

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 18, 2025
7:00 PM**

The regular 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, Rick Koppleberger and Kristyn Roethlisberger. Staff present was City Manager Jamey Conn and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Absent was Councilperson Alison Jerome.

Audience in attendance was Shannon McKnight and Brooke Vernon.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 4, 2025. Motion carried.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Endter to excuse Councilperson Jerome. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz asked for approval of the agenda and for any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Manager Conn requested to add Personnel Evaluations to the agenda under New Business. Mayor Baublitz placed it as item 10f.

Moved by Hubard, second by Roethlisberger to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item 10f. Personnel Evaluations) including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comment. There was none.

Consent Agenda

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

- City Manager's written report included updates and information on Downtown Block, Dilts Road Property, DWSRF Project, Brush Pile, G.A.S. Meeting, Pig Scramble and Budget.
- Ithaca Unit Report – February 2025
- Financial Reports – February 2025
- Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #50520-50558; and Payroll Checks #17055-17059, DD #3198-3211, EFT #1964-1969 as listed in the Check Register Book.
- Correspondence received was none.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Koppleberger, Roethlisberger, Andrew, Endter, Hubbard, Baublitz

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Jerome

Committee/Department Reports

There was none.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported that MDOT has informed the city that the downtown block must be removed from the major street map to the local street map. They are claiming that due to the speed table in the middle, it is miscategorized. Discussion was held regarding the fact that this was an MDOT project, and that the city had no choice in how it was done. Due to this affecting our major street funding, we are in communication with MDOT and Rowe Engineering to resolve the concern and keep the block categorized as a major street.

The Dilts Road property negotiations with Ellen's Equipment have come to an agreement, with the price being set at \$17,500 for the one-acre parcel. The city will proceed with the proper paperwork.

The water main replacement project has begun in the 100-200 block of South Pine River. Manager Conn reported that he has met with the G.A.S. president regarding the fairground structures and the position of the city moving forward.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

New Business

Clerk Cameron presented the 2024 Annual Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Report.

Moved by Andrew, second by Koppleberger to accept the 2024 Annual PC & ZBA Report as submitted. Motion carried.

Manager Conn presented the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2025-2031 and requested a public hearing be set for May 20th. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended the plan to council at their regular meeting held on March 11th.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hubbard to accept the proposed Capital Improvement Plan 2025-2031 and set a public hearing for May 20, 2025. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz opened the floor for final discussion on the city council meeting time change proposal to 5pm. Councilperson Andrew disagreed, stating that it may not be a convenient time for the public to attend. Councilperson Hubbard was in favor of an earlier meeting time and offered up a 5:30pm option. Discussion was held. Mayor Baublitz did inform council that he spoke with Councilperson Jerome earlier that afternoon and she was in favor of an earlier meeting time.

Moved by Endter, second by Roethlisberger to approve the city council regular meeting time to be set at 5:30pm. and continue being held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, effective April 1, 2025.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Koppleberger, Roethlisberger, Endter, Hubbard, Baublitz

Nos: (1) Andrew

Absent: (1) Jerome

Manager Conn presented resolution 2016-11 as a review of the fines regarding property maintenance violations. After reviewing neighboring cities policy and fine structure, he determined that a discussion was necessary. He recommended a more conforming and lenient fee structure was favorable. Discussion was held. Councilperson Hubbard offered \$50/\$100/\$250 across the board. An updated resolution will be provided at the next meeting.

Manager Conn provided an update on the speed radar sign project. The city has received a grant for the full cost of the signs at \$5,300. He reported that he spoke with the school superintendent about the project with an agreement of cost share being; that the school would pay for the electrical work and the city would pay for the engineering costs. With respective costs of around \$4,000 each. He reported that Treasurer Fandell suggested

use of the remaining balance in the Coldwell Fund to be used toward this project and the account then be closed, with the remaining cost transferred from the general fund.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Endter to authorize the balance of the Coldwell Fund to be used and the account closed, with up to \$1,500 from the general fund be expensed toward the projects engineering cost. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss Personnel Evaluations.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to go into closed session at 7:33 pm.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to go back into regular session at 7:57pm.

Mayor Baublitz opened the floor for discussion on potential increase of council pay. Discussion was held. The matter will be placed on the agenda at the next council meeting.

Public Comment

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comments. There was none.

Announcements

Councilperson Andrew suggested a meeting be held with Sheriff Clark and Lt. Leonard regarding police services and coverage of the city. Discussion was held. Manager Conn will contact the Sheriff and schedule a meeting time.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Approved 3-4-2025

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk