS has no say in it. He requested direction from the Council on how to proceed, either push the lease or charge them the daily park fee. Discussion on the collection of fees. Mayor Palmer followed that the fee structure has been adopted and they must abide by one or the other and would rather it be addressed now rather than when the events have started. Councilperson Gruesbeck and Schafer agreed and felt ignoring the lease and not taking action as in the past, will not be tolerated. Direction was given to Manager Zins to make contact with Lester Allen regarding the lease. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated the only discussion at the GAS meeting was that the president was to contact the city.

Manager Zins updated Council on the Tractor Supply site selection issues and will be meeting with them regarding the project. He informed Council that he received calls from residents on the County shared roads regarding plowing and has lead to the question as to whose responsibility it is to plow them. He will be meeting with Mark Krafft to discuss the half/half roads. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated he felt the city should plow the roads that surround the city; Jerome, Fillmore, St. Charles.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer called for action on Resolution 2014-01. Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-01 Recognition of Dave Wetzel. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer called for action on Resolution 2014-02. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell explained the resolution and compliance with PA152.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-02 PA152 Compliance for 2014. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Motion carried.

City Manager Zins review the draft of the Parks and Recreation 5 Year Plan and asked that it be introduced for public review and comments for the 30 day required period.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to introduce the Park and Recreation Five Year Plan draft for public review and comment. Motion carried.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to set a public hearing to take comment on the Park and Recreation Five Year Plan for Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins stated the State was moving to paperless grant applications and would be hosting training sessions.

Councilperson Schafer stated there was another error in the minutes that needed correction. Under the City Manager report, the sentence reading Councilperson Thomas stated we should be quick, should read should not be quick. The one word changes the entire meaning of the conversation and should be corrected. Councilpersons agreed to the content of the conversation.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to correct the December 17, 2103 minutes, City Manager report section, second paragraph to read "stated we should not be quick". Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer reminded Council of the work session on January 14, 2014.

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 #40144-40194 and Payroll Checks #12406-12442, DD354-DD361, EFT193-EFT199 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 Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 21, 2014

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 Hollenbeck opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer, and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Fire Chief David Nelson.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas (excused) (participated through electronic media of Facetime)

Audience in attendance was David Ravore, Gordon Van Wieren, Steve Clark, Gwen Zimmer, Caleb Freestone, Shawn and Tom Sparks.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 7, 2014.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Tom Sparks spoke on behalf of Shawn Sparks, Mrs. Zimmer and Caleb Freestone to ask that their road be plowed in the winter by the city. They reside on Jerome Road and are not asking for any other service from the city. The county plowed once the day prior and he stated he plows some of the road. Mr. Sparks stated he wasn't asking the city to plow the entire road as he is aware the city trucks are not big enough to do the entire road, but at least one swipe would be helpful and appreciated by the residents.

Mayor Palmer said the Council was aware of their concerns and met last week to discuss the issue. He explained that the City and County have an informal agreement on plowing the roads that are shared and there are some communication issues that are being worked out. He apologized that the timing was not faster. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated the city should plow at least half of the road. Mayor Palmer thanked them for their comments.

Committee Reports

Mayor Palmer reported that the Committee of the Whole met for a retreat work session and covered many topics including updating new Council members on current projects.

Councilperson Schafer reported the area libraries would be meeting the next day at the Alma library and the library board would be meeting later this month. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked what the building project cost was. Councilperson Schafer stated it was not determined yet. City Manager Zins added that Phase I should not exceed \$100,000 and Phase II cost has not been fully determined yet.

Department Reports

Chief Nelson reported on the quarterly activity of the Fire and Rescue Departments. In addition to the written report, he reported the new radio system went live and should enhance communications for all departments. He also reported that there is federal legislation introduced to exclude volunteer fire departments that are countywide or paid volunteers from the Affordable Care Act requirements. He informed members that a grant was received from the Gratiot Community Foundation in the amount of \$8,500 for thermal imaging cameras. Chief Nelson gave updated statistics on the MMR service.

Mayor Palmer asked if the department has a monthly training meeting. Chief Nelson confirmed and added that if needed, the business meeting is sometimes a training meeting also. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if we charge for cost incurred for auto accidents on US-127. Chief Nelson reminded that it is the responsibility of the townships to bill if they choose to do so.

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

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins updated Council on the Tractor Supply project, DIG grant environmental study submission, USDA Water Treatment Plant project, noted that the Ithaca Football championship signs had been installed on the City Welcome signs. He reported that he attended meetings with the Gratiot County and Regional 7B Rural Small Cities and Villages Task Force, the MMSCCC Board, Greater Gratiot Development board and East Michigan Council of Governments.

Manager Zins discussed recreation grants available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund for the McNabb and Woodland Parks. Only one project can be funded at a time so determination needs to be made as to which one the grant should be submitted for. Councilperson Thomas stated he thought McNabb Park might be more of a priority because of the soccer and RC racetrack and lack of restroom facilities and playground equipment. Councilperson Schafer thought it would serve more people and youth also. General consensus was to apply for the McNabb Park project.

Manager Zins further reported that he has implemented a purchase order system in accordance with the purchasing policy and will allow for better accounting of expenses purchased and on-going awareness of department budget balances.

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

Mayor Palmer asked Steve Clark if he had any additional comments to add on the DIG project grant. Mr. Clark stated nothing in addition to the manager's update, but the survey crew has been delayed due to the bad weather and ice in the ground.

New/Old Business

City Manager Zins presented the library architect proposal and gave an overview of Phase I of the project. The cost for the design and bid package is \$10,350 which is a swing cost regarding one wall and the possibility of needing a structural architect to determine its construction. Steve Clark reviewed the complete proposal and work that will be performed by the architect and engineers.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to approve the bid proposal of Goudreau Associates in the amount of \$10,350 and an additional \$2,000 if verification of the existing construction is needed. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins reported he met with GAS President Lester Allen regarding the lease agreement and the GAS board wants item #14 removed from the agreement. He noted this is the identical wording of the former agreement and same as all other agreements prior. Councilperson Thomas said it should not be removed as it has always been included and agreed to. Councilperson Schafer spoke with a member of GAS and they feel an ownership to the buildings. Councilperson Henderson stated the buildings are not personal property but fixed property and are on city land so they belong to the City as they were built under the same terms in previous contracts. Attorney Arnold cited the buildings as being fixed to the land therefore making them real estate and not personal property. Mayor Palmer directed the City Manager to inform GAS that the Council is in agreement and item #14 will not be removed.

Councilperson Hollenbeck shared that he felt the City should plow the shared roads of the city/county at least once. Councilperson Thomas added that at one time our agreement with the county was that the city would plow both sides of one road and they would do the same on another. City Manager Zins will talk with Road Commissioner Mark Kraft on a resolution.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell distributed the DDA Board information as requested.

Councilperson Koppleberger asked for an update on the sidewalk at the Gratiot County Herald building. City Manager Zins stated it was still being researched.

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 #40195-40284 and Payroll Checks #12443-12457, DD362-DD369, EFT200-EFT203 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

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

Mayor Palmer stated he had a request to enter into closed session for a litigation matter.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to enter into closed session to review the litigation matter of the ICM vs. City of Ithaca tax tribunal. Roll call:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer entered into closed session at 7:47pm.

Mayor Palmer returned to open session at 8:45pm.

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

City Manager Zins discussed the Fire Chiefs current schedule and salary for 20 hours of work per week. He proposed maintaining the rate of pay, but increasing the number of paid hours to 28 per week. In addition, he proposes to remove him from the Greater Gratiot Development Board and the DDA Authority so his time can be spent on fire issues. Manager Zins stated he was seeking approval so the figure could be built into the budget to be presented on February 18th for consideration at the Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilperson Thomas state the chief used to receive salary plus pay per runs and maybe going back to that should be considered. Manager Zins stated the chief would prefer to stay salaried. Discussion held and consensus to allow the figure to be built into the budget for consideration of the committee.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2014
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 Schafer opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer, John Thomas (present through electronic means of Skype, physical absence excused) and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas (excused) (Participated through electronic media Facetime).

Audience in attendance was Jenny Taylor, Matt Meier, Linda and Brevin Lamey, Sue Meier, Khris, Autumn and Lizzy Nevins, Cheryl, Jason and Jordin Barden, Carrie and Mari Tovar, Carson Hardman and family and Scott Showers.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 21, 2014. Motion carried.

Random Acts of Kindness

Sue Meier introduced her students and they made a presentation on Kindness Week and the Random Acts of Kindness projects the class had done and was working on for the year.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to adopt the Proclamation for Random Acts of Kindness Week. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the proclamation to Mrs. Meier and her class. He shared the Council's appreciation and thanked them for all that they have been doing for the City.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Jenny Taylor addressed the Council regarding the letter received on painting her building. She discussed her business history and felt the City's flower project has not helped in bringing people into the downtown. She felt the money used for the flowers should be used to help the businesses and would like the City to work on more grants. She further shared concerns on the Beacon & Bridge continued testing and felt adding more apartments to the downtown would be wasteful as there are nice apartments around town now that are not filled. She asked what would happen if she didn't paint.

City Manager Zins responded that she had been misinformed on the procedure for businesses that need painting and façade work. A letter was being prepared for mailing that tells the businesses about a grant opportunity that funds 75% of the project with the local business paying a 25% match and that he would write the grant on behalf of the business that wanted to participate. Mrs. Taylor liked the grant option and would wait to receive that letter. Mayor Palmer thanked her for her comments.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Gratiot County Libraries Committee gave a presentation to the County Commissioners on a request for a countywide millage. The presentation highlighted the declining penal fines and cuts being made by each library. The committee decided against a district library due to the difficulty of forming one and all of the boards were not in favor of one. They millage would be 0.50 mill, however the length has not been determined as of yet and they are targeting the August election. A half of a mill would generate \$637,000 and the County would have to form a County Library Board. The City would also need a resolution of support.

Commissioner Showers asked the Council if the County Board declined the millage, would the City Council be prepared to use its authority to levy the one mill that is allowed by law. In addition, he asked what the City's plan would be if the millage failed.

Mayor Palmer stated the Council had not had that discussion but one concern would be taxing city residents for a service that many other nonresidents utilize. Councilperson Schafer added that if the millage were to fail, the committee would try again. Commissioner Showers asked how much revenue from the millage would come to the Ithaca library. Councilperson Schafer stated about \$120,000. Commissioner Showers informed the Council that he would need some background and a decision from the City as to if it would levy the millage if the County declined the committee's request before talking with the other commissioners.

Department Reports

Lieutenant McCollum reported on the January activity of the Ithaca Unit. He informed Council that Deputy Fulco had been made full time with the County and his part-time hours will be shared between Deputy Morel and Deputy Dishaw. He reported there are major repairs needed on the 2008 patrol car and is working with City Manager Zins and the Sheriff to get it back into service. Lt. McCollum asked the Council how ORV situations should be handled as the City's current ordinance does not address these. His suggestion is to keep in consistent with the County's ordinance due to the collaboration of the departments. Clerk Fandell reviewed the history of the City ordinance and Attorney Arnold added that it was left alone and follows state law. Mayor Palmer asked members if they would like to proceed with amending the current ordinance to follow the County ordinance. Members agreed to move forward with amending the ordinance.

Mayor Palmer informed Lt. McCollum that the Council's request from last month on enforcing the trucks, parking across sidewalks and parking in the streets was not being done. Lt. McCollum stated he would address it with the officers again.

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

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins distributed a report showing the dates that Jerome Road had been plowed and noted that the snow has gotten to the point where the city trucks are not big enough to handle it and have gotten stuck. The 2008 patrol car needs about \$3,000 in repairs. The County would like the city to purchase a new car and this will be addressed with the new budget, however we will have to fix this one for now.

Manager Zins reported that the Tractor Supply project is on hold as the company works out the land issues. He further reported the DIG check presentation would be February 28, 2014 at 10am and the Mayor would be present to accept on behalf of the City; the USDA Water Treatment Plant project application required the streets to be named where the mains would be run and Seaver, Elm, Spring and part of Union were selected. He updated Council on the Ithaca Ag Park activity and noted there would be a window of time that the tribunal refund will hit the City budget and will probably be a two year recovery period; in addition the hotel group is trying to work quicker to avoid loss in land value.

City Manager Zins reported that the DPW has reached the salt contract limit for this year. There is a shortage and cost for additional loads will be 50-100% higher than the contracted amount. They are currently mixing sand with the salt to help stretch the quantity on hand until more can be delivered.

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

New/Old Business

City Manager Zins reviewed the MDOT contract terms and project scope with the Council for the Center Street paving project. He reviewed the project cost and timeline.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked where the local funds were coming from. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated it was approved in the Major Street budget for this fiscal year.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2014-03 MDOT/Ithaca Contract for Center Street from the West Drive of Woodland park Easterly to Pine River Street. Motion carried.

Councilperson Koppleberger received a resident complaint on the sidewalk clearing article in the newsletter and the clearing done by the DPW crew. The resident was upset that the city disturbed the already plowed sidewalk and made it worse and would like the City to leave already plowed walks alone. City Manager Zins will talk with the DPW and have plowed walks left as is.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell noted the 2013 Collaboration Plan was included and had been sent to the State as part of the EVIP Category 2 requirements.

City Manager Zins stated he spoke with Mr. Hancock of the Ithaca Grand Prix regarding the new park fees, Mr. Hancock commented that the fee was higher compared to some of the cities they race in. He has not confirmed nor cancelled the event.

Councilperson Schafer noted the Library Board minutes were in the packet.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger 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 #40287-40332 and Payroll Checks #12458-12499, DD370-DD380, EFT204-EFT210 as listed in the Check Register Book. Councilperson Schafer inquired on the bills for Crossroad Testing and the Railroad Crossing. Manager Zins stated the Crossroad Testing was the required drug testing for CDL drivers. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the railroad crossing is the State's invoice for the annual signal maintenance of our lighted crossings. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Matt Meier was attending for the government class. Mayor Palmer welcomed him.

Scott Showers asked about the code enforcement letters that were mailed to residents for painting their homes. Manager Zins explained that the City is following the International Property Maintenance Code as is in the local ordinance. It is a communication to get home owners to maintain their property and inform the City what there plan was to do so. Mr. Showers asked what would happen if they did not comply. Attorney Arnold stated they could be ticketed.

Mayor Palmer asked for other comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer stated the Council would need to go into closed session regarding the litigation matter of ICM, Inc vs. the City of Ithaca.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to go into closed session for the litigation matter of ICM, Inc vs. the City of Ithaca. Roll call:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer entered into closed session at 8:07pm.

Mayor Palmer returned to open session at 8:40pm.

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

Councilperson Schafer requested a committee meeting to discuss the library millage support. Mayor Palmer set the tentative date of Monday, February 17, 2014 at 5:00pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 2014
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 Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Brian Henderson and Councilperson John Thomas (excused) (participated through electronic media of Facetime)

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark, Mike Naperalski, Dave Nelson, Darin Evon and Brian Hancock.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 4, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Mike Naperalski of Terry's Cycle and resident addressed the Council regarding the fee for the McNabb Park Jail trail for the upcoming Mountain Bike race. He informed Council that there are eight to ten people that volunteer their time and have bought their own tools to help maintain the trail, they feel the fee of \$250 is a bit high and could see \$100 and would like to know how it was set. Manager Zins explained the fee structure for exclusive use of the parks and how it came to be adopted. Mayor Palmer explained how the rates cover city costs. Mr. Naperalski explained that the volunteers began grooming the trail in 1994 when Troy Feltman was the City Manager. He stated the city doesn't maintain the full trail and the bridges and other items were built by the volunteers. He explained that people come to use it because of their efforts and also added that they do not close off the trail for the race, and many use it for fun all year around. Darin Evon supported Mike's comments and added that it is common across the state that maintenance with volunteers happens.

Mayor Palmer thanked them for their comments, and due to some of the information provided he would send it to the committee to discuss the fee before the next meeting.

Darin Evon commented that Brian Hancock was expected to come and discuss the Ithaca Grand Prix and noted the park is not shut down for that race.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Ways and Means Committee met to discuss funding and the millage proposal of the library. Councilperson Schafer explained the millage request of the six libraries in detail and are looking for a resolution of support to give to the County Commissioners at their March 4th meeting. She explained the need for the millage and that the Ithaca service area is 8,000 people while the population is only 2,910. A countywide millage offers a more fair way of funding. She also gave a brief overview of the building renovation project. Councilperson Gruesbeck said the committee is recommending adoption of a resolution to support funding options and a countywide millage.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-05 Support of Gratiot County Library Committee to Explore Funding Options. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked how many millages residents currently pay. Mayor Palmer said 10-12. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (4) Gruesbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Absent: (2) Henderson, Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing for the Park and Recreation Five Year Plan.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to open the public hearing for the Park and Recreation Five Year Plan. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Palmer asked to receive comments.

Clerk Fandell reported that no correspondence or verbal/written comments were received during the public review. There were a few typographical errors that were corrected in the draft but did not affect the content.

City Manager Zins reviewed the plan procedures to date including the collection of data from groups, committees and the surveys. The surveys received nearly 300 responses and the plan addresses numerous needs as a result of them with restrooms, picnic areas and equipment being high priority needs.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.
Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:20pm.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to adopt Resolution 2014-04 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
Roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Hollenbeck, Koppkeberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (2) Henderson, Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins updated Council on USDA Water Treatment Plant project application. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if Council had voted on a water treatment plant. Mayor Palmer stated no. He then asked if the city could back out at any time. Manager Zins stated yes. Manager Zins continued to report on the Ithaca Agriculture Industry Park activity and noted that Greater Gratiot Development would like the city to form a Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) to fund the infrastructure and other project needs. Manager Zins added that staff is not seeing much benefit in doing so, compared to the risk. The benefit is in capturing funds from other taxing authorities to fund the project. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if the City Council would have control over the authority if one was formed. Manager Zins stated no, it would be a ten member board on the authority and the city would still have the full liability of the debt.

Manager Zins discussed the response to the house painting letters. The County was turning our people down so he called MSHDA and discussed the program with them. The state explained that the County was not administrating the program correctly and offered a housing assistance program exclusively for the City of Ithaca to us if we would like to take on the program and administration. The program would provide funding for repairs, as a loan that does not have to be paid back if the resident stays in the home for five years. It also pays a portion of the administrative cost.

Manager Zins further reported that he met with the GAS Board to answer additional questions they had and they signed the lease agreement. He updated members on the picnic table construction that the downtown grant financing notification letters were sent out. Updates were given on the DIG grant, water and sewer utilities for projects, Parks and Recreation grants and the library improvement projects. The Farmer's Market portion of the DIG grant will create a large pavilion in the current parking lot. It will create premium parking (a carport) during the times it is not in use by the market. He proposed two questions for consideration, first, should the market be open to craft vendors to increase traffic for all vendors (the city could control the mix through the registrations) and two, should there be a charge for parking in the "carport" (this could be done through purchasing a parking pass or payment box in the spaces). He further reported that he submitted a grant to the Gratiot Community Foundation for a six-seat swing set for McNabb Park if funding is awarded. Total cost of the project is \$5,000.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to receive the City Manager's report. Councilperson Thomas stated he was glad to see the MSHDA program be offered back to the City as there has been nothing awarded to the City since the County took it over in the 1980s. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported that the IPC is considering changing the date of Fun Fest due to the low participation the past three years. She also reported that there will be a May election for the 9-1-1 surcharge. Councilperson Schafer asked what else would be on the ballot and who would bear the cost. Clerk Fandell stated it was the only ballot item for city residents and we would be reimbursed as 9-1-1 would pay the cost.

Attorney Arnold presented options for consideration to provide a policy to vote when a councilperson is absent. He stated the Charter allows members to be absent and be excused. With today's technology, members can participate electronically. There is nothing in the OMA that supports a recommendation that a vote can be recorded; someday it may be, but there is no law to support it either way.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked what the quorum is. Attorney Arnold stated 4 members of the Council; through electronic means, technically the member is absent without a policy. Councilperson Gruesbeck added that absent would be considered temporary in nature. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if temporary meant a member could be gone every year. Attorney Arnold stated yes, and in Councilperson Thomas's case, the Council has already approved his absence. Councilperson Gruesbeck said members should keep in mind this affects all members of the Council.

Mayor Palmer called for action. Councilperson Schafer stated the vote should count since they can participate in the discussion.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to select item three, allowing the member to vote and a policy to be drafted for Council review. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated as council people we are elected to represent

Ithaca, how will a resident communicate with members who are out of town. Mayor Palmer stated by phone, email, etc. Motion carried

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the Lease Agreement between the City of Ithaca and Gratiot Agricultural Society and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Gruesbeck, 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 #40334-40384 and Payroll Checks #12500-12515, DD381-DD387, EFT208-EFT214 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive Public Comments.

Brian Hancock of the Ithaca Grand Prix addressed the Council on the park fee schedule. He was notified of the \$500 fee to rent Woodland Park for the day of the race and stated the fee was too high and that he does not close the park to the public. He stated the race came to Ithaca in 2007 and the former manager felt the maintenance cost was even to the promotion of the event and the draw of people to the City for the race. He stated he wasn't against paying a fee, but \$500 was too much for maintenance recovery and he has always left the park in good condition and never received notification disputing that. Mr. Hancock stated his racers spent a significant amount in the community and the fee was ludicrous compared to other communities, adding that Woodland Park was a far cry from the Detroit and Ann Arbor parks who charge less. Mr. Hancock further stated the safety of racers was the most important item, charging a fee is reasonable-however \$500 is not reasonable, money spent by racers is not appreciated by the Council, it would have been the largest race in the state this year, the race has been moved to a neighboring community for 2014 and the City's research is inaccurate and had reservations of the city's integrity of basing actions on feelings and not accurate research.

Mayor Palmer thanked him for his comments.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if it should be referred to committee. Councilperson Schafer asked Mr. Hancock to clarify that the race for 2014 had already been moved. He stated yes. Mayor Palmer stated there was no request and the manner in which the Council was addressed, it would not be referred to committee.

Mayor Palmer stated he had a request to enter into closed session for a litigation matter.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to enter into closed session to review the litigation matter of the ICM vs. City of Ithaca tax tribunal. Roll call:

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (2) Henderson, Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Notation: Thomas (in attendance by electronic means, but not allowed to vote until policy adopted)

Mayor Palmer entered into closed session at 8:05pm.

Mayor Palmer returned to open session at 8:14pm.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to agree to the ICM, Inc tax tribunal settlement terms as stated by the Thrun Law Firm letter dated February 10, 2014 and authorize the stipulations to be prepared and filed. Motion carried.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 4, 2014
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 Hollenbeck opened with prayer.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lieutenant Roy McCollum.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas (excused) (participated through electronic media of Facetime).

Audience in attendance was Charlie Teegardin, Todd Crawford, P. Rathgeb, Nick Palmer, Tom Sparks, Mario Caapio Debil, Alex Krava Niznikovg.

Moved by Schafer, second Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 18, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Cemetery and Parks committee met. There are no items for discussion.

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Gratiot County Libraries Committee attended the meeting of the County Commissioners and it was voted by the Commissioners to allow the libraries to put a millage proposal on the August ballot. The millage proposed is 0.5 mill for eight years.

Department Reports

Lieutenant McCollum reported on the February activity of the Ithaca Unit. He informed Council that February was the month of change for the City Patrol; and Deputies Morrell and Dishaw have transitioned into those positions. Upcoming trainings for deputies are Breath Test and Emergency Vehicle Operation. He stated the focus of patrol has been on residential areas and had not received any breaking and entering complaints. He further informed Council that the Sheriff, Prosecutor and Judge are making arrangements to speak with local High School juniors and seniors about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

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

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins reported the DIG grant was moving forward and was submitting for release of funds this week. The Farmer's market plans from the architect are not exactly suited for our community so has asked that it be redone with more of the funds going into the sidewalks and curbs as the current market plans were \$180,000. He reported the three MDNR park grants were being adjusted to include the green items required by the State. He explained the MSHDA grant program for home rehabilitations and discussed the staff must be named as other items to meet the short window allowed for application.

Manager Zins updated Council on the ICM Tax Tribunal liability. Legal and appraisal cost to date exceed \$86,000 and North Star Twp., RESD and the County have agreed to share the expenses. He reported the Fun Fest dates have been changed to August 15-16th. He further updated Council on the Tractor Supply project, the rezoning of the Ag Industrial Park and of a new horse border who has brought in ten horses.

Manager Zins reported on the Casair tower agreement. Casair provides internet services and the contract is \$70/tower and a \$16,000 generator on the 9-1-1 tower. Ithaca Public Schools will be going to a new radio system and have been in contact to possibly placing an antennae on the South tower.

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

New/Old Business

City Manager Zins presented Resolution 2014-06 which supports the East Michigan Council of Governments as the grant applicant on behalf of the East Central Michigan Prosperity Region for the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-06 Support of East Michigan Council of Governments Application on Behalf of the East Central Michigan Prosperity Region.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked how much the City pays in dues to the group. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated none. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain : (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer called for action on the Lease Agreement with the Jailhouse Group.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the Lease Agreement between the City of Ithaca and the Jailhouse Group and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the Casair Lease for Antenna Space for action.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to approve the Lease Agreement between the City of Ithaca and Casair, Inc for Antenna Space and authorize the City Manager to sign.

Councilperson Henderson noted the Utilities (Item 9) makes the City liable if their Fiber is damaged and the city should not be responsible for their line if we or another contractor damages it. Councilperson Thomas stated Item 11 was a hold harmless indemnity that should be reviewed further also.

Moved by Councilperson Hollenbeck to table until the next meeting when additional information is received. There was no second to the motion.

Direction that the City Manager address the issues brought forth before signing. Motion carried 5-1-1.

City Manager Zins proposed a new item for Ordinance introduction addressing limitations on Sewer and Water connections outside municipal boundaries for review. Currently, the city does not have anything in place to address the utilities outside of the current system and in the 425 agreements. Mayor Palmer will send it to the Water /Sewer Committee for review.

Mayor Palmer stated public hearings needed to be set for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Park Grant applications.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to set public hearings for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Pathway Project Grant Application for March 18, 2014 at 7:15pm, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Restroom Project Grant Application for March 18, 2014 at 7:30pm and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Playground Equipment Project Grant Application for March 18, 2014 at 7:45pm.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked where the match for these grants was coming from. Manager Zins stated two would come from general fund and the pathway grant would come from the Caldwell fund if approved. The grant awards are made in December and projects would be a year from now and in the next budget.

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated the Policy on Councilperson Voting when Absent but Participating Electronically was not ready for review but would be presented at the Committee of Whole next week, along with the Water Treatment Plant and DIG Grant information. Tentatively set for March 13, 2014 at 5:30pm.

Mayor Palmer stated the Council needed to reappoint Dave Roslund to the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Development Corporation. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if it was posted to the public. Clerk Fandell stated no and explained the history and process of the position. She stated Mr. Roslund was originally appointed for a one year term and should have been reappointed for a three-year term according to the bylaws, but had not. Mr. Roslund is interested in serving the City on this Board. She further explained that the appointment had to occur before their next meeting on March 26, 2014. Councilperson Thomas stated the position was not posted before because there was no interest and we went with someone with talent in the field and the City's best interest.

Mayor Palmer stated that Mr. Roslund could be appointed now or the position could be posted and appointed at the next meeting.

Seeing no action – Mayor Palmer directed the Clerk to post the position and Council would appoint at the next meeting.

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 #40385-40432 and Payroll Checks #12517-12534, DD388-DD394, EFT215-EFT220 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Dr. Wilbur Rykert stated he was impressed with all of things going on in the city. He did question the planning commission meeting formalities. Clerk Fandell will be in discussion with Chair Wilson for clarification.

Mayor Palmer asked the students of Mr. Lambrecht's class to introduce themselves and thanked them for coming.

Mayor Palmer asked for other comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. City Manager Zins showcased one of the new picnic tables the DPW is making for the park.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 18, 2014

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 Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas (excused) (participated through electronic media of Facetime)

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark, and Wilbur Rykert.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to amend the agenda to remove Items 8(a) and 8(b) and add new Item 8(a) Resolution 2014-10 Amending the Zoning Ordinance, Item 8(b) Resolution 2014-11 Recognition of Dale Sherman and Item 8(f) Set Public Hearing for MSHDA Housing Rehabilitation Grant Application. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 4, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

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

Committee Reports

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met and had several recommendations for consideration. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated his name was omitted due to arriving late. Mayor Palmer directed the Clerk to have the record show Councilperson Hollenbeck was in attendance.

Mayor Palmer stated a review of the DIG grant items and Farmer's Market options was done and the committee recommends to option #2 of the Farmers Market structure.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to select Option #2 for the Farmers Market structure as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated the committee reviewed the flower planting project and recommends only planting where irrigation is installed and the War Memorial.

Moved by Henderson, second by Gruesbeck to reduce the flower planting to include only blocks with the irrigation installed and the War Memorial. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated the committee reviewed and discussed the Water Treatment Plant and USDA financing option and recommends the project be rejected.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to reject the plan to build a water treatment plant as fully financed through the USDA. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer reported the committee recommends the water and sewer rates be restructured as in accordance with the research done to date. Mayor Palmer directed it be sent to the Water and Sewer Committee for work.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Fair Board met.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library committee is working on the millage ballot language and the Lions would be making a presentation of funds raised during the pancake supper. Discussion held on the millage distribution.

Parks and Recreation Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MDNRTF) grant application for the McNabb Park Site Development.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to open the public hearing for McNabb Park Site Development MDNRTF grant application. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Palmer asked to receive comments.

City Manager Zins reviewed the project scope. The grant if received would help develop a non-motorized pathway around the park equaling approximately 0.9 miles and would connect to the current Jailhouse Trail. The estimated project cost is \$220,300 of which the City is requesting \$160,500 in grant funding and the local match would be \$59,800. He explained that the pathway project has been given the top priority.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked where matching funds would come from. Mayor Palmer stated the Council has discussed using the Caldwell funds and/or the General fund.

Councilperson Schafer added that she has received many comments from residents on how much they want the pathway.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

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

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

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-07 McNabb Park Site Development 2014 Grant Application Pathway Project Michigan Department Natural Resources Trust Fund. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins updated Council on the residential code enforcement status and owner responses. Thirty percent of the first 26 properties are owner/occupied. Owners who had not responded have been sent a second letter. He informed members that Mr. Castillo has rented his downtown building to a small private pharmacy. Manager Zins received a request from Lt. McCollum to sell two glock guns that were in the police department inventory and in storage. Estimated selling price is \$250 each and the money could be used to offset the cost of installing the new car cameras.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to allow Lt. McCollum to sell the two guns for the City. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MDNRTF) grant application for the McNabb Park Site Development.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to open the public hearing for McNabb Park Site Development MDNRTF grant application. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:30pm.

Mayor Palmer asked to receive comments.

City Manager Zins reviewed the grant application which would build new accessible restroom facilities. The number one answer received on the park surveys was for restrooms in the parks. This grant is second in priority to the pathway project grant. The estimated project cost is \$232,400 of which the City is requesting \$170,000 in grant funding and the local match would be \$62,400 (26%) and in-kind services equal to \$5,000. The in-kind services are the work performed by the DPW for the plumbing and water service connections.

Steve Clark reviewed the green items that would be considered with the application of this grant.

Councilperson Henderson stated with the limits on the grants, the City would, if lucky, receive the award of one or the other. Manager Zins stated the limit was \$300,000 and that was correct.

Councilperson Koppleberger asked if the match would be from the General Fund. Manager Zins confirmed.

Councilperson Schafer added that the restrooms are necessary with the increased usage of the park due to the new soccer fields and RC Racetrack.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were given.

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

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:39pm.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-08 McNabb Park Site Development 2014 Grant Application Michigan Department Natural Resources Trust Fund. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Report (con't)

Manager Zins reported that G.A.S. is looking to add events to the fair such as a bow shoot, dog show, war reenactment, etc. They are going to provide a detailed letter for Council approval. He received notification that the City was denied the SAW grant for the first round and it appears a second round will be offered in 2015. The SAW Grant funds available were \$97,300,000 and 684 communities submitted applications totaling \$546,720,228. He further reported that he made contact with the owner of 1244 E Center Street regarding the condition of the property.

Parks and Recreation Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport (MDNRRP) grant application for the McNabb Park Site Development.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to open the public hearing for McNabb Park Site Development MDNRRP grant application. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Palmer asked to receive comments.

City Manager Zins reviewed the grant application which would provide for new playground equipment including tot-lot equipment, swings and slides, exercise equipment for the pathway and allows for the construction of a basketball court, concrete pad and material around the playground. This equipment variety provides recreational opportunity for residents of all ages. The number one answer received on the park surveys was for restrooms in the parks. The grant has an estimated project cost of \$55,000 of which the City is requesting \$37,500 in grant funding and the local match would be \$12,500 (31%) and in-kind services equal to \$5,000. The in-kind services are the work performed by the DPW for installing the equipment.

Councilperson Schafer commented on how beneficial this equipment would be to give the children something to do and noted the City does not have any public basketball courts.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were given.

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

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:51pm.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-09 McNabb Park Site Development 2014 Grant Application Michigan Department Natural Resources Recreation Passport. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Koppleberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Report (con't)

Manager Zins reported the MSHDA Housing Rehabilitation grant application will be written for \$450,000 and explained the details of the program and that it only covered owner/occupied homes and will not be for the rehab of rental homes and down payment assistance programs as we do not have the staffing to administer those programs. He also updated members on the horse boarding and patrol car maintenance issues and cost.

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

New/Old Business

City Manager Zins presented Resolution 2014-10 which if adopted would amend the zoning ordinance Article 15 and add Article 16 which would remove the property (425 acres, commonly known as the ICM site) from the Planned Industrial Park district and creates an Agricultural, Industrial and Intermodal Transportation Park for the acreage. The amended zoning would accommodate the agricultural industries' needs.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-10 Amending the Zoning Ordinance. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Schafer, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2014-11 recognizing Dale Sherman's service to the City. Dale is retiring on March 21, 2014.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-11 Recognition of Dale Sherman. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins presented and reviewed the CDBG Grant Agreement for approval.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to approve the Community Development Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Ithaca for the Community Development Block Grant Program and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins requested approval for the proposal to perform water well exploration from Peerless Midwest, Inc. Director Studt has been looking at well site options and talking with geologists to secure a new source to replace well #3. Councilperson Henderson added that at one time it was recommended to try a find a different aquifer for safety reasons. Manager Zins agreed, but shared that geologists think the city is on a large enough aquifer near well #6, however the exploration is needed to make a determination. Discussion held.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve the proposal by Peerless Midwest, Inc. for the exploration for deep sand and gravel aquifers at a cost not to exceed \$35,680.00. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell submitted the Gratiot County Fire Department Mutual Aid Pact for approval, explaining that the current pact had expired. Fire Chief Nelson had reported on the agreement with his last report to Council.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the Gratiot County Fire Department Mutual Aid Pact with the correction to the spelling of Volunteer on page 2, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated a public hearing needed to be set for the MSHDA Housing Rehabilitation Grant Application.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to set a public hearing for April 1, 2014 at 7:15pm to take comment on the MSHDA Housing Rehabilitation Grant application. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked Clerk Fandell what interest was received for the Director appointment to the Great Lakes Bay Regional Development Corporation. Clerk Fandell stated only Dave Roslund.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to appoint Dave Roslund as the City's representative to the Great Lakes Bay Regional Development Corporation. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer said the clothing boxes being placed in cities are being done by for-profit businesses and are causing a decrease in local organization donations. The City of Alma is currently reviewing them and suggested the city do so also.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell informed members that the State will be dedicating the marker for the Patengill Monument in May and the family is planning to make the dedication an event and would like some help from the City. More details will be shared as plans are made.

City Manager Zins informed Council that a new crack-fill machine must be purchased.

Mayor Palmer set meetings for the Water/Sewer, Public Safety and Personnel Committees for March 27, 2014.

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 #40434-40472, Water Sewer Bond Debt Retirement Check #1031, Trust and Agency Check #3866 and Payroll Checks #12535-12549, DD395-DD401, EFT221-EFT224 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 Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 1, 2014
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 gave the invocation.

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 Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Audience in attendance was Mark Barrows, Wilbur Rykert, James Weburg, Dave & Sherry Weber, and Jill Gilbert.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 18, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Wilbur Rykert and Mark Barrows shared concerns about recent Planning Commission meeting. Items of concern were directed to be addressed at the next Planning Commission meeting on April 8, 2014.

Jill Gilbert addressed Council on several ideas for activities during Fair Week. Gratiot Ag Society would like to have a parade on Sunday, June 22, 2014 at 2p.m., beginning at the fairgrounds north to Center thru downtown then south on Jeffery Ave to Webster and back to the fairgrounds. Councilperson Henderson stated being on Center Street would require authorization from MDOT. Councilperson Schafer stated that notification should be made to Lt. McCollum for public safety. Mayor Palmer ask for the parade route to be submitted in writing. City Manager Zins will direct DPW Director Studt to make contact with MDOT for approval.

Moved by Councilperson Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the parade for the Gratiot Ag Society along with the route that will be submitted. Motion carried.

Jill Gilbert presented other ideas; bow shoot, military reenactment, Dog Show (involving bands, camping, fireworks, and alcohol). Discussion was held regarding these events and the liability it presents. Mayor Palmer stated that more details were needed and directed further discussion and decision to go before the Parks and Recreation Committee.

MSHDA Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing for the MSHDA Rental Rehabilitation Program.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to open the public hearing for MSHDA Rehabilitation Program grant application. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:30pm.

Mayor Palmer asked to receive comments.

City Manager Zins stated the application submission is due April 4, 2014. The City is requesting \$425,000. The goal for the grant, if received, would provide aide 15 homes with a maximum of \$25,000 per home for code improvements based on the International Properties Maintenance Code. If successful the grant money will be available beginning June 1, 2014 and extend for 24 months. The USDA will provide the 15% of leverage funds as required by MSHDA. This money must be applied for on an annual basis. Licensed contractors are required and must be approved by the State of Michigan for these projects.

Mayor Palmer asked what the city cost would be to administer this program and would we be reimbursed. City Manager stated that a log would have to be maintained listing staff time spent working on the program in order to be reimbursed. This log is essential to track for city purposes and well as provide for the annual audit from MSHDA.

Mayor Palmer asked about the qualification guidelines for residents. City Manager Zins replied that residents who are low to moderate income, which is 80% of the median income for our community; which is \$39,000.

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 7:42pm.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-12 Authorizing a Grant Application for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Homeowner Assistance Program.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Zins reviewed the MSHDA deferred loan policy and guidelines.

Councilperson Thomas sought clarification on forgiving loan debt. City Manager Zins further explained the loan forgiveness in detail.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-13 Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Homeowner Rehabilitation Program Resolution,

Roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Koppleberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Thomas, Palmer

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (1) Henderson

Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported that the Public Safety Committee met. The Committee recommends that city staff draft an ORV ordinance using the counties ORV ordinance as a sample. The Committee also recommends that city staff draft a Fire Code ordinance.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to direct city staff to draft an ORV Ordinance using the county ordinance as a sample. Motion carried.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to direct city staff to draft a Fire Code Ordinance for adoption based on the International Fire Code. Motion carried.

Councilperson Koppleberger reported that the Personnel Committee met. The Committee directed City Manager Zins to work on renewing the contract with BS&A for assessing services. The Committee directed City Manager Zins to proceed with a new agreement with the county for building inspections.

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Water & Sewer Committee met. The Committee recommends that an ordinance be in place relating to limitations on water and sewer connections outside of the municipal boundaries. The Committee recommends proposal #2 as submitted for new water and sewer rates be implemented for the billing beginning July 1, 2014.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to direct city staff to work on an ordinance for limitations on water and sewer connections outside of the municipal boundaries. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins presented a plan from Hometown Cellars for an outdoor space in front of their business. This patio area would be fenced in on the current sidewalk area not including the colored brick. Mayor Palmer questioned if this fence would be removed during the winter for snow plowing efforts and City Manager replied that he thought so. City Manager Zins stated that there are several dumpsters around town that area not contained by a three piece fence or wall to be 6' in height according to city ordinance and asked Council if it should be enforced. Councilperson Thomas questioned whether the City is over regulating on ordinance enforcement. Manager Zins replied that dumpsters downtown take up parking spaces which lead to his discussion with Sherriff Wright about county employees parking on South Main Street. Councilperson Thomas suggested that a city representative(s) should attend a County Commission meeting and relay that parking there is an issue for courthouse visitors and other business patrons to use when spaces are being occupied by county employees; and ask the County Administrator to refer their county employees to use the county parking lot at the southeast corner of Newark Street and Main Street.

City Manager Zins provided a list to Council of the grants that have been applied for and potential future projects. He informed Council that the Methodist Church is seeking a special use permit through the Planning Commission which would entail them using Seaver Street as the only entrance to the lot being pursued. City Manager Zins stated that staff has concerns about this as Seaver Street is used as a local street and is in poor condition for that much traffic on a regular basis. Discussion was held.

City Manager Zins updated Council Center Street Paving and Sidewalk Replacement projects. He also updated the findings of code enforcement properties including Shaw's Service & Sales. Manager Zins reported on the DIG grant process, stating that he and DPW Director Studt met with Steve from Rowe today

to review the first set of plans and discuss the project. City Manager Zins informed Council that all the grant applications were submitted to the DNR. It could take up to six months to hear whether we are successful in receiving funding.

City Manager Zins informed Council that he, Don Schurr of Greater Gratiot Development and representatives from Zeeland Soy Bean will be meeting on April 2, to discuss the future development of the Ithaca Ag Industrial Park. It is his understanding that CHS and Monsanto are interested in development with the park as well, but has not heard from the dairy operation. He has contacted the DEQ for suggestions on how to handle the new development and be able to provide water and sewer services to the Ag Park. Discussion was held.

City Manager Zins updated the Council on the MEDC funding for downtown business. He also reviewed the projects to occur in McNabb Park this spring.

City Manager Zins reported that he met with a representative from Lumecon, Inc., a Michigan lighting company to review the option of converting our downtown lighting from halogen to LED lighting and the costs for doing so.

City Manager Zins reported that a municipal auction is being scheduled with participation from City of Alma, Gratiot County, Gratiot County Sheriff and MAC TV. More to come with date and time. He also reported that Lt. McCollum was successful in selling the hand guns that remained from Ithaca Police Unit.

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

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2014-14 Amending Water and Sewer Rates.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppkeberger to adopt Resolution 2014-14 Amending Water and Sewer Rates. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Schafer, Gruesbeck, Koppkeberger, Thomas, Palmer

Nays: (2) Henderson, Hollenbeck

Absent: (0)

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

City Manager Zins presented and reviewed the Great Lakes Bay Regional Development Corporation to appoint two members to the Loan Approval Committee.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to appoint Mayor Palmer as the elected leader and Don Schurr as the active economic development professional to the Loan Approval Committee for the Great Lakes Bay Regional Development Corporation. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the delinquent invoices and or water/sewer bills to be placed on taxes.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to place the delinquent invoices and or water/sewer bills on the tax roll and authorize publication. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins reviewed the contract agreement with Gratiot County and City of Ithaca for Building Inspections Services. Discussion was held.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to authorize Mayor Palmer and City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement or Building Code Inspection Services. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer commented that she understands from residents that some have received letters from their insurance companies regarding their homes current condition, i.e., roofs, siding; so the city is not alone in its efforts to have resident maintain their 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 #40473-40505 and Payroll Checks #12550-12579, DD402-DD409, EFT225-EFT232 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

James Weburg, Emerson Township Supervisor, addressed Council on concerns regarding the Tractor Supply project and future development of the 425 agreement between Emerson Township and City of Ithaca. Mr. Weburg stated it is his understanding that the City wants to amend the agreement for this project. Manager Zins replied that it is not on behalf of the City but the developer. The attorneys for the developer want the 425 agreement to be amended or dissolved; so they are only dealing with one jurisdiction. Manager Zins stated that he has had limited contact since this request. Further discussion was held on the status of the agreement and taxing of parcels. Mr. Weburg said the township is interested in dissolving the agreement to make it easier for everyone.

Marc Coon said that when the City of Alma required dumpsters to be enclosed it didn't work.

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

Mayor Palmer reviewed with Council the matter of Councilperson Hollenbeck presenting the flower project at the MML Capital Conference in which the City received an award. This award then obligates the City to present at the Annual MML Conference in Marquette in October; which would be costly and time consuming for council and staff. Mayor Palmer suggested that the City not participate in the annual conference due to those factors.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to direct city staff to notify the Michigan Municipal League that the City requests to be removed from this obligation. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer scheduled committee meetings as follows:

Personnel	April 8, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
Streets & Parking	April 8, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Cathy Cameron, Deputy Clerk

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 15, 2014

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 gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins, Fire Chief Dave Nelson and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Alice Schafer.

Audience in attendance was Mark Duflo, Wilbur Rykert, Steve Clark, Dave and Sherry Webber, Lt. Roy McCollum.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Mark Duflo, Director of the Gratiot County Central Dispatch Authority gave a presentation on the 9-1-1 Surchage millage renewal for the May 6, 2014 election. He explained that statutory changes caused the renewal to be placed on the May ballot instead of the August as in previous years. The requested renewal amount is the same as it was four years ago, \$2.89 per line. If the ballot issue fails, the cost will fall back on to the local units of government per the original authority set up.

~~Councilperson Thomas sought clarification on forgiving loan debt. City Manager Zins further explained the loan forgiveness in detail.~~

~~Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-13 Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Homeowner Rehabilitation Program Resolution;
Roll call vote:~~

~~Ayes: (5) Koppleberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Thomas, Palmer~~

~~Nays: (1) Hollenbeck~~

~~Absent: (0) None~~

~~Abstain: (1) Henderson~~

~~Motion carried.~~

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met and the City Manager is having discussions with the DPW on the union contract, it discussed salaries for staff for the budget, City Manager evaluations, and code enforcement litigation cost in the event the City must pursue court action.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to move forward with code enforcement court action if needed. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked what would happen to residents that can't afford to do the repairs, would they be taken to court. City Manager Zins stated anyone in financial need would be allowed to make application for grant assistance. Those that have not responded would be pursued legally. According to Administrative law, all must be treated equally. All are receiving letters and the same treatment. Attorney Arnold stated the statement was correct, however in the past it had not be aggressively pursued. Councilperson Henderson asked what the penalty would be. Attorney Arnold stated a \$500 fine and jail time. Motion carried (4-2 vote).

Councilperson Thomas stated the Committee also discussed raising the fess for performing weddings from \$20.00 to \$50.00 and make the recommendation to do so. Mayor Palmer asked the Clerk to prepare the resolution for the next meeting.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Streets and Parking Committee met to discuss the Chip and Seal of streets and Arcada Street grinding and also discussed purchasing a crack seal machine and brush chipper. The Committee recommends the chip and Seal for the streets except for Arcada and the purchase of the machines.

Moved by Hollenbeck to purchase the crack seal machine at a cost of \$48,950.00. No second to motion.

Moved by Hollenbeck to purchase a brush chipper at a cost of \$26,574.00. No second to motion.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to move the equipment purchase requests to the next budget year and send to the Equipment Committee and/or Ways and Means for consideration. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum reported on the Ithaca Unit's March activities. He stated the unit had an incident at Ric's on a drug related call. The deputy on scene was a former member of the Drug Enforcement Team and it resulted in solving the case within two hours. He reported there will be an officer running the TEAM program (formerly DARE) and will be in the schools frequently. This summer the department will be holding a Youth Police Academy.

City Manager Zins added that there are many inoperable vehicles around town and he would be sending the Lt. a list if not taken care of.

Councilperson Thomas said the parking on South Main Street was previously discussed and he had been watching the county parking lot. There are fewer spots open so it appears the request is moving in the right direction to solve the problem.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the quarter activity of the Fire and Rescue departments. He informed Council the Central Dispatch Authority EOC authorized Richard Harold to look at funding for a mass notification equipment upgrade as the current system is only tied to landline phones. A new system, currently used by the State Police, can notify 20,000 people per second. He reported he was working with Attorney Arnold on the Fire Code Ordinance to be adopted and that the fire and rescue will be involved with the Youth Police Academy program in a tag team participation exercise.

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

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins informed Council that the City will participate in a free recycling cleanup program with Padnos Central Michigan Recycling on May 6-8th from 9am to 3pm each day. The location will be in the City lot on Pine River and West Center streets. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked when the Council approved this. Manager Zins stated it was a joint effort offered by Padnos in collaboration with the Gratiot Chamber and is being offered free to all three cities.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to allow the community cleanup recycling program with Padnos.. Councilperson Thomas said that he feels items like these that are good for the community at no cost should be an administrative decision. Councilperson Hollenbeck disagreed. Motion carried.

Manager Zins reported that large directional signs will be installed to make people aware of the parking opportunities in the lots in the rear of the stores on Center Street and behind the library in an effort to change the current parking habits and unmet needs. He gave Council information on the population gain for the City on a normal weekday. He also informed member of a water leak at 129 W Center resulting in over one million gallons of water running down the drain. The usage will have to be billed.

Manager Zins updated members on code enforcement and focus on the downtown businesses and residential Zone 1. He stated after an audit of Zone 1 he will move to other zones in the City of which there are six. Councilperson Koppleberger questioned the citation for Downtown Dime and Greater Gratiot Development. Manager Zins responded Downtown Dime has two windows rotting out and GGDI needed paint. He added that to date, eight USDA pre-applications for home improvement assistance were distributed and four had been returned.

Manager Zins stated he received a request from Troy Turner to advertise the RC Race on the side of the restroom building at McNabb Park. Council had no objections. He further informed members that he spoke with Jill Gilbert from GAS and they would like to hold a bow shoot inside a barn. He advised her to see if their insurance would cover it, she has not submitted a list of event items yet. He updated members on the MSHDA training he and Jennifer Reed attended and that he had begun interviewing candidates for the new position.

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

Ordinances

Mayor Palmer presented the ORV Ordinance for introduction.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to introduce and amendment to Ordinance Chapter 36 Traffic and Vehicles, Article III Off Road Vehicles. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to set a public hearing to take comment on the Ordinance Amendment Chapter 36 Traffic and Vehicles, Article III Off Road Vehicles for May 6, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Manager Zins requested approval of the engineering proposal for the Center Street Water Main. The line would be installed from McDonalds to the Agriculture Park entrance. Water would be provided to Beacon and Bridge and the Tractor Supply would tie in under the road and a fire hydrant would be installed to help

fire service. He explained it would be a 12” line and about 1,550 feet. The line would also provide utilities to the property in the Emerson Township 425 Agreement. Steve Clark, Rowe Professional Services, gave more detail on the project and engineering services provided in the proposal. Councilperson Thomas asked if it would be bored. Steve Clark confirmed on the south side and under the viaduct, and stated they would contemplate seamless pipe until the gas station was reached to avoid any chance of contamination. Councilperson Koppleberger inquired what the impact of a 12” line would have on the system. Manager Zins said it would not have any at this time, however Zeeland is looking at 100,000 gallon of use per day and that would cause pumps to run continuously, so we would look at placing a storage tank out there to help the system.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the contract with Rowe Professional Services for the Center Street Water Main Engineering Services. At a cost of \$18,800 and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.

City Manager Zins presented an amendment to the Emerson Township 425 Agreement. The Tractor Supply is requesting the amendment from both the City and the Township.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to set a public hearing to take comment on amending the contract for conditional transfer of property from Emerson Township to the City of Ithaca for May 6, 2014 at 7:30pm. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell updated Council on the opinion received from Attorney Steven Mann of Miller Canfield on the Electronic Meeting Rules as requested by the City Council. The document was reviewed and recommended changes as well as Council’s requests have been incorporated. Councilperson Thomas stated that being allowed to participate kept in updated on City business and felt it was very valuable. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked how a resident could reach someone out of town. Councilperson Thomas stated by phone, email, etc. just as they do when you are in town. Councilperson Gruesbeck added it could be changed if it gets addressed legally and Barb added that that was built into the rules as well.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger to adopt City Council Meeting Rule Established for Mayor and City Councilperson Physically Absent but Participating by Means of Electronic Media. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell received a request from the Ithaca Schools for the recreation reimbursement for the prior fiscal year. The School failed to bill the City and would like consideration to pay it in this budget year along with the current request. A review of the agreement was given and the funds could be reduced from the bill we send for the crossing guard cost-sharing.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to pay the recreation reimbursement for last year by reducing the bill sent to the school for the crossing guard agreement in June. Motion carried.

Councilperson Henderson asked for an accounting of the recreation program as part of the contribution was for the pool and the school is not operating it. Clerk Fandell will request it from the school and report back.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson 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 #40506-40551, DDA Restricted Funds Check#14, and Payroll Checks #12580-12593, DD410-DD416, EFT233-EFT236 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

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

Mayor Palmer scheduled committee meetings as follows:

Personnel	April 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
Equipment	April 23, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

City Manager Zins said the lagoon smell is partially due to the amount of storm water and snow melting which is diluting it. It has been treated again, but may remain an issue until it warms up.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 6, 2014

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 Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger and Alice Schafer. Staff present was City Manager Craig Zins and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Bob and Nancy Smith, Ted and Judy Hegle, Tony DuPleses, Ron Lane, Jennie Taylor, Joel and Tessa Zuker, Mike Baney, Bob Mephram, Carl Wymer, Rob and Shelley Boden, Will DeVuyst, Dave and Sherry Weber, Daryl and Julie Cooper, Jim Kimmel, Joe Vozar, Greg Nelson, Martin and Jill Lott, Craig Lott, Jim and Wanda Nemier, Scott Gray, Steve Clark, Larry Trexler, Neville Pitcher, Frank Sider, Julia Ward, Robert and Martha Ward, Diane Tester, Nancy Rummer, Charlie Teegardin, Mandy Symonds, Sharon and Dan Guild, Timothy Hutchinson, Mark Barrows, Dale Sherman, Joel Sherman, Randy Ester, David Bowen, Kevin Bowen, Mary Town, Dale Weburg, RA Smith, Jeff Myer, Scott Merchant, Pamela Koppleberger and Lt Roy McCollum.

Mayor Palmer presented the minutes for approval. Councilperson Schafer stated there was some comment and motion under the public comment that was in there in error. Clerk Fandell clarified that it did not get deleted from the previous minutes.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 15, 2014 with the deletion of paragraph 2 including the motion and vote under the Public Comment section. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer informed the public that comments were to be limited to five minutes. He also informed that the comment period may be interrupted due to the public hearings, and if so, the comment period would be resumed at their conclusions.

Bob Smith of 734 E Arcada addressed the Council regarding a letter received from City Manager Zins to move his motor home from the front yard and explained it that it was parked in his driveway and not the yard. He stated he has had campers and motor homes since he moved here in 1978 and has never had a problem parking it in the driveway up until now. The weight of the motor home, over 30,000 pounds, and would cause it to sink and wreck the yard, plus he does not have room on the sides to get to the rear yard to fit it. He said he understands a variance could be received but didn't feel he should have to pay to park in his driveway. He stated it keeps it looking good and doesn't feel it distracts from the property. He added that he assists the City in his neighborhood by blowing out the sidewalks of snow and clearing the fire hydrants when the city workers can get to them. He does it to be a good neighbor and citizen of Ithaca and feels this letter is a slap in the face. He stated he realizes there are rules and regulations that we don't like but have to follow and knows there are things that dictate the rules be changed or followed, however this the interpretation of the word "yard" and feels yard is the lawn and the driveway is for vehicles, trailers, etc. He asked for reconsideration of enforcing this ordinance and to go back to the way it was. Mr. Smith added Ithaca is a small town and doesn't need big city ideas. The City is a great place to live and work and the manager will find that out as he gets to know them better over time.

Martin Lott of 108 Barber stated he hadn't received a letter, but his son had. His son's letter was to paint his house and he has vinyl siding, thought that was pretty bad. Mr. Lott commented that he works in a business in town and many people are coming in and complaining about the trailers, sidewalks and fear of getting a letter from the city. The article on money to help should have come prior to the letters going out.

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing on the Ordinance Amendment.

Public Hearing-Ordinance Amendment

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to open the public hearing on amending Ordinance 36 for Off Road Vehicles. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Palmer asked to receive comments.

Renee Smith asked for an explanation of the ordinance. Mayor Palmer stated the City currently did not have an ordinance in place for ORVs and deferred to Lt. Roy McCollum for details. Lt. McCollum explained that the Off Road Vehicle section would match the ordinance currently in place at the County. This includes, but not limited to, age, ORV sticker, speed limit, etc.

Members of the public asked if a golf cart was ok. Lt. McCollum stated if they have an ORV sticker as issued from the State of Michigan. Needs would be head lights, tail lights, break lights, seatbelts, etc.

Larry Trexler asked if a lawn mower would need one. Lt. McCollum stated no. Dale Sherman asked if a quad would be allowed. Lt. McCollum stated an ORV Sticker was required.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

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

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:20pm.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if copies of the ordinance were available to the public. Clerk Fandell stated that it was currently on the City's website, would be posted in the newspaper and copies would be available in the City Hall lobby the next day.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to adopt Ordinance Amendment Chapter 36: Traffic and Vehicles, Article III Off Road Vehicles. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Koppkeberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Public Comment (con't)

Tony DuPlesses of 101 E Center Street stated the City hit his building this winter with the snow plow and then he received a letter to paint the building. It bothers him that he received it when the City hasn't fixed his building yet and it's been over four months and it is dangerous. Mayor Palmer stated he has asked about it and will see it gets fixed.

Scott Gray of 224 N Maple Street commented that he was a former Councilperson and has lived in Ithaca for more than 40 years and this is not the way to treat our citizens. Stated they have no control over this rogue manager and it is not making the people happy. To receive a letter with 30 days to repair. It is crazy. Mr. Smith's camper is probably worth more than most of the houses on his block and "who is it unsightly to?" This problem has went on long enough and everyone here can talk and it can go on all night and it has to stop. He stated they were there get the elected officials to stop this and get him (the City Manager) off our back, the code violations off our back and the ordinances off our back. There are a lot of people here tonight and thought he would bring it up and see if anyone agreed with him. Crowd applause.

Carl Wymer stated he agreed with Mr. Smith. He just pulled his trailer out and sunk in six inches. He said he used a gravel spot and am putting it back there and it's going to stay there. He's done some checking and doesn't know why the City Council didn't do a background check. The other this is the sidewalk deal and when they put in the water line. The backhoes cracked four blocks of sidewalk and now get water in the basement that he didn't have before. Not his fault and no one will do anything about it. Has Lake Ithaca in his yard. The road used to slope to the east and since the new road it floods him out. Doesn't feel he should have to pay for it especially the sidewalk because it was never repaired and neither was the portion when the tree was taken out. He stated he would fire him.

Randy Shaw of 1244 E Center Street received three letters pertaining to the business about the renter he has in the building. The fencing cost is much higher than the rent he collects. He has thirty days to move the cars and Mr. Bosley never received a letter. He is open to solutions because he doesn't know what to do to fix the issue.

Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing on the Conditional Transfer of Property with Emerson Township.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Henderson to open the public hearing on the Conditional Transfer of Property with Emerson Township. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:30pm.

Mayor Palmer asked to receive comments.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the final document was not provided as the City has not received the final information regarding the parcels from Dale Weburg to prepare it or present to Emerson Township.

Mr. Weburg stated his attorney Chuck Fortino was not able to be present and there are still details to be worked out, but think as a matter of principal we agree.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.
Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:33pm.

Public Comment (con't)

Tom McDonald of 123 N Main Street stated the citizens' water rates would increase 1% on the average. He would like to know how much increase there was to be for businesses. Manager Zins answered up to 26%. Mayor Palmer explained that would be for the large users. He stated that the large users are using 54% of the water and paying 46% of the bill. The residents were using 46% of the water and paying 54% of the bill so the decision was made to unify the rate. Tom McDonald asked isn't that a large increase all at once. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell added the history of the rate structure and tax breaks that large users receive and are now going to see higher increases because the city was changing from the declining rate structure to a single cost per gallon usage where all users pay the same amount for water. Councilperson Schafer added that the USDA did a survey of the city water rates and gave them a lot of information and now all pay the same. Tom shared that he had concerns of what that may do to the industries and employment. Mayor Palmer noted his concerns.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Henderson reported the Equipment Committee met to discuss a brush chipper, crack fill machine, pickup and mowers. The committee has made its recommendations and sent to the Ways and Means committee for budget review.

Mayor Palmer stated the Ways and Means Committee met and deferred to Councilperson Gruesbeck for the report. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated they met to review the 2014-15 budget and have to have another meeting as more work needs to be done before it is final, however they are recommending its introduction and public hearing be set.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met regarding the 425 Agreement (conditional Transfer of Property) with Emerson Township.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the April activity of the Ithaca Unit.

Councilperson Schafer inquired on the Youth Police Academy sign up. Lt. McCollum stated the TEAM Officer distributed sign up forms in the Friday folders through the school.

Mrs. Smith commented that she works at Downtown Dime and has seen a flurry of stops in the mall area and they are causing a traffic hazard and congestion. Lt. McCollum will look into the situation.

Rob Boden of 565 Gibbs Drive stated there was a lot of negativity and good comments being made, but he wanted to commend the police department on watching resident's homes while they are gone. The police are very responsible and do a great job. He thanked them.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppberger to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year Budget

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to introduce the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to set the Public Hearing to take comment on the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget for May 20, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Zins reported that several dogs have been found that are unlicensed and have been turned over to the Animal Control. He reported he met with MDOT and they will be repaving the business route in 2016 and indicated they may like to change it to three lanes, but it may require stop lights and therefore are reluctant to do so. He further reported that he and Director Studt met with the MDEQ to see what can be done to handle the extra water and sewer flow from Zeeland Farm Service. The CEO of the company also informed him that they are considering building their own ethanol plant on site.

City Manager Zins reported that research on area farmer's markets was done and once the grant work is complete, the City may want to add another day during the week around lunch time when the downtown is busy. He informed Council there is good chance that the City will receive the MSHDA Housing grant of \$440,000. MSHDA will not allow funding for mobile or trailer homes and emergency repairs are a separate option we have chosen to omit since there are other organizations in the County that provide those services. The City's concentration will be on home repair. He stated he was meeting with the USDA to see how their selection process is made and informed members that they deal directly with the resident in this program.

Moved by Schafer, second by Hollenbeck to receive the City Manager's report. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if there was a match with the USDA grant. Manager Zins stated no and they also cover the personnel

cost to administer the funds. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked how the City would know what the amount given to the resident was. Manager Zins stated the City would see it through the application award and would track our personnel cost and submit for reimbursement. The cost is built into the salary of the employees and will be supplemented with grant funds. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Manager Zins stated he received a request from the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce to use McNabb Park to do a 5K Obstacle run with obstacles such as mud pits, climbs, and others similar to a warrior dash. They have requested that the fee of \$635.00 be waived as this is a fund raising event. The Chamber is prepared to supply restrooms, however want fire and rescue support, water, use of the exhibit barn, and pavilion building. Councilperson Henderson stated they also want a hospitality area with alcohol.

Mayor Palmer stated he would send it to the Parks and Cemetery Committee for consideration.

Manager Zins presented the Architect Service contract for Phase II of Library project and explained the phase and the need for additional services. Councilperson Schafer clarified that Phase II was actually Part of Phase I and Phase II. Manager Zins stated in addition, the architect wants an agreement between them and the City for the services. Councilperson Schafer stated that it is pretty standard and understood that it needs to be signed to start the bid process.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to approve up to \$9,847.00 to Goudreau Associates for completion of design services and construction documents as listed: Mechanical/Electrical Engineering consultants and listed allowances in the proposal dated April 10, 2014. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked what the project cost was. Manager Zins stated approximately \$120,000. Councilperson Schafer stated this would make the basement barrier free and meet fire and ADA code requirements. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to authorize the City Manager to sign and execute the Standard Form of Agreement between the City of Ithaca and Goudreau Associates. Councilperson Henderson asked if Attorney Arnold had looked it over. Manager Zins stated no. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2014-15 which if passed would increase the fee for weddings performed by the Mayor from \$20.00 to \$50.00. The entire fee goes to the City and none to the Mayor.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-15 Marriage solemnized Fee. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Schafer, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

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 #40553-40601, Water Sewer Bond Debt Check#1032 and Payroll Checks #12594-12646, DD417-DD431, EFT237-EFT246 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer scheduled committee meetings as follows:

Personnel	May 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.
Public Safety/Code Enforcement	May 13, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.
Parks and Cemetery	May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Committee of the Whole	May 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer addressed the audience and stated that he understood the reasons for them attending and their concerns. He stated he ran on code enforcement to have homes brought up to code that are in bad condition. People work hard and it is a shame that they have to live next to homes like those. He stated that he failed in explaining how it was to be carried out and apologized to all. Stating that, he has set up committee of Public Safety/Code Enforcement to review the code enforcement issues and all code enforcement will go through that committee before anything is sent out; resulting in everyone being on the same page and done according to Council direction.

Councilperson Koppleberger addressed the audience and stated that as a resident of Ithaca and a business owner, he was appalled and embarrassed by the things he was hearing in the way the City Manager has treated the citizens. For those that had been spoken to unprofessionally, that will be dealt with next week and that he was prepared to make a motion to suspend all code violations until guidelines are set by a committee or the Council.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hollenbeck to suspend all code enforcement violations until guidelines are set by the City Council. Motion carried.

Scott Gray, 224 N Maple commended Councilperson Koppleberger on his comments and motion. He added he would like to see a motion to keep the City Manager off their back, his camera away and keep him doing manager work and not to hire him an assistant.

Mayor Palmer stated the motion accomplished his point. Mr. Gray stated it did not, it only suspended code enforcement. Councilperson Koppleberger stated that there are some code violations that will be followed through on, but the smaller items would stop.

Bob Smith, 734 E Arcada Street, stated he hoped the City Council would not hire an assistant. He thanked the Council for listening and trying to rectify the issues. He complimented the DPW on doing good work and hoped his street was on the paving repair list. He added that in regards to the park fee request of the Chamber, it would seem right to allow them to use it with not fee since it is a fund raising event that will benefit the whole community.

Jennie Taylor, 213 E Center Street stated they were told the City was trying to get a grant to help with the building repairs. Manager Zins stated the meeting to discuss the grant funds was scheduled for May 28, 2014 at 10:00am at City Hall.

Mark Barrows, Secretary of Planning Commission stated at their last meeting they had a resident apply for a special use permit. The Commissioners decision was to allow him to proceed without the special use permit. The resident was informed that he is not entitled to a refund of that fee and would like the Council to reconsider refunding the fee.

Joe Vozar of 701 N. Union asked Council when reviewing the Chamber's request, to keep in mind the information given to the Ithaca Cyclocross decision.

Carl Wymer 304 S. Jeffery asked if there was an ordinance that says he can't park his trailer in his driveway. Mayor Palmer replied that it states front yard and this would be reviewed at the committee meeting also. Mr. Wymer stated his driveway was not is yard.

Ted Hegle of 804 E. North Street stated there are tons of people that drive by the senior building park daily and it is a nice park, except across the street on the corner of Catherine and North there is a property that downgrades the neighborhood and would like the City to get them to get it cleaned up.

Dale Sherman thanked Councilperson Koppleberger for speaking up and now that things were on hold, asked what the City's plan was to fix their buildings up. He asked how the City could force 100 people to fix their places when the City sits on its hands.

Dave Weber commented that he attended as he is unhappy; as was the entire room. He stated Councilperson Koppleberger's motion was not enough. He added he was a member of the Downtown Development Authority, business owner and landlord in the City and Mr. Zins has affected him negatively in every way.

Mayor Palmer 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 8:35pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
May 19, 2014
5:00pm

The special meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 5:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

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 Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Jennie Taylor, Greg Nelson, Carl Wymer and Bob Mepham.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comment.

Bob Mepham of 608 S. Ithaca stated Joe Butcher did some sewer work for him and told him not to pay the bill because the City would have to pay it because the water main was put through the sewer line and broke it. The City Manager said he would have to pay half and would like it checked out. Mayor Palmer stated he would have it followed up and contact would be made this week.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were given.

Mayor Palmer stated a request was received from Craig Zins for closed session regarding his employment status.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to enter into closed session for a personnel matter at the request of employee Craig Zins. Roll Call vote:

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

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Enter Closed Session at 5:09pm.

Mayor Palmer excused the audience.

Return to Open Session at 5:20pm.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to allow Craig Zins the possession of his current cell phone, three months of severance pay and normal accumulated sick and vacation leave payout as per the City of Ithaca Personnel Handbook upon presentation of a signed resignation from the City of Ithaca and City Manager's position effective immediately. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comment.

Carl Wymer, S. Jeffery asked if his trailer being in his driveway was still in violation of code. Mayor Palmer stated it was okay. Mr. Wymer asked if the City could do something for residents as a written follow up to questions. Mayor Palmer informed him that a form was being developed and thanked him for the suggestion.

Bob Mepham asked the Council if they could get a speaker system in the chamber room because it is hard to hear when there is a large crowd. Mayor Palmer said they City would look into it.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:23pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 20, 2014
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 gave the invocation.

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 Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Bob and Nancy Smith, Charlie Teegardin, Ron Lane, Will DeVuyst, Dave and Sherry Weber, Brandon Gray, Martin Lott, Art Droste, Richard Heathcock, J Hunnicutt, Scott and Jennifer Gray, Kevin Bowen, Earl Wilson, Steve Esch, Dan Dame, Patrick Myers, Robert Ward, Sheila and Richard Droste, Tony Dupleses, Mandy Symonds and Lt Roy McCollum.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 6, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the minutes of the special meeting held May 19, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Charlie Teegardin of 225 N. Pine River stated everyone knows why most people where there and its obvious what has happened. He said the City Council is a good board and would like to see it stay together and strong and the right decision was made in removing the manager.

Richard Heathcock, resident, shared a personal experience when he worked on the committee to do background checks on county administrator candidates. He reviewed the process and in their effort got a good administrator on work but fell short on dealing with people. It was a learning experience and not an easy task.

Steve Esch of 306 N. Jeffery asked what the plan for sidewalks was going to be. Mayor Palmer stated not at this time, it needs to be reviewed further. He did state that there the City did not have the funds to do it until July. Mr. Esch inquired on prior year repairs and damage done prior to being a home owner and would the rest of the City be done as well. Mayor Palmer stated that would all be part of the discussion. Councilperson Thomas added that the City has an ordinance to follow and second a budget, which hasn't been passed. All projects are reviewed through the budget process.

Art Droste of 7693 Riverview Dr, St. Louis asked if the meeting would be open and if they would know when it is. Mayor Palmer stated that all meetings are open to the public and would be posted by the City Clerk.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to do the City Manager's performance review, which is a mute issue now as at the special meeting last night he chose to resign immediately. He further explained how the background checks are performed, that the Council was aware of the situations being discussed through the City and the process the committee went through to investigate those situations.

Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing on the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to open the public hearing on the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Palmer asked City Treasurer to give a review.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the proposed budget and outside factors affecting it. She discussed the effects the tax tribunal and exemptions for personal property and disabled veterans are having on property tax revenues and millages, State Revenue Sharing, grant programs, the DDA and the restrictions of funds due to the hardware, cemetery issues, water/sewer system updates and maintenance, the streets and sidewalk funds, police consolidation savings, equipment to be purchased and capital projects including infrastructure to the Ag Industrial Park.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:26pm.

Committee Reports (con't)

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee met to discuss rentals and address the code enforcement issues and set up a process for a subcommittee to review the City Manager's recommendations prior to any action being taken. With the resignation of the manager and missing staff, the committee will need to go back and review again.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review the request for events at McNabb Park by the Chamber of Commerce and Gratiot Agricultural Society and the Farmer Market light fixtures. The committee recommends allowing GAS to hold fireworks during the fair, and to allow the Chamber the use of McNabb Park at the daily resident rate, not allow use of the exhibit barn as it will be full of RV stored for the winter, and both events liquor requests be turned over for legal review prior to a decision being made. The committee further recommends the approval of the lighting fixtures for the Farmer's Market pavilion.

Mayor Palmer noted that Jill Gilbert and Penny McCormick should be added to the visitor list. Councilperson Hollenbeck so noted.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to allow Gratiot Agricultural Society to have fireworks at McNabb Park on June 28, 2014 pending State of Michigan licensing approval and insurance coverage. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to approve the lighting fixtures as presented for the Farmer's Market pavilion. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to allow the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce to use McNabb Park on October 31, 2014 and November 1, 2014 at the rate of \$500.00, no use of the Exhibit Barn and the liquor request will be decided after legal review. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year Budget

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to introduce the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to set the Public Hearing to take comment on the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget for May 20, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

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

New/Old Business

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked when the City would hire a new City Manager. Mayor Palmer stated the committee would meet to discuss a plan.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met with the architect and engineers. The flag pole will need to be moved, the maple tree cut down and the patio modified to accommodate the new lift. The summer reading program has received \$1,300 in donations and Ithaca has the largest attended program in the County. She further informed Council that the libraries are working on an informational brochure for the millage request.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the report requested regarding the school/city recreation program cost sharing. Superintendent Bootz has informed the City that the pool should be opening. If, however it does not, the City will adjust its share accordingly. Discussion on if the pool was a community pool or the school's pool. Attorney Arnold stated it was a State grant written by both but was intended to belong to the school.

Mayor Palmer noted the Certificate of Appreciation received from Mrs. Meier's class for supporting Kindness Week.

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 #40602-40645, Water Sewer Bond Debt Check#1033 and Payroll Checks #12647-12676, DD432-DD438, EFT247-EFT250 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer scheduled committee meetings as follows:

Personnel	May 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. for City Manager and staff positions
Committee of the Whole	May 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for Budget review
Committee of the Whole	June 03, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. for Police Consolidation review

Public Comment

Bob Smith of 734 E. Arcada stated he wanted to say the same as Charlie Teegardin. He appreciates the City Council listening to everyone and thanked them. He stated being a Council member can be a thankless job sometimes.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 3, 2014

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 Schafer gave the invocation.

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 Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Bob and Nancy Smith, Greg Nelson, Kristi Betzer, Jeremy Smolka, Mike Dawe, Christina Webster, Richard Schleder, Aaron Hale, Amber Weburg, Richard Heathcock, Marc Coon, Gary Hoffer, Cindy Albrecht, Heather Coon, Cathy Timmons and Helen Sodderberg.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 20, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Helen Sodderberg of 516 S. St. Johns Street shared concern that City Manager Zins was released for following the city ordinance and ordinances are the responsibility of the City Council. She stated he was criticized for not being nice to some of the residents, but some of the comments from residents were vicious. She questioned that he was not given ample time to correct his errors.

Aaron Hale, Vice-Chairman of the Ithaca Promotional Committee along with Cathy Timmons and Chairman Amber Weburg addressed the Council on the activities the IPC does for the community and how the events are funded. He handed out an income and expense report. The IPC has concerns that the hospitality tent will not be able to be held in its current location which is city property. He shared that committee members are trying to secure a private site but it is difficult, in addition, the IPC invested three thousand dollars into the electric service in the parking lot and that would be very expensive to replace and would deplete their reserves which would result in a loss of events to the community. While the IPC respects the city's process and ordinance consideration, the liquor license is due to the State by June 30th and the location must be named.

Jeremy Smolka stated he was in attendance to support Christina Webster and the "We Love Our Troops" veterans ride and her cause.

Kristi Betzer of Alma stated she was also there to support Christina Webster's fund raiser as her son was a recipient of her care packages and her help was very important to their family.

Christina Webster addressed the Council on the "We Love Our Troops" Poker Run and use of McNabb Park. The event has been held there for the past five years and asked for the park fee to be waived. The funds raised all go into care packages for our troops and all supplies are bought in Ithaca and Gratiot County. She stated she was not a business or non-profit group, the meal served is a donation only and donations are used to help veterans. It is co-sponsored by the American Legion #334.

Cindy Albrecht, 3040 E. St. Charles Rd asked the Council to consider waiving the fee. Her husband is a veteran. She said she had been collecting donations for this event for a few months.

Gary Hoffer, Commander of the American Legion #34 Post stated the post was in support of Ms. Webster's efforts and are cosponsoring the event. He asked that her request be granted and added that the Post and VFW would be holding their Flag Disposal ceremony at the conclusion of the Flag Lowering ceremony at the end of the run.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met regarding a request to change a city hall staff member from part-time to full time status with added duties.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to move Jennifer Reed from part-time to full-time status effective immediately. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the committee also discussed the interim city manager position and he was asked to look at the MML list. He updated Council on the results and stated there were 2-4 candidates and asked for direction for the next steps.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to have Councilperson Thomas pursue the candidates having good references and set up interviews for the interim manager position. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met on the 2014-15 budget.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Code Enforcement committee met on how to handle code enforcement. The committee is recommending to lift the ban on enforcement and will refine the procedures. He further reported the 425 agreement with Emerson Township has a need to move rapidly so Tractor Supply can meet its deadline.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met to discuss the police contract and annual review.

Department Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the Police Report was not available due to the way the month end falls and will happen again in July. She requested consideration to permanently move the report to the second meeting of the month.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to allow the police report to be given at the second regular meeting of the month. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year Budget

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the millage rates to be adopted to support the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year budget.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-16 Approving the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Millage Rates. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the 2014-2015 fiscal year introduced budget and noted incorporated changes as requested by Council's review.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-17 Approving the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Roll Call vote:

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

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Ordinance Amendment

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Ordinance Amendment Chapter 38-120 as directed by the City Council.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to introduce Ordinance Amendment No. 38-120 Limitations of Sewer and Water Connections Outside Municipal Boundaries with a correction to Item (3) to read "The City shall continue to provide *water* service...". Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked the public hearing to be set.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to set a public hearing to take comment on Ordinance Amendment 38-120 Limitations of Sewer and Water Connections Outside Municipal Boundaries for June 17, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer asked for action on the request of Christina Webster to waive the park fee for the "We Love Our Troops" event and Flag ceremonies.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to waive the daily fee for the "We Love Our Troops" fund raising event provided the group cleans up the trash and leaves the grounds in good condition.

Councilperson Schafer stated they would not be there most of the time. Mayor Palmer asked Ms. Webster to notify the Sheriff of the 21-Gun Salute, and she agreed. Gary Hoffer added the Flag Day Disposal would directly follow the event. Motion carried.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to reinstate the Code Enforcement action. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked for an update on the 425 Agreement with Emerson Township. Attorney Arnold stated he was asked by former Manager Zins to revise the agreement and did forward it to him at the time he departed. Since, he received another version from the township's and Mr. Weburg's attorney Charles Fortino. It contained a number of issues that he did not know where they originated from. Some of the items in it have not been approved by the City and he would like authorization to speak with Attorney Fortino to get the agreement done.

Councilperson Thomas stated it should be a simple land swap and Councilperson Schafer added that the private citizen should not be part of it.

Attorney Arnold stated the law does not involve the property owners. He suggested only the township and city be in the agreement and Mr. Weburg could make an agreement with the township for the other items. He added that he believed there is currently an easement on the front parcel.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to allow Attorney Arnold the authority to speak with Attorney Fortino to work out the 425 Agreement and bring back to the Council for review. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer discussed the code violations on the Shaw property and stated Attorney Arnold was working on it prior to the halt of code enforcement.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to instruct Attorney Arnold to proceed with the discussion with Mr. Shaw's attorney on the code violation. Motion carried.

Attorney Arnold asked for clarification that the motion assumes the Council wants the job to get done. Mayor Palmer stated that was the goal and there were no objections.

Mayor Palmer received a request from the engineers through Clerk Fandell to consider moving the construction start date of the DIG Grant from June 30, 2014 to July 7, 2014 because of the July 4th Holiday and effect it could have on the downtown businesses over the holiday weekend. They felt confident that the project will still finish as scheduled.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to give Clerk Fandell permission to request the starting date of the DIG construction to July 7, 2014. Motion carried.

Clerk Fandell updated Council on the MSHDA Home Rehabilitation, MDNRTF Park grants, Library project, Tractor Supply development, city auction and Rod Merchant's building separation request. She also informed members that the County Treasurer would be retiring after 29 years in the position.

Councilperson Schafer reported the libraries are working on a brochure for the millage and may use the water bills and taxes to help distribute the information.

Mayor Palmer addressed IPC's request on liquor in the city lot. Councilperson Thomas stated they are looking for another site and the Council has the attorney's opinion and it should not break its own laws. Attorney Arnold stated he was receiving request from Chamber members on what could be done and informed them that the Ordinance could be changed if the Council chose to. Mayor Palmer said he checked with St. Louis and they suspend their ordinance for the day to hold the Blues Festival. Attorney Arnold said the ordinance could be changed to add approval of the City Council for special events, however suspension is not the correct method unless it is in the ordinance and ours currently does not. Discussion held on possibly changing the ordinance on liquor. Mayor Palmer will have it reviewed by committee.

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 #40648-40681 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked for action on the request from Gratiot Agricultural Society to hold a hospitality tent in McNabb Park on June 21, 2014.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to deny the request of Gratiot Agricultural Society to hold a hospitality tent in McNabb Park on June 21, 2014 based on the City Attorney's opinion and review of the Ordinance. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Marc Coon, Emerson Township Trustee, stated the 425 Agreement has been held up for months and was sure the board will try to work this out. Councilperson Thomas suggested that Mr. Coon share the importance of the time frame with his board. Mr. Coon agreed and stated the Tractor Supply was good for Ithaca and all around.

Bob Smith of 734 E. Arcada inquired with the reenactment of the code enforcement, what was the status of his motorhome. The Council agreed he was not in violation.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 17, 2014
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 Pro-tem Schafer at 7:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Pro-tem Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilperson Brian Henderson.

Audience in attendance was Malachi Barrett, Scott Gray, Bob Cook, Aaron Hale, Greg Nelson, Jim Wideman, Phil Rhondy, Jennifer cook and Laura McCollum.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to amend the agenda to remove Items 9d and 9e. Motion carried.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 3, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer asked to receive public comments.

Jim Wideman addressed the Council on the Ithaca Promotional Committee Hospitality Tent and the city ordinance. His opinion was the ordinance was a good ordinance on a daily basis for the parks and city, however shared concern on what the loss of the hospitality tent income would do to the other events the IPC sponsors with that fund raiser and the volunteerism it teaches the youth of Ithaca. He asked the Council to consider an exception to the ordinance to continue this twelve year event.

Aaron Hale, IPC Vice Chair, informed Council he had been contacted by several people wanting to know what they could do to support the cause. He explained that the tent is not just a fund raiser, but a homecoming to many who return and plan events around the event, such as class reunions. He has advised people to give the groups time to find a solution. The IPC has checked with all of the private businesses that have lots large enough for the tent and the only one that would allow them to use their space is the bowling alley, which isn't the ideal space as past tents held there have lost money. He asked for the Council's cooperation, but would support their decision.

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer informed the audience that the Mayor had stated he would set a committee meeting to discuss this issue, however it had not been scheduled yet.

Phil Rhondy addressed the Council regarding the ordinance and can't see where it addresses the liquor and private property owners couldn't hold it either unless they had a liquor license. Attorney Arnold shared his review of the ordinance as it is not allowed and he is working on a draft amendment for the meeting.

Committee Reports

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer reported the Committee of the Whole met to discuss the DIG grant bids received and total project budget. Staff is working with MEDC to see if the project can be scaled back. The committee also discussed interim City Manager candidates and Center Street water line. The committee is recommending setting a Special Meeting of the City Council to address these issues.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Thomas to set a Special Meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 6:00pm for the purpose of selecting an Interim City Manager, Center Street water line installation, 2013-14 Budget Amendments and Downtown Infrastructure Grant bids. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer reported the Library Board met and reviewed the schedule of the project. She, Director Root and Clerk Fandell had met with the architects on the project. The Board also discussed the candidates for board appointment and recommend Mary Humm be selected as she has been very active with the renovation project and current millage.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Committee of the Whole met on Personnel and Ways and Means issues. The owner of 421 W. Center has flooding issues when the street was last paved and has asked to have the problem corrected during this paving project. The committee also reviewed some additional services performed by Rowe Inc. and is recommending payment for these services and they are included in the bills.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to approve the construction work at 421 W. Center at the estimated cost of \$2,623.23 with cost sharing with the property owner at 50% each. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum reported on the May activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported Officer Andrews had been on the bike and officers assisted a resident on a "bat" call and forty-six youth have been signed up for the

Summer Youth Academy. The 2008 patrol car is sitting idle due to a radiator problem and is waiting on a decision to repair. Councilperson Hollenbeck pointed out that a discussion on leasing the cars was held. It was noted that a decision to do so had not been acted on.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Hollenbeck to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year Budget

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the millage rates to be adopted to support the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year budget.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-16 Approving the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Millage Rates. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the 2014-2015 fiscal year introduced budget and noted incorporated changes as requested by Council's review.

Ordinance Amendment

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Thomas to open the public hearing to take comment on Ordinance Amendment 38-120 Limitations of Sewer and Water Connections Outside Municipal Boundaries. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer opened the public hearing at 7:25pm.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Ordinance Amendment Chapter 38-120 and noted the change was made to item (3) "provide water service" not sewer as requested. She had not received any other comments.

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer asked for other comments. None were offered.

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

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer closed the hearing at 7:28pm.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to adopt Ordinance Amendment 38-120 Limitations of Sewer and Water Connections Outside Municipal Boundaries. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (5) Hollenbeck, Koppleberger, Thomas, Gruesbeck, Schafer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (2) Henderson, Palmer

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Management Report

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported and updated Council on the Center Street Paving project, flower beds, Well Head Protection Program, Library renovation project, Community Foundation grants status, Liquor Ordinance, Tractor Supply Company project, Resident Concern Form, DIG grant, Gratiot Airport Authority and the windows of the hardware buildings. She further reported that the test well drilling sites are being reviewed to make sure they stay in compliance with the Well Head Protection Program and may need Council approval before drilling. Director Studt has this under review.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Gruesbeck to receive the Management report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2014-18 and explained it was required by law to name the City Depositories annually.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2014-18 Designation of City Depositories for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the City was awarded a grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation for a swing set to be placed at McNabb Park and it requires Council acceptance. The grant received is for \$3,500 and would have to be used by June 3, 2015.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hollenbeck to accept the grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the McNabb Park Swings; grant #20140139 and authorize the City Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

Councilperson Henderson arrived at 7:40pm.

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer called for action on the Board and Commission appointments.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Thomas to appoint Jerry Timmons, Mark Barrows and Doug Wright to the Planning Commission for three-year terms ending June 30, 2017. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to appoint Elizabeth Dudek, Dave Weber and Janet Strong to the Downtown Development Authority for three-year terms ending June 30, 2017 and Tony Duplessis to complete a one-year term ending June 30, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to appoint Scott Gray to the Board of Review for a three-year term ending June 30, 2017. Motion carried.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger to appoint Mary Humm to the Library Board for a five-year term ending June 30, 2019. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to appoint Jim Gruesbeck to the Greater Gratiot Development Board for a one-year term ending June 30, 2105 on an interim basis until a permanent City Manager is hired. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell noted that two vacancies remain on the DDA Board. One 3-year term and a 1-year term which is the remained of term that was held by Dave Nelson. Advertisement for these positions will continue until appointments are made.

Attorney Arnold addressed the 425 Amendment Agreement with Emerson Township. He and Attorney Fortino worked on the amendment and Emerson Township has approved it and now the City needs to and then it can be submitted to the State of Michigan. Councilperson Thomas asked if it traded the 140 acre back parcel for the frontage as discussed. Attorney Arnold confirmed, with the exception of an acre out of the 140 acre parcel that was sold to Tractor Supply Company, it included 800 feet from the Tractor Supply east to the house. Attorney Arnold stated this was an Amendment to the original agreement as opposed to a complete new agreement.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to approve the Amendment Agreement to the Conditional Transfer of Property with Emerson Township with a correction to item 1.A. Line 7 which should be “degrees 10’34” West. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (6) Koppleberger, Thomas, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Hollenbeck, Schafer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Palmer

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger 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 #40682-40730, Grant Program Checks #1037-1038 and Payroll Checks 12677-12708, DD439-DD451, EFT251-EFT260 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer asked for public comments.

Guy McKellar asked where the Tractor Supply Company was going to be built. Mayor Pro-tem Schafer informed him of the site location.

Mayor Pro-tem Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Alice M. Schafer, Mayor Pro-Tem

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

June 24, 2014

6:00pm

The special meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 6:00pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer, John Thomas. Staff present was Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, DPW Director Bob Studt and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Absent was Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Greg Nelson, Malachi Barrett, Phil Rhondy, Jennifer Cook, Derek Marine and Steve Clark.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comment. None were offered.

Center Street Water Main

Steve Clark of Rowe Professional Services gave an update on the project. It is 90% designed and permits will need to be obtained from the State of Michigan and Gratiot County. The line was extended by former Manager Zins to go beyond the Tractor Supply site to the Ithaca Ag Industrial Park and is a 12" line starting at the Shell station. Tractor Supply will bore under the road to make connection. Mayor Palmer asked what issues may arise. Mr. Clark said it would be dependent on MDOT which may require reroute of the line to avoid the bridge foundations.

Derek Marine of DMK Developers for TSC stated former Manager Zins informed them the total cost for the water tap would be around \$6,000. Councilperson Thomas asked about the initial discussion on cost sharing a portion of the line to save TSC from drilling a well. Mr. Marine agreed it was part of early discussions but then Mr. Zins told them the line was going to be run for the Ag Industrial Park. They built their budget on the \$6,000 figure and other issues have pushed the budget too tight so it is too late to go back and ask for additional funds. Members discussed the meter and tap cost, time and materials, developer help with line cost, running the line to the original length and extend to the park at a later date.

Mr. Marine stated they were not privy to other conversations and were led to believe the line was mainly being run for the Ag Park. He said utilities can make and break a project.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to proceed with the installation of the Center Street Water Main project. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked the cost. It is estimated at \$196,791.00. Motion Carried.

Downtown Infrastructure Grant

Clerk Fandell reviewed the information received from MEDC with the Council. The MEDC will give consideration to a change in project scope of the Farmer's Market for building only one pavilion in order to bring the project back within budget. None of the alternates of contract #1 will be allowed. MEDC is requiring that all three bidders be given the opportunity to bid the project based on the change of scope, and once received, it will review and give a final decision. If Contract #2-Farmers Market is removed, the application will be rescored and the City will not be in the running and would lose the entire grant. Steve Clark added he made contact with the contractors to rebid for one structure.

Mr. Clark explained that pushing the contract would delay the start date. We will work with the city and are planning to submit the new bid tabs to MEDC Friday for its approval. The Council could award Contract #1 contingent on the MEDC approval of the revised budget and project or it could wait until July 1st, however that would only give four days for the contractor to get everything in order before the July 7th start date.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to award the Downtown Infrastructure Grant bid for Contract #1 Streetscaping and Sidewalks to Isabella Corporation in the amount of \$563,263.25 contingent on the MEDC's approval of the revised budget and project scope for the DIG Contract #2 Farmer's Market and City's acceptance. Motion carried.

Interim City Manager

Councilperson Thomas updated the Council on the two candidates.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to offer Bill Cousins the position of Interim City Manager effective immediately. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked the cost. Councilperson Thomas stated during the interview he had asked for \$35.00 per hour or \$68,000 annually if the position was 40 hours per week and no benefits. Motion carried.

Council discussed the number of hours the position should fill. It was determined five days a week and a contract would be worked out and brought to the July 1, 2014 meeting for approval.

2013-2014 Budget Amendments

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the budget amendments for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to amend the 2013-2014 budget as presented:

General Fund Revenues to	\$1,728,029.00
General Fund Expenditures:	
City Council	\$ 29,580.00
Technology	\$ 8,855.00
Community Center	\$ 6,862.00
Attorney/Counsel	\$ 93,000.00
Building Inspector	\$ 56,128.00
Drains	\$ 42,060.00
Rubbish Tags	\$ 4,200.00
Industrial Park	\$ 5,400.00
City Parks	\$ 56,615.00
McNabb Park	\$ 46,464.50
Tax Tribunal Refunds	\$345,411.00
Transfers Out	\$199,139.00

Major Street	\$229,860.00
Local Street	\$180,935.00
Fire Department Fund	\$186,406.00
Downtown Development	\$ 83,970.00
Library	\$125,699.00
Grant Program fund	\$ 84,350.00
Water and Sewer Fund	\$1,278,532.80
Equipment Fund	\$315,060.00

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comment.

Councilperson Koppleberger asked if the sidewalk by the Herald was part of this DIG project. Steve Clark said the survey was completed and an easement can be done as a solution. As part of that last DIG project, the city paid for the dumpster pad for the business and will be doing streetscape in front of the building with this DIG project and that will enhance the building and add to its value.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 1, 2014
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 Schafer gave the invocation.

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 Interim City Manager Bill Cousins and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Malachi Barrett, Aaron Hale, Greg Nelson, Phil Rhondy, Jennifer Cook, Richard Heathcock, Craig Zeese and Steve Clark.

Mayor Palmer introduced Interim City Manager Bill Cousins.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 17, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the special meeting held June 24, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Craig Zeese, Director of the Commission on Aging reviewed the senior millage renewal proposal that is on the August ballot and programs offered that are funded by the millage. He also explained how the Commission is funded.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee met to review the liquor ordinance and requests to remove three fire personnel off of probation status and add two EMT's to the Rescue Department. The Committee recommends amending the liquor ordinance, allow the advertisement for two EMT positions and to take the three fire employees off probation and place on full duty status.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to remove Joseph Vozar, Philip Rhondy and Brandon Ester from probationary status and place on regular full duty status. Motion carried.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to allow the advertisement for two EMT positions for the Rescue Department as budgeted. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported on the County Library millage proposal and referenced the material being distributed for informational purposes. The millage will benefit all of the libraries in the county and is being sought due to the decline in penal fine revenue.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported he had been reviewing information and getting acquainted with the office. He also has been going door-to-door to meet the businesses owners. He stated he was glad to be in Ithaca and has made contact with all of the employees and met with neighboring partners, managers and townships so that they have a good solid contact for the City. He further reported he had spent time with Rowe on the projects and there is a lot going on. He received an inquiry on the B&B gas station and called the environmental firm to follow up that everything is being done to meet the MDEQ's requirements and an update on the remediation plan will be provided soon.

Council expressed appreciation for his effort and work in meeting the business owners and residents.

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

Ordinance Amendment

Councilperson Gruesbeck presented Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 4 Alcoholic Liquor for consideration. He read the ordinance amendment in its entirety.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to introduce the Code of Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 4 Alcoholic Liquor, Article I General, Section 4-2 Consumption in Public Places; Prohibitions. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to set a public hearing to take comment on amending Chapter 4 Alcoholic Liquor, Article I General, Section 4-2 Consumption in Public Places; Prohibitions for July 15, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell requested approval of the contract with BS&A Software for Assessing Services.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to approve the contract for Assessing Services between the City of Ithaca and BS&A Software and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the MEDC agreed to the change in the DIG grant project scope for Contract #2 the Farmer's Market.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to reject all bids received for the Downtown Infrastructure Grant Contract #2 Farmers Market from June 11, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to award the Downtown Infrastructure Grant Contract #2 Farmers Market to Hardwood Hills Construction in the amount of \$121,000.00.

Councilperson Thomas inquired if Rowe had worked with them before. Steve Clark stated the firm received good references and Rowe is recommending they be awarded the bid. Mayor Palmer stated a meeting on the project was held for business owners to review the construction and Manager Cousins added that Rowe will continue to communications with the businesses throughout the project. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer received a recommendation from the Planning Commission to rezone the property within the 425 Agreement for the Tractor Supply Company development to be a C-2 General Commercial for a retail operation.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to amend the Zoning Ordinance Number 52 and the Zoning Map to include the rezoning of the property on the east side of the City of Ithaca as described as parcel number 29-52-032-009-40 and a portion of parcel number 29-52-032-011-00 described as the Southeast ¼ of Section 32, Town 11 North, Range 2 West, EXCEPT the South 20 rods thereof, Emerson Township, Gratiot County, Michigan; and EXCEPT beginning North 00 degrees 10'35" East 330 feet from the South ¼ corner of Section 32, Town 11 North, Range 2 West, Emerson Township, Gratiot County, Michigan; thence North 00 degrees 10'35" East 189 feet; thence North 89 degrees 58'14" East 173.75 feet; thence South 00 degrees 10'34" West 189 feet; thence South 89 degrees 58;14" West 173.75 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning. And the property described as beginning at the South ¼ Corner of Section 32, T11N, R2W, Emerson Township, Gratiot County, Michigan; thence East 330 feet along the North-South ¼ line of said Section 32; thence East 173.75 feet; thence West 330 feet; thence West 173.75 feet along the South line of said Section 32 to the Point of Beginning, containing 1.32 acres of land, more or less, being subject to the rights of the public over the Southerly 33 feet as occupied by East Washington Rd. (66 feet wide), and being subject to any easements, conditions, or restrictions of record, if any to be zoned Commercial (C-2 General Commercial District according to Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Ithaca for the purpose of constructing a retail business. Roll Call vote:

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

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer reported he asked Council members if they would like any changes to Committee assignments and did not receive objections to current assignments.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to maintain the Committee assignments until June 30, 2015. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the bid document package for the Library Renovation project was received by the City staff today. In order to stay on the timeline and for the bids to be let, she requested approval of the bid documents. The project has been reviewed by the City Council, the Library Board and the Planning Commission. City Manager Cousins will do a full review of the documents to assure there have been no changes and meet the City's approval.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to approve the bid documents for the Library Renovation project as submitted by Goudreau and Associates, contingent on the City Manager's review and approval.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked for the full document. Manager Cousins stated the drawings and plans were expected last week, however arrived late that morning so copies were not able to be made. The initial review shows everything to be in order and the bid review and award will be done at the August 5, 2014 meeting so there is opportunity to halt it there if necessary. 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 #40733-40764 and Payroll Checks #12709-12728, DD452-DD457, EFT261-EFT266 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Aaron Hale of the Ithaca Promotional Committee thanked the Council for their patience and change to the ordinance to allow for the hospitality tent.

Mayor Palmer set a Personnel Committee meeting for July 8, 2014 at 5:00pm and a Streets & Parking Committee meeting for July 8, 2014 at 5:30pm.

Mayor Palmer asked for action on the DIG Grant Amendment #2 for the change in the budget and Farmers Market project scope.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve contract Amendment #2 Change in Budget Allocation and Project Scope between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Ithaca for the Sidewalk & farmers Market Improvements Project MSC 213025-DIG and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion carried.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 15, 2014

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 Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Fire Chief David Nelson and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Absent was Councilperson John Thomas.

Audience in attendance was Malachi Barrett, Aaron Hale, Meredith Cousins, Dave Weber, Seth Wolfe and Jill Gilbert.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Jill Gilbert of Gratiot Agricultural Society addressed the Council for permission to hold a 5K Color Run and Fall Fest/Youth weekend on September 19-21, 2014. Other events include a youth deer pole and haunted barns that would continue each weekend through October 31, 2014. Mayor Palmer informed her of a conflict for the weekend of October 31st as the park is rented out for the weekend. Mayor Palmer invited her to attend a meeting of the Parks committee to discuss the details of the request.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Streets and Parking Committee met on the parking issues on Newark Street and recommend staff send a letter to the County regarding so. The Committee also recommends the approval of up to \$5,000 additional funds for the City Manager to use to authorize for minor work and additional cost that occur through the DIG project.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to authorize the City Manager the use of up to \$5,000 for additional add-ons and work that may occur during the DIG Project and the City Manager is to report to the Council all change orders and reasons for funds spent. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer stated the committee also discussed the telephone pole that was removed by Frontier on the corner of Jeffery and Center. They are waiting on a price to repair before the work is done. Councilperson Henderson said they should be billed for the repair in the same manner we do the other utility companies.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Personnel Committee met to discuss the City Manager's contract and recommended a couple of changes which were made and included in the contract in the packet. The Committee recommends its approval.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to approve the contract for an Interim City Manager between the City of Ithaca and William Cousins III. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met earlier in the day and performed the annual review of the internet policy and the by-laws. The Library will be using some of the fund equity for the 2013-2014 fiscal year as planned.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum reported on the June activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported they still have the same issue with the 2008 patrol car and need direction on what the Council wants to do with it. Mayor Palmer said discussions were held regarding a vehicle lease price with the county. Manager Cousins was directed to discuss the issue with the Sheriff and report back to the next Council meeting. He reported Deputy McBride is back on the unit detail and Deputy Trevino has been added. Deputy Fulco was the recipient of a life-saving award.

Councilperson Henderson inquired as to why our car was in Pompeii and Riverdale as it is only supposed to be an extreme emergency and they were out there under a mutual aid. Lt. McCollum would review the reports, some deputies work for both the Ithaca Unit and county and it may be a mistake on the report. He acknowledged that it was a legitimate concern and assured Council he works hard to keep them in town.

Councilperson Gruesbeck said the large tractors are not stopping at stop signs in town and it needs to be watched. Lt. McCollum informed Council if they see it and can identify them, the officers can make contact with them.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Ordinance Amendment

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to open the public hearing to take comment on Ordinance Amendment Chapter 4 Alcoholic Liquor. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Palmer stated the amendment was introduced at the last regular meeting and would allow for the hospitality tent to be held on the southwest corner of S. Pine River and W. Center Street during Fun Fest.

Mayor Palmer asked for other comments. None were offered.

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

Mayor Palmer closed the hearing at 7:24pm.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to adopt Ordinance Amendment Chapter 4 Alcoholic Liquor, Article I General, Section 4-2 Consumption in Public Places; Prohibitions. Councilperson Hollenbeck noted a problem with the change to the ordinance as it was changed for the IPC but Gratiot Agricultural Society was not allowed to hold its alcoholic event. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (5) Henderson, Koppleberger, Gruesbeck, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Absent: (1) Thomas

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Department Report (con't)

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the quarter activity of the Fire and Rescue Department. The departments finished the year with the normal status quo for runs.

Councilperson Schafer commented on the mutual aid performed by the departments. Chief Nelson confirmed her comments and said the manpower during the day is low in all of the communities and so they all help each other. The County Patrol units also aide as the State Police are often out of the area.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer said the Council previously approved the hiring of two EMT positions. The Chief noted that the positions should be for medical personnel which allow the hiring of lesser medical certifications such as MFRs, etc. and needs to be clarified.

Moved by Schafer, second by Hollenbeck to allow for the advertisement for two medical personnel for the Fire-Rescue Department. Motion carried.

Management Report

City Manager Cousins reported that the streetscape project is progressing smoothly. He informed Council that with the authorized \$5,000 he will work to keep the cost down and keep the project looking good. The curbs and some sidewalk was poured today and the business owners have been very cooperative. The contractors are providing safe means for customer access to each business. The Farmers Market will remain in the current location until Fun Fest, the space will be a little smaller but it will work.

He reported the DDA met and talked about cleaning up the hardware and adding some artwork in the windows to make it more appealing and saleable. He informed Council he is continuing to visit businesses on Center Street and the Industrial businesses. Binracks Company got into a construction bind and that is the reason for the outside storage. They assure they will have it taken care of in the short term. Manager Cousins reported he met with Randy Shaw and is making progress but does not have anything in writing and several grass letters were sent out in the last two weeks and other complaints are being received, so he will need the Code Enforcement Committee to meet to set a plan in place on how the Council wants to handle them.

Manager Cousins reported the City received a notice of the MSHDA Home Owner Rehabilitation Grant for \$243,900, however it has stipulations, one being that a third party administrator for the program must be secured, which means the City will not receive any revenue. Currently staff is working on the details. He reported that he is working with Jennifer Reed on the rental inspections and Jennifer has met with neighboring communities to get her up to speed. Letters will be sent next week to start the rental process in full.

Manager Cousins stated he has only been here a short time and the newspaper articles are positive and say how good he is doing, but wants the Council to know that without the office staff and DPW crew, he couldn't do it. This staff is by far the best staff he has ever worked with.

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

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2014-19 to change the parking on the South side of Newark Street.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2014-19 Approving Street Parking Change. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the Auditing Services proposal for consideration.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to approve the Auditing Services of Roslund Prestage and Company, PC for three years at a cost of \$11,100 for 2014, \$11,400 for 2015 and \$11,700 for 2016. Councilperson Hollenbeck stated we should always open it for bid despite the City Purchasing Policy. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer requested the appointment of the MERS Officer Delegates for the annual meeting.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to appoint Barb Fandell as the Officer Delegate and Bob Studt as the Officer Alternate Delegate to the MERS Annual Meeting. Motion Carried.

Clerk-Fandell presented the MML Workers Compensation Fund Board of Trustees candidates for election.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to cast the ballot for the MML Workers Compensation Fund board of Trustees for Christine Burns, Frank Campbell and Elva Mills. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer inquired about the DPW working on the flower beds and the Arcada side of the home on the corner of Arcada and North Pine River. Mayor Palmer said there was an issue with the sprinkling system and it has been repaired, and the crew was taking care of a tree that was in the City right of way on the corner.

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 #40768-40819, Trust & Agency Check #3879 and Payroll Checks 12729--12753, DD458-DD466, EFT267-EFT272 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Jill Gilbert said the Fair Board is looking for grants to fix up the barns and would like direction on where to look. The fair board plans to solicit funds from the larger stores in the area.

Aaron Hale thanked the Council on behalf of the Ithaca Promotional Committee for its action on the alcohol ordinance. This will give a lot of positive reinforcement to the community to make a successful event. He further stated that he supports Councilperson Hollenbeck's concerns on the issue.

Mayor Palmer set the following committee meetings:

Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee on 7/22/14 at 4:00pm for code enforcement plan and police car.
Parks and Cemetery Committee on 7/22/14 at 5:30pm for GAS event proposal request for 9/20-22/14.

Mayor Palmer 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 7:58pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 5, 2014

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 gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and John Thomas. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent were Councilperson Brian Henderson and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark and Kyle McDonald.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Thomas to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 15, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee met to review and discuss code enforcement policies and procedures. There are no recommendations at this time.

Councilperson Hollenbeck reported the Cemetery and Parks Committee met to review a request from Gratiot Agricultural Society (GAS) to hold a 5K Color Run and Fall Festival event fundraiser. The run will require MDOT approval but he wasn't sure if that had been obtained. Mayor Palmer said Lt. McCollum had some changes to the route and approval had not yet been received. Clerk Fandell inquired on the committee notes that the haunted house was not insurable and that was also one the reasons Dracula's Dungeon had stopped.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Thomas to approve the Fall Festival events as submitted to the committee excluding the haunted house/barns due to insurance reasons and the 5K Color Run until an approved route is submitted. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met to review the building project bids. The bids have come in much higher than estimated. The Library has raised \$98,000 and the board was planning to use some fund equity, however the low bid was \$209,000. The staff is working with the architect on where the estimates went wrong and places for possible cuts or adjustments. The largest cut would be the lift, but removing it doesn't make the basement ADA compliant, but does meet fire code. The Board was presented with options to 1) Quit the project, 2) Leave the shaft and not install the lift, 3) Total rebid, 4) Work with the architect to scale down, cut or delay the project and 5) request use of the Caldwell Funds to go forward as bid. The Board feels this project would be appropriate use of the funds as it benefits the entire community and are looking for \$50,000.

City Manager Cousins added the bids were \$92,000+ over estimate and the library has committed \$55,000 of fund equity of the original project amount. Staff is still waiting on the changes and need to be careful that too many or the wrong changes keep it looking nice and will last. Councilperson Thomas asked what the Board had considered as a repayment plan. Discussion held on granting of funds vs. loan.

Mayor Palmer asked Steve Clark of Rowe, how the bid estimates could be that far off, acknowledging it was not Rowe's project. Mr. Clark stated it is a volatile market and explained the estimate process for base bids. The late winter has caused everything to be off and late summer is the worst time to bid projects.

Kyle McDonald of Goudreau & Associates stated he should have revised numbers by the end of the week and was working on some options for the lift.

The Council agreed to wait on financing action until after the election and the bid options were reviewed.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee would be meeting on August 26th as a work session to review the open positions in staffing.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported the West Center Street paving project was complete with some reseeding left to do. Steve Clark did a walk through last week and the total project came in under budget with the City's final cost being \$17,174.05. He gave an update on the DIG project and reported some of the stamped concrete was not meeting quality standards and would be pulled and replaced by the contractor. The completion date is still slated for September. Steve Clark added that there has been some challenges with unearthing issues, which is common in historic districts. Council discussed the sidewalk slopes and ADA compliance and design with the road. The barrier free access on the sidewalks was a large part of the award

of the DIG grant. Manager Cousins added that a real positive to the project is Rowe and Isabella Corp's quickness to fix any potential problem.

Manager Cousins informed Council that the MEDC cancelled the façade grant meeting due to reorganization at the State level. He said the Public Safety Committee reviewed the patrol cars and it is recommended to have the Sheriff sell the 2008 at an estimate \$3,200 and the 2011 at an estimate \$6,200 less selling costs. If so, the Sheriff would purchase a new car immediately and the City would begin leasing the cars at a monthly cost.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to authorize the Gratiot County Sheriff to sell of the 2008 Chevrolet Impala and the 2011 Chevrolet Impala at an estimated sale of \$3,200 and \$6,200 respectively less selling cost. Motion carried.

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

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer stated item 7(a) was discussed earlier and no action will be taken at this time.

Clerk-Fandell presented the letters of interest received for appointment consideration to the Downtown Development Authority.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to appoint to the Downtown Development Authority, Kimberly Hodge for the term ending June 30, 2017 and Shelly Betancourt for the term ending June 30, 2015. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer said she received complaints on the tree trimming and being over trimmed. Suggested Director Studt be made aware. Mayor Palmer added that it had been discussed. Councilperson Gruesbeck suggested a tree trimming training be provided. Members agreed.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppelerger 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 #40820-40882 and Payroll Checks #12754-12791, DD467-DD476, EFT273-EFT276 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer set the following Committee meetings:

- 8/26/14 at 5:00pm Personnel for review of staff vacancies and planning
- 8/7/14 at 6:30pm Public Safety/Code Enforcement for patrol cars and code enforcement planning
- 8/7/14 at 5:30pm Water/Sewer for review of the water and sewer rates
- 8/19/14 at 6:30pm Ways and Means for request to release a portion of a right of way

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 19, 2014
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 Schafer gave the invocation.

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 Interim City Manager Bill Cousins (by electronic means of FaceTime), City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, DPW Director Robert Studt and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Greg Nelson and Dave Weber.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 5, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee met regarding code enforcement procedures, to review the RV Ordinance and the Addendum to the police contract. The committee recommends introduction of the amended RV Ordinance, lifting the code enforcement ban and placing the manager's recommended policy in place, and approval of the addendum to the police contract.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to lift the ban on code enforcement and adopt the six-step procedures for code enforcement as presented by the City Manager. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck further reported the Senior Activity Board met and has submitted the list of nominees for election to the Board in the fall.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Schafer to approve the names of Mary Sullivan, Patricia Chadderdon and Marty Wieferrich as submitted by nominating committee to be placed on the ballot for the fall election to the Senior Activity Board. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Water/Sewer committee met to review the new water rates as there were a few problems with the new structure. The committee is recommending correcting the minimum fees as they actually came out lower than the current rates and also to look at a simple rate step structure for higher users. The committee recommends staff proceed with the rate study to be performed by Michigan Rural Water who will complete it at no charge.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library board held a Special Meeting on August 13th to review the project bids and meet with the architect on possible scope reductions and project overview. In addition, the board met prior to this meeting and are requesting \$75,000 be granted to the project from the Caldwell Fund. Councilperson Schafer met with Jack Ringle, brother-in-law for Bill Caldwell, and he stated he felt Bill would approve the use of the funds for this project as he was an avid reader and supporter of education. The board also felt a plaque recognizing the contribution would be appropriate. The board would like the \$75,000 as a grant and not a loan.

Councilpersons discussed and requested the Mayor send the request to committee for discussion with a decision for the next meeting. Director Root shared concerns as the bid needed to be awarded in order to meet the project deadlines. Manager Cousins agreed to the award as long as the Council would meet on the funding.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to award the bid for the Library Renovation project to Hardwood Hills at a base bid of \$181,004 and Alternate Bids #1 and #2 for \$26,849.00 for a combined total of \$207,853.00. Councilperson Koppleberger asked what would happen if the bid was awarded but the funding was not. Manager Cousins informed that the fund balance of the Library would be close to zero at the end of the fiscal year. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer added that the Board revised the bylaws to allow that one board member could be from a township or service area and that the library would be opening on Saturdays again. She further informed members that Director Root would be leaving at the end of June 2015 and they will need a new director. Mayor Palmer asked if the bylaws needed Council approval. Attorney Arnold would review the bylaws and Charter on the status of the Board member and bylaw approval.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Ways & Means Committee met to review a request from Joe Vozar to purchase a portion of right-of-way on the neighboring lot to build a garage. The lot has an electric line through it and would be difficult to build on, and they also reviewed a bill for sidewalk work at 419 S. Maple.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to allow the City Manager to negotiate the property sale for the lot on the corner of Union and Westwind and bring back to the Council for final approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to reimbursement Joel Miller for the sidewalk material at 419 S. Maple in the amount of \$178.19. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum reported on the July activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported Deputy Trevino was placed in the City and he has received compliments as to his and Deputy McBride's professionalism and service. He noted that the larcenies have a good suspect. He further reported that the 2011 patrol vehicle was in an accident and may be totaled. The deputy had not been interviewed by the Sheriff yet, but would be. Fun Fest events were calm and John Andrews was on bike patrol. Clerk Fandell noted the insurance would cover a rental patrol vehicle for up to twelve weeks if needed.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Ordinance Amendment

City Manager Cousins presented an amendment to the zoning ordinance Article 4, Section 4.33 for travel trailers, motor homes, recreational vehicles, etc. which if amended would allow for proper parking, storage and occupancy in the City.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to introduce Zoning Ordinance amendment Article 4, Section 4.33 Recreational Vehicles and Travel Trailers (Parking, Storage, Occupancy). Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to set a public hearing to take comment on amending the Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Section 4.33 for September 16, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported the water rate study is under way and set to be completed before the next quarter's billing. The current bills are expected to be paid as is, until the Council address them after the study is complete. He updated Council on Shaw's Auto Body and Binracks clean up, the streetscape project and a MDA seminar on business retention and new innovative ways to attract people to the downtown.

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

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer called for action on the agreement addendum for police services as recommended by committee.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to adopt the Addendum to the Agreement for Police Services between the City of Ithaca and Gratiot County Sheriff's Office.

Councilperson Henderson shared concerns on the \$50 per day vehicle use charge. Council asked for clarification or rewording of the charges.

Councilperson Thomas withdrew his motion, Councilperson Koppleberger withdrew the second on the motion. No action taken.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve entering into State Trunkline Maintenance Contract #2014-0346 with the Michigan Department of Transportation and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign on behalf of the City of Ithaca. Motion carried.

Clerk Fandell reported to the Council that no employees were interested in attending the MERS Annual Meeting when asked. Mike Allen, has since, shown interest and would like to attend. She was looking for approval for him to attend, however it is past the deadline for delegates, so he may not have voting rights. There was no objection.

The City Council was asked to select the stain for the Farmer's Market interior; chestnut was selected.

Mayor Palmer set a Ways and Means Committee meeting for Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 5:45pm for the purpose of reviewing the Library Board request for Caldwell Funds, park fees and the street's budget.

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 #40885-40932, Grant Program Checks #1039-1040 and Payroll Checks 12792-12809, DD477-DD483, EFT277-EFT282 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer 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 8:15pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 2, 2014
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 Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and John Thomas. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins (by electronic means of FaceTime) and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson L.D. Hollenbeck.

Audience in attendance was Steve Clark, Casey Zehner and Jill Gilbert.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 19, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Presentation

Steve Clark of the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway Group (MMCPG) presented the Council with a proposed new pathway which would run along US-127 from Ithaca to the Alma/St. Louis area. The proposed pathway, when fully completed, would connect the Pierre Marquette Trail in Clare to the Fred Meijer Trail in Alma to the Clinton Shiawassee Trail in St. Johns. The full pathway would create a loop as all of the current trails run back and forth with no looping. This would give cyclist and pedestrians another means to travel a complete path. The MMCPG is currently working on a portion of the trail in Shepherd to Mt. Pleasant and was successful in receiving MDOT fund in the amount of \$1.33M and secured \$134,000 from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for the design.

The MMCPG's proposal for the Ithaca/Alma/St. Louis pathway would be Phase II and would be constructed in conjunction with the repaving of US-127 and MDOT would become the applicant for the grant funding. The Park-N-Rides would be used as the trail heads and the pathway would run parallel to the highway on the east side inside the fence and in the right of way with the advantage of the rest area in between. MMCPG has been given estimates for design of \$150,000 which the group would need to raise in order to be eligible for the MDOT TAP grant in the amount of \$2,197,803. Since the project would be done in conjunction with the repaving, most of the survey work is already completed. The group is presenting to each community the pathway touches and reaching out to some private donors as well. The funds would need to be committed and plans submitted according to MDOT's timeline of late December/early January. The cost to each partnering community would be dependent on the number of participating entities. The MMCPG, tonight, is presenting the project and looking for interest consideration and possible decision within the next couple of weeks. To date, Alma, St. Louis and Gratiot County have seen the plan. Alma and the County have shown interest and St. Louis has interest, but is waiting to see who else is for funding.

Councilperson Schafer asked how the cost would be divided. Mr. Clark stated initial thoughts were equally as the pathway would be in the State Right of Way of all that participate.

Casey Zehner of Greater Gratiot Development presented GGDI's support of the project. The pathway would connect the communities, allow the County to be explored and attract more visitors, would open the US-127 corridor which would result in better regionalization.

Mayor Palmer will set a Ways & Means committee meeting to review funding options before the Council makes a decision.

Public Comments

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. Jill Gilbert of Gratiot Agricultural Society (GAS) reviewed the plans for the Fall Festival including the horse stall decorating, Deer Pole for youth, Haunted Barn, Pumpkin Chucking, Kids games in the exhibit barn, tractor pull, camping, calf scramble and 5K Color Run.

Mayor Palmer addressed Ms. Gilbert that the Council approved certain events and now there are new events added that were not previously approved, or had they received the route for the 5K and the haunted barns were not approved due to insurance reasons and the event is in two weeks.

Ms. Gilbert said the GAS insurance company will cover the haunted barn and said she didn't realize that everything needed to be listed for approval. A complete list was emailed to Manager Cousins. Manager Cousins received it late that day and was not able to review it. Mayor Palmer expressed that since the event is on city property, all events must be presented and approved as the City has the

responsibility for it. Discussion on the haunted barn and GAS is to make sure the City is named as an additional insured for a minimum of \$1M and the event named on the policy certificate. The City must be named for all events.

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to allow the City Manager to work with Gratiot Agricultural Society on the schedule, 5K Run route and proper insurance coverage for the September 19-21, 2014 event due to the shortness of time. Motion carried.

Deputy Brett Morell introduced himself to the City Council and is on the Ithaca Unit assignment. Mayor Palmer thanked him for his service to the community and for coming in.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to discuss hiring a permanent City Manager. The committee recommends advertising for the month of September, taking resumes until October 6, 2014 or until filled.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to advertise for the City Manager position during the month of September, taking resumes until October 6, 2014 or until the position is filled. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Ways and Means Committee met to review the Library Fund, park fees and street budgets. The Committee recommends 1) To give \$50,000 of the Caldwell Fund to the library renovation project and to make additional funds available on a loan basis subject to City Council approval and based on the pre-bid estimates; 2) To remove the hourly entire park fee rental rate from both parks and direct staff to resubmit additional park and community center fees for consideration; 3) to add the Arcada Street paving project and amend the budget to include it as it was inadvertently omitted from the budget numbers.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to transfer \$50,000 from the Caldwell Fund to the Library as a grant for the Library renovation project and to make additional funds available for the project on a loan basis subject to City Council approval, based on pre-bid estimates and repayment terms are restricted to the length of the current adopted millage. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to eliminate the hourly rental fee for the entire park from the McNabb and Woodland Park fees and direct staff to submit fee options for the parks and community center to the committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the Arcada Street Paving project and amend the budget at a estimated cost of \$29,000.00. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to review the library staff wage recommendations and the board is adding formal job descriptions. The Committee recommends a 2% increase for staff effective September 2, 2104 and to meet with the City Manager and Library Director when the job descriptions are completed for additional consideration. The Committee also is ready to start DPW Union negotiations.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to approve wage increase for the hourly library staff of 2% effective September 2, 2014. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported that BinRax has made a lot of improvements to the property and are still working on the situation. He reported that Downtown Auto and Hub Tire are both looking to expand their business and will be going in front of the Planning Commission next week. It is a good sign that the commercial businesses are showing growth. He reported that he is working with the high school on doing some artwork to put in the hardware building for better appeal to downtown visitors while it is for sale. He updated the Council on the DIG project, the police agreement addendum, the library addition construction, Center Street watermain project bids and that he has started to enforce the zoning code as approved by the Council.

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

New/Old Business

Manager Cousins presented a Change Order #1 for the DIG Grant Contract #2 Farmers Market. The change order is an increase of \$2,469.34 and came when the contractor was digging the footings for the piers and hit debris where the old hotel was which required additional work to fill in order to meet the testing requirements of the engineer. The original 42" hole was 6-7 feet deep.

Move by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve Change Order #1 for the DIG project Contract #2 Farmers Market in the amount of \$2,469.34. Motion carried.

Steve Clark of Rowe Professional Services addressed the Council on the Center Street Watermain bids. The original estimate was \$176,000 and with the volatile bid market, the firm did a re-estimate during the bid process and it was re-estimated at \$255,000. An analysis of the project shows that the City could save \$35,000 by stopping the main short at the Tractor Supply. Councilperson Thomas asked if the main were stopped short,

was there an estimated cost of what it would cost to install it later. Mr. Clark said he couldn't estimate it, but it could be a break even and the line does need to be run to service the Ag Industrial Park.

Mr. Clark said Rowe is recommending the award of the bid to Gustafson HDD, the low bidder. Their references were positive. Manager Cousins agreed and said that completion of the line would fulfill the 425 commitment by adding infrastructure, fulfill our commitment to TSC, the fund has adequate funds, the bid is close to the engineer's estimate, it will commit the North Star 425 properties to connect to municipal water when developed and finally the Emerson 425 Agreement has a provision that the millage collected can be used to recoup the infrastructure costs. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the estimated millage which could be applied would be about \$900 for 2014 and about \$3,800 in 2015.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to award the Center Street Watermain project to Gustafson HDD in the amount of \$262,800.00 and authorize the Clerk and Mayor to sign the contracts. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins presented the Police Agreement Addendum for approval. If both of the city vehicles are down, the city will be able to rent a car from the County. The City will lease the vehicles long term.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to approve the Addendum to the Police Services Agreement between the City of Ithaca and Gratiot County Sheriff's Department. Motion carried.

Clerk Fandell stated the correspondence from Attorney Arnold was provided regarding the status of the change to the Library Bylaws and the change that one member of the Board can come from the service area of the Library and does not have to be a resident of the City. Attorney Arnold shared that he had not researched if the bylaws required Council approval, however acceptance would be appropriate acknowledgement.

Moved by Henderson, second by Gruesbeck to accept the revised Bylaws of the Thompson Home Public Library Board. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer set a Ways and Means Committee meeting for September 16, 2014 at 6:00pm to discuss funding options for the pathway presented by MMCPG.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second Kopleberger 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 #40933-40973, Grant Program Checks #1041-1042 and Payroll Checks 12810-12826, DD484-DD490, EFT283-EFT286 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for 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 Kopleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 2014
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 gave the invocation.

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 Interim City Manager Bill Cousins (by electronic means of FaceTime), City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Mike Mates and Steve Taylor.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 2, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Mike Mates addressed the Council on a drainage issue at M&M Storage on the corner of Industrial Parkway and East Center Street. He stated the two catch basins need to be replaced as they are 24" deep and needs to be deeper. His original plan called for the construction of two buildings; one has been built, however the second cannot be until there are changes to the storm sewer. The former City Manager approached with a cost sharing at a cost around \$11,000 but he doesn't feel he should have to share the cost as he is a tax payer.

