

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 17, 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, Brett Baublitz, Alison Jerome and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Additional staff present was Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Jim Gruesbeck and Clark Hubbard.

Audience in attendance was none.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Andrew to excuse Councilperson Jim Gruesbeck who was out of town. Motion carried.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on May 3, 2022. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer asked for approval of the agenda and for any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Treasurer Fandell requested to remove Claims and Accounts from the consent agenda and place them under New Business. Mayor Schafer placed it as item 10f.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Baublitz to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item 10f. Claims and Accounts), including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None was offered.

Consent Agenda

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

- **City Manager’s written report, which included updates and information SME, Belgium Film Documentary, Renovations, Point Broadband, LSLR and the Airport Authority.**
- **Correspondence received: none.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Jerome, Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (2) Gruesbeck, Hubbard

Committee Reports

Mayor Schafer reported that the Committee of the Whole met on May 11, 2022, to review and discuss the Fiscal Year Budget for 2022-2023. The Committee directed DPW Superintendent Smith to contact Shults Equipment regarding parts for the new trucks. Manager Conn provided an update, stating that the small dump truck was not a concern, however the parts/equipment for the large dump truck would not be in until December at a cost of \$89,000. Manager Conn spoke with Mark at the Road Commission regarding a shared 50/50 cost of repaving

Catherine Street and he will take it to their next board meeting. The new sewer truck has been delivered. The Committee discussed the Union Street project, possibility of a new lagoon cell or aeration, and water projects.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported that SME will be here May 24-26 to drill the landfill. Manager Conn shared that an acclaimed Belgian journalist will be tracking the historical path of his family, creating a documentary of their journey to Michigan in 1920. Manager Conn provided an update on the progress of the renovations to City Hall and the Community Center. A meeting was held with Point Broadband regarding their project of installing fiber access throughout the city. Manager Conn reported on the bid opening for the LSLR commercial and residential projects. The residential bids were around \$4 million, with the commercial downtown district around \$500,000. Discussion was held. Sean Beckman with Rowe is compiling the information for a recommendation. Manager Conn reported that he attended the Airport Authority meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was none

New Business

Mayor Schafer stated it was time for the public hearing on the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to enter into a public hearing to take comments on the proposed 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer opened the public hearing at 7:20pm.

Treasurer Fandell reviewed the budgetary highlights (attached). Projects and other items still pending are the expenses for the Great Plan, DPW staff safety and equipment training, Woodland Park roadway paving, water tower painting, infiltration of the storm water and lagoon aeration, scraper truck equipment from Shults Equipment, and the Union Street project. The renovations to City Hall and the Community Center will begin in June. These project expenses will remain in the current year's budget and amendments will be made to both budgets when we see what is incurred prior to fiscal year end.

Treasurer Fandell noted that this Hearing also serves to take comment on the property tax millage rates and the potential Truth and Taxation rollback. She reviewed the millage rates and the impacts of the Headlee Rollback and Truth and Taxation.

Manager Conn reported that GESA will have a Fire Millage on the ballot this fall. This would be in addition to the Emergency Services Millage. The city's Emergency Service millage helps to offset the expenditures of the police, fire and first-responder services.

A review of the water and sewer rates was presented with a proposed 5% increase to water rates and 6% increase to sewer rates for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Miscellaneous water and sewer service fees were also presented and reviewed. The rates support the recent billing structure adopted April 5, 2022 which changed to a Base/Ready-to-Serve charge plus a per gallon usage rate. Discussion was held on charging intergovernmental entities for water usage.

Mayor Schafer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Andrew, second by Jerome to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer closed the hearing at 7:42pm.

Mayor Schafer presented the 2022-2028 Capital Improvement Plan. The Planning Commission had reviewed it and recommended approval by the City Council.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Jerome to approve the 2022-2028 Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer presented Resolution 2022-05: Approving the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage Rates.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to adopt Resolution 2022-05: Fiscal Year Property Tax Millage. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Jerome, Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (2) Hubbard and Gruesbeck

Mayor Schafer presented Resolution 2022-06: Amending Water and Sewer Rates.

Moved by Andrew, second by Alison to adopt Resolution 2022-06: Amending Water and Sewer Rates. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Jerome, Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (2) Gruesbeck and Hubbard

Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2022-07: Designation of City Depositories for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2022-07: Designation of City Depositories for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz, Jerome and Schafer

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (2) Gruesbeck and Hubbard

Treasurer Fandell requested Council not authorize payment of accounts payable check #48266 payable to Pine Creek Rentals. An extra day of equipment rental was required, so the initial invoice was changed to reflect that. A new check will be included in the next run.

- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #48253-48280, #1224, and Payroll Checks #16505-16511, DD #2190-2200, EFT #1435-1438 as listed in the Check Register Book.**

Moved by Andrew, second by Koppleberger to approved the claims submitted, excluding check #48266 payable to Pine Creek Rentals. Motion carried.

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 requested a committee meeting to discuss employee retention. Mayor Schafer scheduled a Committee of the Whole meeting for Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 6:30pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Approved 6-7-2022

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk

City Council Minutes