

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 15, 2022
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00pm. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Andrew, James Gruesbeck, Clark Hubbard, and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, Alison Jerome and Attorney Jeff Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Roger Hauck and Mitchell Schumacher.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Andrew to excuse Councilpersons Brett Baublitz and Alison Jerome due to work commitments.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on February 1, 2022. Motion carried.

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

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

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. Mr. Roger Hauck introduced himself as State Representative for the 99th District (Isabella and Midland Counties). He is currently running for the new 34th District, which will include Gratiot County. Due to statewide redistricting, our voters will be impacted by changes in representatives in both the Senate and the House. Representative Hauck shared that he is from Beal City and encouraged Council to reach out to him at any time. Mr. Mitchell Schumacher serves as his legislative aide.

Mayor Schafer thanked Representative Hauck for attending the meeting and shared her appreciation for having someone run who grew up in a rural area to represent our community.

Consent Agenda

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

- **City Manager’s written report, which included updates and information on Old US27 Motor Tour, Point Broadband, Land Use Plan, Sidewalk Bids and DPW Equipment.**
- **Ithaca Unit Report for January 2022.**
- **Financial Reports for January 2022.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #48048-48082, #1216, and Payroll Checks #16451-16457, DD #2113-2123, EFT #1400-1403 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: None.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Hubbard, Koppleberger, Andrew and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (2) Baublitz and Jerome

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported that the Old US 27 Motor Tour is scheduled to be in town on August 25th. A meeting was held with Point Broadband representatives on the proposed layout of their fiber project. The best location for the utility cabinets to be installed are at the cemetery water tower and the east Industrial Park water tower.

Unfinished Business

There was none to report.

New Business

Manager Conn presented the Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines as submitted by the City Assessor. This policy was written in a manner to reference the income and asset guidelines as set annually by the State Tax Commission. By doing so, it remedies the necessity of the Council to adopt said policy on an annual basis.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to adopt the Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines (as revised February 2022). Motion carried.

Manager Conn presented both the IT Service Contract and Onsite Server Installation Proposal submitted by Unified Network Consulting. Initially, the IT service was provided for free, however we do need to have a permanent solution set in place going forward. Manager Conn stated that the IT service contract is for \$600 annually. The onsite server would allow us to host the software, giving staff the ability to issue security codes for the community center as needed. Councilperson Hubbard shared his knowledge on the benefits of having the server onsite. Manager Conn stated that the proposal was for \$1,707.24.

Mayor Schafer reminded Council that Councilperson Hubbard must abstain from voting (due to being co-owner of Unified Network Consulting) otherwise creating a conflict of interest.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Andrew to approve the IT Service Contract with Unified Network Consulting for \$600 annually and authorize the City Manager to sign. Councilperson Hubbard abstained. Motion carried.

Moved by Andrew, second by Koppleberger to approve the Onsite Server Installation Proposal with Unified Network Consulting in the amount of \$1,707.24. Councilperson Hubbard abstained. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that the waste water grinder (muffin monster) has broken down. This piece of equipment is in our capital improvement plan for replacement in the next fiscal year. There are three new pumps operating on site that need to be protected by the initial process of the grinder. Manager Conn and Water/Sewer Superintendent Waldron recommended the purchase from Vogelsang in the amount of \$17,000. This was the lowest quote received and allows the DPW crew to provide our own maintenance of the unit.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to approve the purchase of a waster water grinder (muffin monster) from Vogelsang in the amount of \$17,000; amending the budget if necessary. Motion carried.

Manager Conn provided an update on the progress of purchasing a new dump truck. Due to manufacturing delays, the truck chassis is unavailable for order until fall of 2023. The dump body, hydraulics, snow plow, hitch, lighting and electrical will be purchased and installed by Shults Equipment. They have requested acceptance of the quote submitted in the amount of \$32,644; so that equipment can be ordered now and stored at their location until the chassis is received. By doing so, it guarantees the pricing is locked in and the cities commitment to using their services.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to approve the purchase of a dump truck chassis when it becomes available to order. Motion carried.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hubbard to approve the purchase of dump truck modification equipment from Shults Equipment in the amount of \$32,644. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer instructed Manager Conn to set the meeting date for Land Use Planning Meeting and notify them on the date and time selected.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. Manager Conn provided an update on the Ellen's property. Mayor Schafer shared that she received an email from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York inviting her to speak on their radio station talk show on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. They are interviewing the Mayor's from both City of Ithaca's. She further shared some correspondence received from a group of local individuals regarding political issues/decisions. Clerk Cameron informed Council that because of the statewide redistricting, the state requires that new voter identification cards be mailed out to our registered voters. The district and representative changes will be printed on the new card. This special mailing is required to be done every ten years when the census is completed and redistricting is approved. The ID cards will be mailed out at the end of March.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Approved 3-1-2022

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk