

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 1, 2022
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:01pm and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Andrew, Brett Baublitz, Clark Hubbard, Alison Jerome and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Deputy Clerk Shelly Moffit.

Absent was Councilperson James Gruesbeck, Attorney Jeff Arnold and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Audience in attendance was Tim Anderson.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to excuse Councilperson Gruesbeck due to illness. Motion carried.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on January 18, 2022. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to approve the Agenda, including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None was given.

Consent Agenda

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

- **City Manager's written report, which included updates and information on GESA, library millage proposal, Misenhelder Welding building addition, DPW shop lights and the strategic planning meeting.**
- **Financial Reports - December 2021**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #48006-48047, Grant Checks #1214-1245 and Payroll Checks #16442-16450, DD #2103-2112, EFT #1392-1398 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence - GGDI & GACC Minutes**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Andrew, Baublitz, Hubbard, Jerome, Koppleberger and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Gruesbeck

Committee Reports

The Committee of the Whole met on January 24, 2022 for a Strategic Planning Meeting. Mayor Schafer commended Manager Conn for the preparation he did in advance of the meeting and also the DPW Superintendent's for their knowledge and the good job they are doing. She also pointed out that several of issues which were discussed at the meeting are already being addressed. Each of the recommendations to the council will be brought back individually as they are being focused on.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn informed the council that Perrinton and Fulton Township unanimously petitioned to join the Gratiot Emergency Service Authority. They will hold a meeting Wednesday, February 9, 2022 for further discussion. He also reported that Library Director Abby Hill and City Treasurer Barbara Fandell are attending the Gratiot County Libraries Millage Review meeting this evening and any updates or information will be brought to the next council meeting. He also shared that the DPW shop lights have been converted to LED with a Consumers Energy rebate which will save money and will also be looking into converting all the street lights to LED as well. He updated the council on tasks from the strategic planning meeting which includes starting to receive quotes for the Vactor truck, starting to research grants for the Woodland Park roadway and playscape and after further evaluation of the cemetery fence along the railroad tracks it is determined that the problem areas can be repaired to extend the time before replacement would be needed.

Unfinished Business

Manager Conn presented the engineering contract with Rowe PSC, which will accompany the professional service proposal for water service line replacement that was reviewed at the previous council meeting. The residential water service line replacement engineering cost is for \$15,525 with the commercial water service line replacement engineering cost at \$37,490. Manager Conn reiterated that ARPA funds will be used for this project.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Baublitz to approve the professional service proposal for water service line replacement and contract with Rowe PSC for residential engineering at a cost of \$15, 525, in addition to commercial engineering at a cost of \$37,490 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract. Motion carried.

New Business

The City of Ithaca continues to recognize the legacy of kindergarten teacher Sue Meier by continuing to spread awareness within our community for Random Acts of Kindness Day which is celebrated this year on February 17, 2022 and Random Acts of Kindness Week celebrated February 13-19, 2022 with a proclamation. The proclamation was presented by Mayor Schafer and read aloud by Councilperson Jerome.

A public hearing for Trident Manufacturing Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Application needs to be scheduled. Mayor Schafer stated that further options and conditions can be taken into consideration more than had been in the past. Manager Conn reported that all the other cities in the county do a 12-year exemption. The City of Ithaca does a bench mark in between. Councilperson Hubbard also agreed that the bench mark is a good idea.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to set a public hearing for Trident Manufacturing Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption for the next council meeting held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Motion carried

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. Resident Tim Anderson stated he was in attendance to observe the meeting.

Mayor Schafer shared that she had sent out thank you notes on behalf of the city for recognition of Alivia Wolfe's accomplishment for selling Christmas trees for a 4-H project and to Josh Strand Chair of the Ithaca Promotional Committee for the great job they did hosting the Our Hometown Ithaca Christmas and light parade. She also stated that she often receives proclamation requests and feels that a policy and procedure for approving these requests should be in place to ensure that future requests are in line with city guidelines.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Approved 2-15-2022

Shelly Moffit

Shelly Moffit, Deputy Clerk