Mayor Palmer said the issue was discussed at the Planning Commission, however the Planning Commission could not make a decision on basin work as it does not have that authority. He informed Mr. Mates that he would send the matter to the Water/Sewer Committee for review which was scheduled to meet October 2, 2014 at 5:30pm.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Ways & Means Committee met to review the Library budget and recommends amendments due to the project change, millage passing and Caldwell Fund transfer. The Committee also reviewed the request of Mid-Michigan Pathways Group to join in approving and funding the highway pathway project from Ithaca to Alma/St. Louis. The Committee recommends letting the group know there is interest in participating in the project, but we need to know who has committed before committing any finances.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to amend the Library budget revenues to the amount of \$253,458.33 and the expenditures to the amount of 343,980.00 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to express the City's interest in participating in the US-127 Pathway project to the Mid-Michigan Pathway Group with financial commitment to be determined pending the verification of other participants. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to review the job descriptions for Library personnel and pay scale associated with them as presented by the Library Board. The committee recommends approval as presented.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the job descriptions for Library personnel and pay scale effective September 29, 2014. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met to review the budget, job descriptions and wage scale and will be working on a description for the Library Director position. The building project is under way and the first payment is included in the bills.

Public Hearing

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to enter into the public hearing to take comment on Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 40 Zoning, Article 4, Section 4.33 Travel Trailers (Parking, Storage and Occupancy). Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the hearing at 7:15pm.

City Manager Cousins reviewed the proposed amendment, which if adopted would relax the requirements by allowing them to be in the front yard if on a pad, gravel, etc. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked about corner lots as he has a fifth wheel trailer on the lot behind his house parked by his barn. City Manager Cousins said they would be treated as two front yards.

Steve Taylor of 718 E. Emerson stated he had concern as he also is on a corner lot. He asked if parked in the back, did it have to be on a hard surface, or if on a rear or side yard being on the grass is okay. Council clarified that that was correct. He then stated is side yard on Nelson Street, according to the amendment, would be treated like a front yard so he would not be in compliance. Attorney Arnold said it seems correct but he would like to see it to make a final determination. City Manager Cousins said if it wasn't allowed under the old ordinance, it would not be allowed under the new.

Mr. Taylor said the overhead wires on the other side of the house restricts him from parking there and so he has to park on the Nelson Street side.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional public comment. None was offered.

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

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:26pm.

Councilperson Thomas suggested holding off on action on the ordinance amendment until further research which developed in the public hearing were addressed.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum reported on the August activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported the 2008 patrol car was in the process of being sold and gave an overview of the calls handled for the month. He reported the officers spent a lot of time at the school during the first week to alleviate and deter any issues and they also are present on Friday nights at the conclusion of the football games to help with traffic control. The new car is in service and the 2013 wiring issue has been repaired.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported on the Gratiot Ag Society's Fall Festival. The 5K run route has been approved, the haunted house is not approved at this point due to lack of insurance and inspections and the camping permit will not be received until Friday when the Health Department performs the inspection. He reported the AT&T Tower lease agreement is being sent to the Water/Sewer Committee and the city attorney for review, the MSHDA Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant RFP for Third Party Administrators resulted in one being received, the library project is moving ahead and a contractor has been lined up to give an estimate on finishing the basement. He updated Council on the code enforcement procedures and the storm water issues are still part of the SAW grant application, but without a public/private partnership, there is not much the city can do.

Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if G.A.S. had been notified of the insurance issue for Fall Festival. Manager Cousins stated they had.

Councilperson Schafer inquired on the B&B clean up. Manager Cousins said they are working on the cleanup per the standards and requirements of the MDEQ.

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

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer called for action on the MSHDA Homeowner Rehabilitation Program Third Party Administrator.

City Manager Cousins said one RFP was received from Rose Hubbard with Gratiot County. Councilperson Gruesbeck shared concern that the application is written as it is her applying as an individual. Councilperson Schafer shared his concern as her personal information was used and not the County's. Councilperson Thomas shared that it would be important to name the County for insurance protection.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to name the County of Gratiot as the Third Party Administrator for the MSHDA Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins will have that discussion with her before finalizing a contract.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the contract modification for the Center Street Resurfacing Project for Council consideration and request the authorization to send the letter of acceptance to close the project.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppkeberger to approve the contract modification for the Center Street Resurfacing project in the reduction amount of \$8,264.14 and authorize the City Clerk to send the Letter of Acceptance to close the project. Motion carried.

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 #40977-41029, Water-Sewer Bond Debt Retirement Check #1034 and Payroll Checks 12827-12844, DD491-DD497, EFT287-EFT292 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

City Manager Cousins informed Council the house fire was heavy damage to the kitchen. No people or firefighters were injured, however three pets were lost.

Mayor Palmer 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 7:48pm.

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 7, 2014
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 Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, L.D. Hollenbeck, Alice Schafer and John Thomas. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins and Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Audience in attendance was James Tilton, Sam Palmer, Virginia Pfeifle, Beth Stephan, Richard Heathcock, Wilbur Rykert, Brook Daniels and George Bailey.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 16, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

James Tilton owner of Ithaca Physical Therapy presented council with pictures of flooding on his business property located at 203 Dilts Road. Twice this year there have been heavy rainfalls which has caused the current storm drains to become overwhelmed and flooding has become a big issue. Mr. Tilton expressed his concern that the matter be resolved before spring. Mr. Tilton offered two options to resolve the water issue; to have the City create a spill way starting at the south end of his property going south along Dilts Road or create a spill way starting at the south end of his property going east. Both of these options would then drain into the County Drain #33. Mr. Tilton has installed his own drain tile to prevent the water from entering his building. Councilperson Thomas ask if he has spoken with the Drain Commissioner, Brian Denman. Mr. Tilton informed council that he has spoken with Mr. Denman without a resolution. Mayor Palmer stated that Manager Cousins will speak with Mr. Denman regarding this situation and get back with him.

Commissioner Bailey advised council stating that the County Commissioners did not take action at their meeting tonight regarding the lease agreement between the MSU extension office and the City of Ithaca. The County would like to discuss moving a wall and a doorway at the County's expense.

Brook Daniels addressed Council regarding the horse barns and repairs that still need to be made. Mayor Palmer informed Mr. Daniels that the condition of the Bigelow barn and any repairs that need to be made will be addressed by Manager Cousins for further action.

Virginia Pfeifle addressed council on behalf of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Mrs. Pfeifle expressed her displeasure with the clothing collection bins that are around town; there are bags of clothing laying around on the ground and informed council that the company that owns the collections bins is a for profit company that does not even distribute the clothing within the Mid-Michigan area. Mrs. Pfeifle informed Council that the Church has been taking donations of clothing and household items to distribute to those in need within our own community for many years as a nonprofit organization. Mayor Palmer stated that the Public Safety Committee would meet to review this situation under the code ordinance and would advise her when the meeting will take place so she can attend if she would like to. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated that the City of Alma just passed an ordinance regarding the collections bins. Manager Cousins replied that he already has a copy of that ordinance to review.

Sam Palmer expressed his concern over a neighboring rental house located at 114 E Newark Street. The current renter has six dogs that bark quite often. The renter is also shooting a pistol bb gun at squirrels in the back yard and ask what the ordinance was on bb guns within the City. Councilperson Thomas stated that the gun issue should be handled by the Sherriff's Department. Councilperson Schaffer inquired if having six dogs in a rental was against the current ordinance. Mayor Palmer advised that this would be a topic for discussion at the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Water/Sewer Committee had meet to discuss several items.

First item was regarding a request from owner Nancy Buccilli of 129 E Center Street to have relief from the amount of the high water bill due to broken pipe in the basement at this location. Councilperson Schafer stated that the recommendation of the committee was to not offer relief or adjustments on that bill.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to not offer relief on the water bill at 129 E Center Street. Motion carried.

Second item was regarding a storm water issue at 215 N Main Street by owner Carol Hannig. Councilperson Schafer reported that Mrs. Hannig along with her engineer Larry Protasiewicz from Spicer Engineering came to the committee meeting and presented a video of the water issue and Mr. Protasiewicz presented some

solutions; which would be at the cost of the City. Councilperson Schafer informed Council that a county drain does go under this house, however Drain Commissioner, Brian Denman denies it is a county drain issue. Manager Cousins suggested one option was to use money from the SAW grant for an investigation; however this grant has not been awarded to the City and if so money would not be received until sometime in 2016. Manager Cousins stated that administration will review the issue with possible solutions and costs.

Third item was regarding a storm water issue at 125 N Industrial Parkway by owner Mike Mates. Councilperson Schafer reported that Mr. Mates had been to a Planning Commission meeting previously and the minutes of that meeting state that Mr. Mates would have to take his site plan to the Drain Commissioner Brian Denman for review and approval. Manager Cousins will discuss this issue with Mr. Denman.

Fourth item was regarding with amendment with AT&T to add four more antennas to the east water tower. Councilperson Schafer stated that this would increase the monthly payment by \$311 for the lease.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to enter into the Third Amendment to Site Lease with AT&T and authorize City Manager Cousins or Mayor Palmer to sign the contract. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer informed council that discussion was held on the water/sewer rates. Councilperson Schafer stated that Rural Water would be unable to complete a water study until January 1, 2015. City Manager Cousins proposes that an adjustment be made to meet the intended rate increase of 1% for a minimum bill when passed last spring. Manager Cousins also proposed that water users that exceed 500,000 gallons in a quarter receive a \$1 reduction on both the water and sewer rates per 1,000 gallon. These rates would be effective for the new billing of October 24, 2014.

Councilperson Schafer reported that a request from Grace Vanderbeek for payment on a buffer zone for well #3 had been received. Councilperson Schafer informed Council that in September of 2012 Mrs. Vanderbeek had received a letter from the Manager stating compensation could be made to her for lost agricultural production for that acreage. Councilperson Schafer stated that the committee recommends to authorize the City Manager to make payment based on the rent per acre to the landowner. City Manager Cousins suggested that Council allow him to propose a lease with Mrs. Vanderbeek to be brought before Council for approval.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to authorize Manager Cousins to enter into lease agreement negotiations with property owner, Grace Vanderbeek and bring back the lease to Council for approval. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer stated that DPW Director Bob Studt was in attendance at the committee meeting and reported that the wells had been tested with well #3 being favorable for high capacity. City Manager Cousins stated that by drilling deeper into well #3 would be an option and that further testing is being done before a recommendation is made.

Councilperson Schafer inquired on a policy for delinquent water accounts not being shut off if it is a business user. Councilperson Schafer stated that all accounts should be processed that same and the policy enforced for shutting off delinquent accounts with proper notice.

City Manager Report

Manager Cousins reported that the City is negotiating a lease with the County for use of the police department. Fire Chief has had the latest version of the International Fire Code reviewed by the City Attorney. City Manager Cousins informed council that BinRax has not made progress since the last visit on October 2, since then a letter has been sent to them with a deadline of October 13 to have the property fully in compliance with the zoning ordinance or the City would be taking court action. Manager Cousins updated council on the search for a permanent manager. The Gratiot Agricultural Society has submitted the proposed dates of June 20-29, 2015 for the Fair. He informed council that the MEDC and MSHDA representatives were at City Hall for a meeting to discuss façade grants and rental rehab grants; which thirteen business owner came to the meeting, it was very informative. Manager Cousins reported that the Hardware building and the building directly east of it have been sold and that the new owner of both properties was in attendance at the meeting.

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

New/Old Business

Manager Cousins requested Council to accept the MSHDA grant of \$243,900 for Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired as to the City's part of the grant and the cost share. City Manager Cousins stated that the City would be administering the grant and would receive approximately 6% of the grant for the administration costs.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to accept the MSHDA CDBG Grant Agreement for Homeowner Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$243,900. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins stated that authorization is requested for Mayor Palmer and Clerk-Treasurer Fandell to be authorized signers for the grant.

Moved by Schafer, seconded by Henderson to authorize Mayor Palmer and Clerk-Treasurer Fandell as Grant Authorized Signature Designation for the MSHDA CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins stated that the MSHDA Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant administrator is listed as the Mayor and would be easier for the day to day operation and response for the grant administrator to be the City Manager. This change can be done by passing Resolution 2014-22.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2014-21: MSHDA Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant Administrator Designation. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins stated MSHDA Homeowner Rehab Program requires that a trained person work along with the homeowners, getting agreements signed and placing a lien on the home. Under this grant the homeowner would have a lien placed against their home so if the house is sold within 5 years, the lien would be in place to reimburse MSHDA; and after 5 years of ownership the lien would go away. A coordinator is essential to the process of this program and MSHDA requires an individual be trained especially for this program. Currently that locally trained person is Rose Hubbard from the County. The contract would be with Gratiot County with Rose Hubbard being listed as the third party administrator. Councilperson Schafer inquired on the lien being forgiven after 5 years or if the lien was to stay on the house until it was sold by the owner who received the assistance. It was her understanding the lien would stay on the house until the house was sold then the lien would come back to the City as a revolving fund. Discussion was held. Manager Cousins stated that he would verify the process and rules regarding the liens.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to enter into a contract with Gratiot County for a third party administrator for the MSHDA CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant Program. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2014-22 amending the water and sewer rates. Manager Cousins informed Council of his proposal to change the rates so a minimum bill was \$16.50 for water and \$18.00 for sewer; along with a reduced rate for large users over 500,000 gallons. Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired why the rates were being reduced. Manager Cousins explained that the larger users were being billed at a much higher amount than what was anticipated with the rate change that Council approved back in the spring, so this change would make the percentage of increase more in line with what was intended at the time. Councilperson Henderson commented that once the full water study is completed by Rural Water, they will advise Council on what the rates should be. Manager Cousins agreed that this change is only for one or two billing cycles; until the rate study is complete as the rates may change again based on Rural Water advise.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-22: Amending Water and Sewer Rates. Roll call vote:

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

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the Property Lease Agreement between the City and Gratiot County for space at 122 North Maple. Councilperson Thomas stated this matter should be deferred back to the County Administrator and the City Manager to be brought back to Council at the next meeting.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to defer this matter back to the Manager for discussion with the County Administrator and bring back to Council. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins presented the contract modification for Center Street Resurfacing Project. This modification is a reduction in the contract of \$343.37 which was discovered during the project audit.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the contract modification for the Center Street Resurfacing Project in a reduction amount of \$343.37. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins presented the nominations for the MML Board of Directors.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to endorse the nomination of three people listed on the ballot to the MML Liability and Property Pool: Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer advised Council that Paul Showers has submitted a resignation letter from the Fire Department after 45 years of service.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to accept with regret the resignation of Paul Showers from the Fire Department and thank him for his service to the community.

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2014-20: Amending Zoning Ordinance. Manager Cousins updated Council on the RV's that are currently in violation and what it would take to make them in compliance. Mayor Palmer suggested that houses on corner lots should be described as the front yard only means the front of the house. Manager Cousins stated that in the resolution Section 4-33 letter c. reads as *Corner lots* defines corner lots shall apply to both yards fronting on each street. Discussion was held. Manager Cousins stated that in other parts of City ordinances a front yard is defined as the yard that faces the street, so that is why letter c. refers to corner lots as both yards fronting the street. Letter c., could be changed to define this section of the ordinance to state that the regulation of this section applies to the traditional front yard of the house. Manager

Cousins defined a “traditional front” yard as the location is which a person who has never been to your house before and can clearly see what door to approach and knock on.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to adopt Resolution 2014-20: Amending Zoning Ordinance Chapter 40 Zoning, Article 4: Section 4.33 Travel Trailers with a correction of letter *c*; *Corner lots* shall apply to the traditional front yard. Roll call vote:

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

Nays: (1) Hollenbeck

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second Koppleberger 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 #41030-41089, Grant Program Checks #1043-1044, Water Bond Check #1035 and Payroll Checks 12845-12873, DD498-DD507, EFT293-EFT299 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for any additional business to come before the City Council. Mayor Palmer stated that the Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 14th at 4:30 p.m. and the Public Safety Committee is scheduled to meet at after that at 5:15 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Cathy Cameron, Deputy Clerk

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2014
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 Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer, John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Fire Chief Dave Nelson and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Absent was Councilperson Brian Henderson.

Audience in attendance were Richard Heathcock, Scott Nevins, Courtney Crumbaugh, Marissa Piper, Jasmyn Dailey, Hannah Bouchey and Joseph D. Fail Engineering.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 7, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met and selected four candidates for the City Manager position to interview by telephone and discussed the Christmas Holiday closings for City Hall.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to close the afternoon of December 24th and all day December 25th and 26th. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met again to conduct the first round of City Manager interviews but have no recommendations at this time. Another meeting will be set to interview candidates in person that proceed to the next round.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Ways and Means Committee met on the US-127 Pathway project and funding participation. The City of Alma, City of St. Louis, Emerson Township, Gratiot County Parks and Recreation and Dick Allen/Bon Accord Farms have all committed to the project both in support and financially. The Mid-Michigan Pathway Group will be writing grants to the Gratiot Community Foundation and DALMAC to help with the cost, the Gratiot County Parks have offered to be the fiduciary of the funds. The Committee recommends using \$40,000 of the Caldwell funds to put toward the project as Ithaca will be a trail head. The Committee feels it meets the requirements of the fund as Bill Caldwell was an avid biker and it will be used by many to benefit Ithaca.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to commit \$40,000 to the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway project with funds coming from the Caldwell Fund, not to be repaid and amend the budget to reflect the expenditure. Motion carried.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to adopt Resolution 2014-23 Support for Development of the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee met to review the adoption of a Fire Code, the Fire Officer appointments, clothes collection bins and the Dog ordinance. The Committee recommends adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code, reappointment of Dave Weber as Fire Lieutenant, maintaining the current participation level for Fire and Rescue personnel and not increase. The Committee has asked staff to work on ordinances for the other items and bring back for further review.

Moved by Schafer, second by Hollenbeck to appoint Dave Weber as Fire Lieutenant. Motion carried.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to maintain the minimum attendance levels for Fire and Rescue personnel at 40% call/ 70% meetings) and not increase for 2015 as requested by Fire Chief Nelson. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and the contractor attended the meeting and gave an update on the project. The Board is reviewing the Director's job description and has hired IT Right as its contractor for the library's IT work. The Library has had twenty+ patrons on Saturdays so it will continue the Saturday hours. Holiday closings for the library will be November 27th, 28th and 29th; December 24th, 25th and 31st and January 1st.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum reported on the September activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported the new car was in service and traffic stops and tickets were down. The unit will have two cars on during football games for traffic control and reported that with the help of Clerk Fandell, five body video cameras were able to be purchased with grant funds. Each full time officer will be issued one and the other two will be shared by the Unit's part-time officers. He further reported the new signs deterring trailers from the downtown mall area are working.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the quarter activity of the Fire and Rescue Departments. In addition to the normal runs, the departments have assisted in the Fun Fest activities and cleanup and football standbys. He reported the department had to

complete an audit for the ISO rating, which is currently at a 6. Once the audit is received back he will review what it would take to try to achieve the next rating level. Chief Nelson further reported that six members attended the Memorial Service in Roscommon at which Gordon Larry was honored.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Schafer to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

Ordinance Amendment

Mayor Palmer presented Code of Ordinance Amendment for Chapter 16 Fire Prevention Protection to amend and adopt the International Fire Code as recommended by the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to introduce Code of Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 16 Fire Prevention Protection, Article III Fire Code, Sections 16-61 through 16-67. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to set a public hearing to take comment on the Code of Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 16 Fire Prevention Protection, Article III Fire Code, Sections 16-61 through 16-67 for November 18, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported the DPW had been working on storm water issues and have made some repairs to the system on Emerson and N. Main which should help the area's issues. He and Bob have met with Drain Commissioner Denman on the Mates and Tilton problem areas and are working on some resolution options. He reported the DPW has removed the two bunk houses and will be starting to tear down the barn in McNabb Park. Manager Cousins said he received a request from the current contractor for mowing services of the park and cemetery. Mr. Searles has offered to maintain the current contract rate if the contract would be extended for next year. The staff is very satisfied with his work.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to extend the mowing service contract with Searles Lawn Care with no increase in rate. Motion carried.

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

New/Old Business

City Manager Cousins presented Change Order #2 on the Farmer's Market Pavilion. The contractor, Hardwood Hills, has requested a time extension of 37 days due to weather and material delivery delays. Councilperson Schafer inquired how it would affect the grant and if we really had a choice. Manager Cousins said there will be no extension on the grant, however it was made clear to the contractor that all paperwork had to be submitted within one week after the job is completed. The City could deny the Change Order and apply the penalty terms.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to approve Change Order #2 on Contract #2 Farmer's Market Pavilion for the extension of the completion date from October 1, 2104 to November 7, 2014. Motion carried.

Manager Cousins presented the Planning Commission's recommendation for the issuance of a Special Use Permit to Scott Nevins of Downtown Auto Service, Inc. for an addition to the building at 110 W. Newark Street. The permit requires Council approval as it is in the Downtown District.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to approve the Special Use Permit to Scott Nevins to put an addition on to the building located at 110 W. Newark Street as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

City Manager Cousins received an application for a METRO ACT Permit to run fiber cable throughout the City from Crystal Automation Systems, Inc dba Casair, Inc. The permit application provides the City with the assurances on insurance, maps, project scope and design, location and all pertinent information. Mayor Palmer invited audience member Damian Smith from the engineering firm to speak on the project. Mr. Smith stated they would be placing conduit with fiber optic pulled through and bored all through the city, except in areas where there is a road with utilities. It will take a month, with cleanup to complete and all property will be restored to its current condition or better. Double K Underground from Six Lakes is the contractor and the engineering firm will have an inspector on site monitoring the project. Councilperson Schafer requested that the homeowners be notified prior to the work being done. Mr. Smith acknowledged that her request would be fulfilled.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to approve the METRO ACT Permit for Crystal Automation Systems Inc. dba Casair, Inc. Motion carried.

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 #41092-41138, Payroll Checks 12887-12922, DD515-DD523, EFT304-EFT307 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. The Ithaca High School Government class students introduced themselves. Mayor Palmer thanked them for coming.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 4, 2014

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 Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Morgan Baublitz, Cierra Hessbrook, Taylor Evon, Richard Heathcock, Alese Evon and Darin Evon.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 21, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met as did the Committee of the Whole to select and interview City Manager candidates. The in-person interviews were held on November 3rd and Eric Dodson is the lead candidate at this time. The background check is currently being done. Thomas reported the Committee also reviewed Department Head salaries and recommend two increases.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to increase the wage of the DPW Director and City Clerk-Treasurer to \$57,700.00 effective November 10, 2014. Motion carried.

Councilperson Henderson asked for an Equipment Committee meeting to review a snow plowing equipment request.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported on the construction projects and the Center Street Watermain project was complete, MSU Extension would not be leasing our building as they are going to Alma in a larger space. He informed Council he was thinking about adding a temporary employee to help during leaf pickup or adding overtime as DPW is down two employees.

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

New/Old Business

There was no new or old business.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second 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 #41140-41181, Grant Program Check #1051 and Payroll Checks 12923-12939, DD524-DD530, EFT308-EFT312 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments and introductions from the High School Government students in attendance.

Mayor Palmer set the following Committee meetings:

Technology: Tuesday 11/11/14 at 4:00pm

Public Safety/Code Enforcement: Tuesday 11/11/14 at 4:30pm

Equipment Committee (Time and Date to be determined pending information receipt)

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2014
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 gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer, John Thomas, Brian Henderson, and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins, Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron, DPW Director Bob Studt and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Audience in attendance were Courtney and Jordan Wheeler, Neil Rankin, Bob Mephram, and Rowe Engineer Steve Clark.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 4, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Bob Mephram addressed Council on a sewer problem he had this summer at 608 S. Ithaca Street; regarding whether he as the owner or the City was responsible for the issue. Mr. Mephram had agreed with the City to split the cost of the bill to Butcher Excavating. Mayor Palmer suggested that Mr. Mephram meet with Manager Cousins to discuss the issue further.

Courtney Wheeler addressed Council on her request for a Variance and Special Use Permit that was filed with City Hall to operate a day care facility at 310 N Main Street. Mrs. Wheeler requested that the process to obtain the permit be accelerated because her current license with the State of Michigan would be expiring on December 21 and she would like to begin operation at this new address before that date. Mayor Palmer stated that the process is set to allow for public notices to be published and allow time for residents to respond at a public hearing before the Planning Commission at a scheduled meeting. Manager Cousins stated that because this request requires a Special Use Permit; the Planning Commission receives the request and sets a public hearing and our Ordinance requires that meeting to be the next month. Manager Cousins will contact the Planning Commission in regards to having a special meeting soon which would assist in meeting all timeline requirements and deadlines dates; he will be in contact with Mrs. Wheeler with further updates.

Awards Presentation

Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association will reschedule due to inclement weather.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported that the Technology Committee met to discuss hardware and network issues for the Fire Department and review a quote from I.T. Right for service and support. The Committee recommends to procure the network hardware and software necessary to upgrade to connect the Fire & Rescue building to the network with the expense of \$4,400 to be split between the Fire & Rescue budgets.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to proceed with the upgrades to hardware and software for network upgrades to the Fire & Rescue building in the amount of \$4,500 to be split between Fire & Rescue budget. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported that the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee meet to discuss the dog ordinance and code enforcement issues. The Committee recommends to adopt the revised version of the Dog Ordinance. The Committee recommends adopt the Donation Box Ordinance.

Councilperson Henderson reported that the Equipment Committee met to discuss the need for new snow removal equipment for the new streetscape project; as the current equipment used is too wide for plowing on the new sidewalks. The Committee recommends trading in an old tractor and lawn mower towards a tractor with a snow blower and use the money that was budgeted for a new pickup replacement to next year's budget.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to trade in an old tractor and lawn mower and purchase a new tractor with snow blower in the amount of \$21,000. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported that the Personnel Committee met to review the City Manager search. Councilperson Thomas stated that another application was received and the Committee will set up an interview with new candidate for this week.

Councilperson Schafer reported that the Library Board met and that they have purchased three new computers, one for public use and two for the office staff. The Library Service Contract was presented with recommendation from the Library Board to approve the contract which is between local area Libraries and the County.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to approve the Library Services Contract with the County and request Mayor Palmer be the signer of the Contract. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Mayor Palmer reported that Lt. Roy McCollum was unable to be here tonight with the approval from the Mayor.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to receive the Ithaca Unit report as submitted. Motion carried.

Ordinance Amendment

Mayor Palmer stated that it was time for the public hearing for the Code of Ordinance Amendment for Chapter 16 Fire Prevention Protection Article III.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to enter into a public hearing. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Nelson addressed Council that this is an update to the 2012 Code of Ordinance.

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

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to adopt the Code of Ordinance Amendment for Chapter 16 Fire Prevention Protection, Article III Fire Code, and Sections 16-61 through 16-67. Roll call vote:

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

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented Chapter 6 Animals, Article II Dogs, Section 6-32 and 6-34 and requested a public hearing date and time be set.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to introduce Chapter 6 Animals, Article II Dogs, and Section 6-32 and 6-34.

Motion carried. Mayor Palmer suggested the public hearing date be set for December 16, 2014.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to set the public hearing for Chapter 6 Animals, Article II Dogs, and Section 6-32 and 6-34 for December 16, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented Chapter 26 Peddlers and Solicitors, Article I In General Section 26-2 and requested a public hearing date and time be set.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to introduce Chapter 26 Peddlers and Solicitors, Article I In General Section 26-2 Donation Boxes. Mayor Palmer suggested the public hearing date be set for December 16, 2014.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to set the public hearing for Chapter 26 Peddlers and Solicitors, Article I In General Section 26-2 Donation Boxes for December 16, 2014 at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried.

City Manager Report

Manager Cousins reported on the local match for the Ithaca-Alma/St. Louis bike path and requested that Steve Clark update the Council. Mr. Clark stated that he had attended the County Commissioner meeting earlier today and had the following commitments to report; Gratiot County Park and Rec \$25,000; Gratiot County \$25,000, City of Ithaca \$40,000, City of St. Louis \$15,000, City of Alma \$15,000, Dick Allen \$1,000. The following money match commitments are still pending; Emerson Township \$7,000, Pine River Township \$10,000, Arcada Township \$10,000; bring the total to \$148,000 with the goal of \$150,000. A grant application has been submitted to the Gratiot County Community Foundation Grant for \$25,000 towards design or construction.

Manager Cousins reported on the code enforcement process and issues to abate properties that are cluttered with junk. Manager Cousins stated that it has been to meet with the property owner, send a follow up letter with time to clean it up, meet with the homeowner again, send another letter, then write a ticket. Then if the property owner still does not comply the City would be waiting longer for the court to schedule a hearing. It is not the Cities intent to write a ticket and have the property owner pay the court without cleaning up the junk. Manager Cousins reported that there is a section in City Ordinance that will allow the City to clean up the mess and bill the property owner for it, with the option of abating the cost to the property tax roll. Manager Cousins requested the approval from Council to enforce the Ordinance in this manner. Councilperson Schafer asked that if this situation was with a rental house would the property owner be advised as well as the renter. Manager Cousins replied that all code enforcement issues and correspondence are done with the property owner.

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

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented the Wellhead Protection Program and requested DPW Director Bob Studt update the Council. Director Studt informed Council that the Michigan DEQ requires the City to upgrade the Wellhead Protection Program that is currently used and is working with Michigan Rural Water on this with a cost of \$6,250 with a possible grant option to reimburse 50% of the expense. To receive the grant it requires the City to put a team together and meet quarterly which has already been done. Director Studt stated that he is taking the steps required to meet a July 1 deadline to receive the grant. Mayor Palmer reported that the expense is in the budget for this year and requires an approval and authorization for the City Manager or Clerk/Treasurer to sign the documents.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve and authorize Clerk/Treasurer Fandell to sign the DEQ Wellhead Protection Program Grant Contract between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Ithaca.

Councilperson Gruesbeck inquired on the necessity of the process and what protection is it to the City. Director Studt replied that there is a required perimeter around the wells that should be protected and some farmers have planted crops too close and this is all in effort to keep the drinking water safe. Communication with the property owners and farmers should resolve this issue.

Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the Standard Lighting Contract with Consumers Energy by Resolution 2014-24. Manager Cousins stated that this contract is for the removal of overhead lighting that is not metered and needs to be removed because of the new lighting on South Main and South Pine River Streets.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2014-24 and enter into contract with Consumers Energy for Standard Lighting. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the Dig Grant: Farmers Market and Sidewalk Improvement, Change Order #1 and the monetary reduction.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Thomas to accept Change Order #1 in the amount of \$27,964.87 for Dig Grant: Farmers Market and Sidewalk Improvement Project. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the Approval of Contract #1 Certificate of Substantial Completion/Authorization to Sign and request the City Manager to sign. Steve Clark informed Council that he has received an email from Isabella Corporation stating that they will do anything they have to, to restore the facade to its original condition. Some of the light pole bases have been installed by the electricians and will be completed soon. Mr. Clark stated that the project is substantially complete.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion Contract #1. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated that a Public Hearing date and time needs to be set for the DIG Grant Close Out.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to set the Public Hearing for the Dig Grant Close Out for December 2, 2014 at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

Director Studt reported that Rural Water is in this week doing the Water Rate Study and will report to Council when complete.

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 #41140-41245, Payroll Checks 12923-12593, DD531-DD537, EFT308-EFT316 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. The Ithaca High School Government class students introduced themselves. Mayor Palmer thanked them for coming.

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

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to receive the report from GAS & DDA. Motion carried.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Cathy Cameron, Deputy Clerk

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2014
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 Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Ken Morrow, Colton Morrow and Neil Rankin.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 18, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Water/Sewer Committee met regarding the storm water system and discussed ways to address fixing the expensive issues. Ithaca deals with City and County drains running through it. The committee also reviewed the test well drilling sites and Well #3 is the best producing well and has the best quality of water of all the sites. Director Studt is getting references on Peerless Environmental's work. The estimated cost is \$175K-\$200K and the City crew could do some of the work which would save approximately \$20,000. This would be budgeted for the 15-16 Fiscal Year. Manager Cousins added the new well would be about 25 feet east of the current West Well, 140 feet deeper and would produce year round with no down time in the summer months. The permit process will take about 9 months to obtain through the DEQ.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to proceed with drilling the new well in the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. Councilperson Hollenbeck asked if Mrs. Vanderbeek had been contacted. Manager Cousins stated she had, several times and when the well gets placed in service, the City would pay her \$1,000. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the committee reviewed the request from the resident of 608 S. Ithaca Street for additional reimbursement on the sewer line repair he incurred. The City originally paid half of the bill as part was due to the contractor boring the water line through the sewer line, however the house was not lived in and the line was plugged prior to that event. The Committee felt half of the payment was more than generous and recommends no further payment be issued.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson that no further payment be made for the sewer line repair at 608 S. Ithaca Street. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met to interview Tim Wolff for the City Manager position. Staff is still performing the background check so no action is required at this time. The Committee also met to begin negotiations with the DPW Union.

Department Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the financials for the quarter/fiscal year ending June 2014. A review of the reports and EVIP required reports was given. She reported that she and Deputy Cameron would also be part of the County Election Recount team for the two County Commissioner seats in question.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to receive and place on file the June ending financial reports. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to open the Public Hearing on the Downtown Infrastructure Grant (DIG) Farmers Market and Sidewalk Improvement Project grant close out. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:15pm.

Steve Clark of Rowe Professional Service stated he oversaw the project on behalf of the City and the hearing was a final opportunity for the public and Council to give comment on the project.

Councilperson Schafer stated the project has made the downtown look very nice and connected now.

Ken Morrow commented that the downtown looks great and was a very beneficial project for the City.

Manager Cousins commented that a couple of issues arose like relocating of some lights and trees that looked good on design plans but didn't work when constructing. Those worked out and look great with the help of the engineer. The Pharmacy and Hearthstone Oven had some sidewalk issues and concerns with people falling and slipping on the stamped concrete and slope. Rowe was able to work with the contractor to find a solution

and we haven't had any other complaints or slip/fall incidents since. There were a couple of storm sewers that had issues and the City was able to repair and improve, outside of the grant, but were found due to the grant project. Moving a Charter Cable pole caused some delay and a broken tile was also uncovered on South Main Street that was able to be repaired outside of the grant.

The Department of Public Works crew and Rowe worked very quickly and well together making for a smooth project.

Councilperson Schafer commented that Isabella Corporation employees were very courteous and professional through the entire project.

Mayor Palmer commented that the project held very little issue with the residents and was pleased since it was during the July 4th, Fun Fest and Labor Day events.

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.

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported he continues to work with the Drain Commissioner on the storm sewer issues and has received a map containing the County-owned drains in the city limits and will have our maps updated to include them so there are no questions in the future. All are working to make a better system. There are now three maps in the hall that show the Storm, Water and Sewer systems and staff is using them daily.

He further reported that he continues to work on the junk cars in the City. No tickets have had to be written in six months, so the process is working. The Planning Commission will be holding a special meeting on December 16, 2104 on a request to operate a day care and will begin at 6:00pm. Manager Cousins updated Council on Binracks clean up and the insurance claim filed by a car owner that had a tree limb fall on it will not be covered by the City's insurance as the City has governmental immunity under the law as it was not grossly negligent in the claim.

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

New/Old Business

There was no new or old business.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Thomas, second 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 #41246-41279 and Payroll Checks 12954-12980, DD538-DD544 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments and introductions from the High School Government students in attendance. Colton Morrow introduced himself from Mr. Lambrecht's class.

Mayor Palmer set the following Committee meetings:
Committee of the Whole: Tuesday 12/16/14 at 5:00pm
Ways and Means: Tuesday 12/09/14 at 4:00pm
Personnel: Monday 12/8/14 at 4:00pm.

Mayor Palmer reminded everyone of the Hometown Christmas celebration on Friday.

Mayor Palmer asked the Council to set the Employee Appreciation Dinner date. January 22, 2104 was selected.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 16, 2014

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 Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, L.D. Hollenbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and John Thomas and Attorney Jefferson Arnold. Staff present was Interim City Manager Bill Cousins, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Erica Sheahan, Jim Vicki and Emily Foster, Rob and Adele Slagell, Gene Luca and Nico Lebron, Lester Sandy and Courtney Allen, Richard Heathcock, Shannon and Audi Adle, Mark Michelle and Mikeyla Fairchild, Dave and Amelia Freestone, Gwen Zimmer, Kurstin and Michelle Kalisek, Mr. and Adriana Santana, Hannah Emillee and Daniel Thayer, Amanda and Alyssa Mankay and Elaine Pitcher.

Moved by Hollenbeck, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 2, 2014. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Resolution

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to adopt Resolution 2014-25 Recognition of the Ithaca High School Girls Cross Country Team. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer read and presented the Resolution to Coach Gene Lebron and team members.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Thomas reported the Personnel Committee met regarding the City Manager position and recommends Manager Cousins negotiate a contract with Mr. Wolff for Council final approval. The committee further recommends entering into a three month contract extension with Bill Cousins; January to remain the same with the addition of lodging expense and February and March to be \$2,500/month plus expenses.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to enter into a three month contract extension with Bill Cousins with January to remain the same terms with the addition of lodging expense and February and March to be \$2,500/month plus expenses. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Committee also met on union negotiations with the DPW union and came to a tentative agreement and recommends the Council approve the contract. Manager Cousins stated the union agreed and have signed the contract.

Moved by Thomas, second by Gruesbeck to approve the contract with the AFSCME Union for the Department of Public Works employees. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thomas reported the Ways and Means Committee met to review the Animal Control building property lease and the contract with Rowe Professional Services for engineering services. The Animal Control contract is expired and the committee recommends another ten year lease with Gratiot County at \$1.00 per year. The committee further recommends approving a new contract with Rowe Professional Services as the City's engineer of record.

Moved by Thomas, second by Schafer to present Gratiot County with the proposed contract for a term of ten years at \$1.00 per year for the Animal Control building property lease. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met for the presentation of the 2013-2014 Audit by Roslund, Prestage and Company.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum reported on the November and recent activity of the Ithaca Unit. The older car had a recall on it and it took more in depth work to repair because of the police package on the vehicle, all of the cost are covered through the recall. Due to this extended work, the new car will have more miles until the other is operational. Lt. McCollum reported he has been involved in working on an alternate/solution route for the bus routes at North Elementary School and the mall trailer traffic seems to be declining.

Councilperson Hollenbeck inquired if Seaver Street was being considered for the bus routes. Lt. McCollum said it was originally, but is not now. The department and school will need assistance with signage when the new route is selected. Councilperson Henderson commented that it would help the parents if the school would stop changing the route.

Moved by Thomas, second by Koppleberger to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Public Hearings

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to open the Public Hearing on amending the Code of Ordinance for Chapter 6 Animals. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:20pm.

Manager Cousins noted the proposed change would provide a limit to the number of dogs per residence and not per person. It will go from three dogs per person to three dogs per residence. The apartment complexes have their own set of rules for pets.

Elaine Pitcher of 610 E. North Street stated she has a kennel license and operates it in the City. She has five yorkies and the new ordinance would make it illegal to have them. Mayor Palmer clarified that the kennel license allows her to have more than three. Councilperson Henderson commented that when her kennel license is up for renewal she would need to go through the Planning Commission at that time.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:23pm.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to adopt the Code of Ordinance Amendment Chapter 6 Animals, Article II Dogs, Sections 6-32 and 6-34. Roll Call:

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

Moved by Henderson, second by Thomas to open the Public Hearing on amending the Code of Ordinance for Chapter 26 Peddlers and Solicitors. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:25pm.

Manager Cousins noted the amendment would limit the collection boxes to nonprofit agencies and would be further regulated in the downtown area by only being allowed on property owned by nonprofits or governments.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:28pm.

Moved by Henderson, second by Hollenbeck to adopt the Code of Ordinance Amendment Chapter 26 Peddlers and Solicitors, Article I In General, Section 26-2 Donation Boxes. Roll Call:

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

City Manager Report

City Manager Cousins reported the Fire Chief will be interviewing candidates for one rescue position. The other positions will be filled internally which will give more cross training of the departments. He updated Council on the status of Binracks and the stipulations placed on them by the Planning Commission. He reported he met with Rowe on the Scrap Tire Grant for road paving which uses recycled tires in the materials. It is a 50/50 grant and the City cost for two blocks is estimated at \$54,000. The blocks will be the 100 blocks of S. Main and S. Pine River and is scheduled to be a three week project.

Manager Cousins informed Council the Crosswell road and Center Street resurfacing will take place May 1st to July 21st. The school has been notified of the schedule and it will work to abate the school traffic.

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

New/Old Business

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to accept the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Audit Report from Roslund Prestage and Company. Motion carried.

Councilperson Henderson commended Treasurer Fandell and her staff on the audit report.

Moved by Schafer, second by Thomas to enter into a contract with Rowe Professional Services for engineering services. Motion carried.

Jeff Markstrom thanked the Council for the continued relationship and appreciate the work from the City. Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to set the City Council meeting schedule for 2015. 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 #41282-41327, Grant Program Check #1055 and Payroll Checks #12981-13001, DD545-DD551, EFT #317-325 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Richard Heathcock commended the Council for the process they went through to check out the candidates for the City Manager and the background checks. He thanked Manager Cousins on smoothing the turmoil and turning the City's attitude around. The City was lucky to find him. He further commented that it is great to see the forward thinking that came along in the past few months and to see the Council taking it seriously and looking out for this community's future; the Council is doing a fantastic job.

Mayor Palmer requested a Special Meeting be set to finalize the City Manager contract.

Moved by Thomas, second by Henderson to set a Special Meeting for December 23, 2014 at 5:30pm for the purpose of finalizing a contract for the new City Manager. Motion carried.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor