

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
April 23, 2024
7:00 PM

The special meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council was called to order by Mayor Brett Baublitz at 7:00pm. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were Mayor Brett Baublitz, Councilpersons James Andrew, Rob Endter, Clark Hubbard, Alison Jerome, Rick Koppleberger and Kristyn Roethlisberger. Staff present was City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was none.

Additional staff present was City Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Water/Sewer Superintendent Jarred Waldron and DPW Superintendent Brandon Smith.

Audience in attendance was Aaron Wendzel with ROWE PSC, Will DeVuyst, George Bailey and Shannon McKnight.

Mayor Baublitz asked for approval of the agenda.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Endter to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comments. There was none.

New Business

Mayor Baublitz requested a motion to open the public hearing for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to open the public hearing at 7:01pm. Motion carried.

Manager Conn introduced Aaron Wendzel with ROWE Professional Services Company.

Mr. Wendzel presented the Clean Water State Revolving Fund project plan. The state revolving fund offers low interest loans for financing of projects, potential grants for funding projects and requires a project plan to analyze project alternatives in addition to holding a public hearing to receive comments and answer questions. This process does not commit the city to any project or taking the loan. The city has identified areas of aging infrastructure that need to be addressed based upon inspection and the city capital improvement plan. The proposed project locations are Union Street Sanitary Sewer (Center to Barber). The objective is to replace aging infrastructure in poor condition, reduce potential of PFAS entering the sanitary sewer, reduce inflow/infiltration and reduce probability of future violations. Mr. Wendzel explained the three alternatives to choose from: 1) No Action (*zero cost*); 2) Optimum Performance (*\$5.5 million*); or 3) Regionalization (*\$9.7 million*).

Alternative 2) Optimum Performance was selected as it met the objectives and has a lower up-front cost.

- Replace existing sanitary sewer on Union Street
 - Reduce inflow/infiltration
 - Reduce potential of PFAS entering the sanitary sewer
 - New sewer

The proposed project financing would come from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. The city is looking at a thirty (30) year loan period which is approximately \$13-\$14 per month, per user, over the life span of the loan. This also depends on potential loan forgiveness and use of existing rates and funds.

The residents in attendance did inquire on certain aspects of the project and received informative answers from Mr. Wendzel as well as from Water/Sewer Superintendent Waldron.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hubbard to close the public hearing at 7:25pm. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz presented Resolution 2024-10: CWSRF Project Plan FY25.

Moved by Andrew, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2024-10: CWSRF Project Plan FY25.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (7) Andrew, Endter, Hubbard, Jerome, Koppleberger, Roethlisberger, Baublitz

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Public Comment

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comments. There was none.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Approved 5-7-2024

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk