

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

January 3, 2017

7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Trevor Paradise, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Brian Henderson.

No Audience was in attendance.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 20, 2016. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS project, MSHDA Homeowner Rehab grant, Gratiot Towing property, DDA board meeting, Gratiot County Master Plan, expired Skyweb Tower lease, Well #7 and Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) for wireless antennas and poles,

In addition, Manager Yonker reported that Karen Hoard was offered the Code Enforcement position and accepted. Her background check is complete and awaiting completion of the pre-employment physical. He reported he received a call from Edward Howell who said someone destroyed the sponsor/donor sign from the Eagle Scout project in the park. The police were notified and are investigating and reviewing the camera tapes. Edward is taking the sign home to repair and Manager Yonker instructed him to send the bill to the City. The funds he donated to the City will be used for the repair.

Manager Yonker said he received a second request from Mobility, Inc to place a tower next to the farmer's market structure. The first attempt was filed under the Metro Act but it didn't qualify under the Act. The second request was made through a different route. The GVMC has offered to allow other municipalities to join and help in the fight, fees and required resolutions to stop these requests. He said he served on the Council in the past and they do a great job with these items. The City could join for a \$1,500 fee.

Councilperson Timmons said the cellular market is not going away and requests of this type will keep coming and we don't want to see poles going up in the middle of town. Councilperson Gruesbeck asked why the companies feel they have the right to put them up. Manager Yonker said the Right of Way has limited regulations. Mayor Palmer asked if the \$1,500 was a one-time buy in or if additional fees would be required. Councilperson Koppleberger added that it will be more costly to fight it on our own. Councilperson Timmons inquired as to how long the updates would be included for the fee. Councilperson Schafer agreed it should be pursued, however would like to have the questions answered and see the agreement prior to approving.

Consensus of the City Council to have Manager Yonker get more information on the GVMC offer and bring back to the next meeting.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager report.

Councilperson Timmons commented on the Gratiot Towing property and ongoing violations over the weekend; the gate is open, five tow trucks out and it still looks bad. Mayor Palmer added that the west side of the building still has a dozen cars outside the fence and some have not been moved. Manager Yonker said he will monitor it and have the new Code Officer keep watch. **Motion carried.**

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer stated interest to serve on the Board of Review was received from Carol Vernon and he would like her appointed to the position with a term ending June 30, 2018. Current members are Scott Gray and Alan Schafer.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to appoint Carol Vernon to the Board of Review for the term ending June 30, 2018. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported that a training was being offered through the Michigan Township Association for Board of Review members. Assessor Hunter has endorsed this training for new and advanced members.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to offer training to the Board of Review members at a cost not to exceed \$400 in total and to amend the budget for the additional expenditure. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the September 30, 2016 Financial Statements for review and questions.

Moved by Paradise, second by Koppleberger to receive the September 30, 2016 quarter ending Financial Statements and place on file for audit. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented a request from Clerk-Fandell for a public hearing to be set to receive comments on an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFT) application received from Craig Frames, Inc.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to set a Public Hearing to receive comments on an IFT Application submitted by Craig Frames, Inc for February 7, 2017 at 7:00pm or soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion Carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck inquired if any complaints were being filed on 802 E. Center Street due to the length of construction and unsightliness. Mayor Palmer stated he has heard a few and asked if we could have them remove the dirt pile and equipment at a minimum. Manager Yonker said the building permit should be limited and he would contact the owner to see what the completion plan is.

Councilperson Timmons inquired if Isabella Bank contacted the City regarding their sign. Mayor Palmer informed Council that it came before the Planning Commission in December and there would be a public hearing next week. Manager Yonker added that he was also currently working with the owner of the Jerky Man Shack on a new sign.

Mayor Palmer set a Committee of the Whole for goal session setting for January 17, 2017 at 5:30pm and set a Ways and Means Committee for January 12, 2017 at 3:30pm for review of the IFT application, Budget Amendments, GVMC legal offer.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Paradise to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43439-43472, Grant Program Checks #1065-1067 and Payroll Checks #14105-14127, DD926-DD933, EFT #577-581 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 17, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Absent was Councilperson Trevor Paradise.

Audience in attendance was Brogan Buck, Michael Ortiz, Brody Hubbard, RJ & Sue Morris Jones, Matt & Autumn Morris, Nick Whitmore, Delaney Ortiz, Blake Hardman, Benson Eckelbarger, Heather Wood, Corey & Erin Smith, David Kanine, Blaine, Becky & Keegan Hartman, Ryan & Bethany Andrews and Sue Meier.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to excuse Councilperson Paradise due to illness. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented a Proclamation for Random Acts of Kindness.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to adopt the Proclamation declaring Random Acts of Kindness Week. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sue Meier and her kindergarten students gave a presentation on the activities and acts of kindness they have been doing for the community. Items included Books for Babies, Birthday Cakes for Kids, decorating lunch bags for Food with Friends, Christmas cards for military care packages, along with a new project they are working on which honors our City police officers.

Mayor Palmer read the Proclamation aloud and presented it to Mrs. Meier and the students. He thanked them and their parents for coming, all of their kindness and for a wonderful presentation.

Mayor Palmer presented the minutes for approval.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 3, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Ways and Means Committee met to review and discuss a tax abatement and future application fees, joining the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC), December 2016 quarterly financials, budget amendments and fund/account request from the City Treasurer.

The Committee reviewed the IFT application from Craig Frames, Inc and asked staff to work with Greater Gratiot Development Inc (GGDI) on adding claw backs to the agreement prior to the application coming before the Council on February 7, 2017. The committee further reviewed the allowed percentage for abatements for State compliance and the current application would put the City at 4.2% of the allowed 5%. The Committee also reviewed the December quarter financials and budget amendments and recommend their approval. In addition, the committee review the request of the City Treasurer to move the remaining balance of the Annis Thompson Cemetery Trust to the Perpetual Card account and merging the Second Century Fire Account, Fire Memorial and Rescue Memorial accounts with the Fire/Rescue Sinking Fund. Merging the accounts will allow for economies of scale and efficiencies.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to adopt a fee of \$300 for Tax Abatement Applications and add to the current fee schedule. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to allow the City Treasurer to move the Second Century Fire funds and the Fire and Rescue Memorial funds to the Sinking fund after April 1, 2017; allowing the Fire Department the opportunity to make recommendations for the use of the Second Century funds to be spent prior to the transfer. Motion carried.

Moved by Kopplesberger, second by Henderson to adopt the 2016-2017 Budget Amendments as presented by the City Treasurer. Motion carried.

GL Number	DESCRIPTION	CHANGE TO BUDGET INCREASE (DECREASE)	REASON	1855
101-000-667.000	RENT	4,200.00	Rental of Police Dept Offices	
101-000-669.000	RENTAL-BARNS/RV STORAGE	5,700.00	Horse Barn Rental Agreement	
101-247-825.000	TRAINING & EDUCATION	400.00	Board of Review Member Training	
101-731-956.000	MISC EXPENSE	50.00	Hutchinson Sign	
101-851-725.000	INSURANCE AND BONDS	550.00	Adjust to Actual	
202-487-801.000	PROFESSIONAL & CONTRACTUAL	3,446.00	Sidewalk Project -Zone 1 Actual Cost	
203-487-775.000	MATERIALS USED	1,646.00	Sidewalk Project	
203-487-801.000	PROFESSIONAL & CONTRACTUAL	16,530.00	Sidewalk Project -Zone 1 Actual Cost	
206-000-671.000	MISCELLANEOUS	1,100.00	Restitution and misc revenue	
206-000-675.000	CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	32,500.00	Emerson/North Star Twp - JAWS	
206-336-970.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	34,818.00	JAWS purchase	
206-336-977.000	EQUIPMENT/CAP OUTLAY UNDER \$5	4,934.00	Fire Hose	
271-000-587.000	MEMORIAL FUND RECEIPTS	1,700.00	Increased Memorials received	
271-000-656.271	PENAL FINES	(4,023.00)	Adjust to Actual	

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library would be holding another painting class program with Jodie Schnetzler on January 18, 2017.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met for a goal setting and planning for 2017 and long term. Another planning meeting will follow and there are no recommendations at this time.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum provided a written report of the December activity and 2016 Annual Report for the Ithaca Unit.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to receive the December 2016 Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to receive the 2016 Annual Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Dave Nelson reported on the quarter activity of the Fire Department. He updated Council on community programs and activities of the Fire and Rescue personnel, school standbys, personnel training, Fire Prevention program, annual totals, equipment updates, awarded grants and new grant applications made. He reported that work on the 2017-18 budget has begun and the new firefighter is doing well.

City Manager Yonker inquired if the detail pages of the report should be eliminated and the types of fire calls only added to the report... The City Council agreed to the elimination of the detailed pages.

Moved by Schafer, second by Kopplesberger to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported on the December 2016 Quarter Ending Financial Statements as reviewed by the Ways and Means Committee.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the December 2016 Quarter Financial Statements and place on file for audit. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS project and Rowe engineering contract, Code Enforcement position hiring, MML call on the State of Michigan to address municipal finance concerns, MML Leaf program, AYSO soccer benches, commercial redevelopment, Gratiot Towing, DDA, Fire and Rescue budget, Planning Commission meeting, Master Planning meeting, redevelopment ready community program, MTT settlement with the Hardwoods, Gratiot Area Chamber hours being held in Ithaca, the IPC meeting location and dates, small business alliance and the Grand Valley Metro Council.

In addition, Manager Yonker reported that Mindful Therapy moved its ribbon cutting to February 22, 2017; same time. He informed Council the Chamber Annual Meeting would be January 19th and the Good Morning Gratiot new and improved business awards breakfast would be January 26, 2017. He reported that the Redevelopment community will probably become a requirement for future grants with MEDC and Ithaca, Alma and St. Louis are working on it, and will take a couple of years to get the program up and running.

Mayor Palmer inquired if the MDEQ had responded in regards to the new well. Manager Yonker said Director Studt made contact with them today and we expect a written letter by Friday, the MDEQ is allowing us to go from two-acres to one-acre because of the clay layer that protects the well. We may have to survey the property and a fence will be placed immediately upon completion of the survey.

Mayor Palmer commended the DPW staff on the good job they do taking care of the streets and every part of the City. The City Council members shared the same.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2017-01 for consideration.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2017-01 MDOT/Ithaca Contract for Center Street from Maple Street Easterly to Pine River Street and North Pine River Street from West Center Street to Emerson Street. Motion carried.

City Manager Yonker discussed the GVMC and the issue with the distributed antenna system (DAS) applications. To buy in and join the GVMC, the cost would be a flat fee of \$1,500 and would entitle us to the zoning and resolutions (deliverables) needed to protect the City from the DAS. The fee would be good for this technology but if it changes too much and the work goes above the collective money, then there would be additional fees, however we would have no obligation to continue on. There are currently 24 communities in the GVMC and we would be 25. He recommended we join as it is the most cost efficient for the City.

Mayor Palmer asked Attorney Arnold for his opinion. Attorney Arnold advised it would be a good decision.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to join the Grand Valley Metro Council at a fee of \$1,500.00. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked Councilperson Timmons if she would be interested in serving the City on the cable consortium again. She agreed.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to appoint Councilperson Timmons to the Mid-Michigan Area Cable Consortium. Motion carried.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43473-43511, Grant Program Checks #1068 and Payroll Checks #14128-14147, DD934-DD939, EFT #577-587 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

February 7, 2017

7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Trevor Paradise, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Jim Wheeler, Don Schurr, Kasey Zehner, Aaron Davis, Brad Harkness, Matt Vernon, Tammy Skinner, Becky Roslund and Doug Merchant.

Moved by Henderson, second by Paradise to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 17, 2016. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Matt Vernon of 796 Serenity Drive, addressed the Council regarding drainage issues on Serenity Drive which is causing him to do repairs to his drive each year and asked for the process to get the problem fixed. City Manager Yonker said he would need to petition the Drain Commissioner to fix the drain or petition to have a special assessment of the neighborhood to evaluate and get a cost estimate of improvements. The second petition option would then go to a public hearing and vote of the special assessment district. Mayor Palmer asked Mr. Vernon if he had contacted the Drain Commissioner. He confirmed he had and was told he would not just repair the tile and would have to do a full fix with the district. The issue is caused from Serenity Drive being below elevation and it would need to be fixed prior to the drain work being done. Mr. Vernon added that the problem began after the City worked on the swamp area and blew out 600 feet of the County drain tile, so who holds the responsibility? Mayor Palmer directed a meeting be set up between the City and Drain Commissioner to determine a resolution.

Brad Harkness, resident, addressed the Council and asked if the City pulled a permit when it worked on the swamp area and cut the ditch. He said he had talked with the MDEQ and they could not find that one was (source was MiWaters). Manager Yonker said the City was working in conjunction with the Drain Commission on that project. Mr. Harkness added that he had to plug a drain since the pond was drained and now his yard fills with water where it did not prior.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported the Public Safety Committee met to discuss the Fire/Rescue budget for 2017-18 fiscal year. The Committee is recommending the purchase of the grass truck out of the current budget, using reserve funds and also the proposed budget as presented by staff to the contracted Townships at its next meeting.

Councilperson Timmons reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to hear a presentation for the RC race track from individuals who are interested in managing the track activities. The objectives are to try and be in the race circuit by May 5, 2017, but the challenge is that the 2017 race season is posted in most areas. They feel they have enough participation and help to get started. The committee has no recommendation and will be meeting again on February 17, 2017 at 5:30pm. to review the proposal with staff.

Public Hearing – IFT

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to enter into a public hearing to take comment on the Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption application submitted by Craig Frames, Inc. Motion carried. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:19pm.

Don Schurr, Greater Gratiot Development, Inc, gave a review of the application process for the application.

Aaron Davis, Craig Frames Inc, commented on the details of the project. The project was a 10,000 square foot addition which allowed room to add new customer accounts and four new employees. Total employee count is now 73. The expansion also allowed the servicing of the accounts in both resources and time.

City Manager Yonker added the storm water retention was included in the application. The project gave them the option to go into the current detention pond or add an additional pond because the original pond plans did not include additions in that part of the park. The Agreement of Understanding has the changes requested by the Ways and Means Committee. The employment additions do have a revocation clause to require maintaining those newly created positions.

Councilperson Schafer confirmed the number of positions to be maintained would be 69 by October 28, 2016.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell said the addition of the IFT if approved, would bring the City's abatement level to 4.2% of the 5% allowed by the State of Michigan.

Mayor Palmer asked for any additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:26pm and called for action on Resolution 2017-02.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2017-02 Approving the Application of Craig Frames Inc for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for an Industrial Facility. Motion carried by the following:

Ayes: (7) Henderson, Koppelerberger, Paradise, Schafer, Timmons, Gruesbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the Fire/Rescue budget, meetings with the City of Alma on common interest areas of the fire departments, Ithaca fire department attendance records, RC race track proposed lease, water/sewer rates analysis, ZFS project, MDOT/Center Street paving project, economic development projects, planning commission business, library painting project, civil infraction citations steps outline, security cameras in the parks, Gratiot Chamber of Commerce events and meeting dates, Bates property deed, Ithaca Rotary, MML news on the State's Broken Municipal Finance System press conference, Grand Valley Metro Council and the City newsletter.

In addition, Manager Yonker reported that a letter was received from the MDEQ on the isolation distance requirement for Well 7. He sent it on to Attorney Arnold for review, who will then contact Attorney Fortino to try and complete the property acquisition. Attorney Arnold added he had informed the party of the receipt of the letter and that the survey of the property to acquire will begin.

Mayor Palmer asked when the survey would be done and if Rowe would be doing it. Manager Yonker said it would be done immediately and could be done by Rowe or another firm if desired.

Moved by Koppelerberger, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager report.
Councilperson Schafer asked if the Central Michigan RC Raceway contract was null and void. Manager Yonker confirmed. **Motion carried.**

New/Old Business

Councilperson Paradise asked the status of the signs at the edges of the city. Manager Yonker said we need to design them and the small ones were in the process of having the others added. He also inquired on the parking in the street by Clean Harbor personnel. They are just setting out cones behind their vehicles at night so that is an issue that needs addressed because they are now parking on S. Pine River and Newark. Manager Yonker said he would discuss it with Lt. McCollum and have him address it with them and ticket if it continues.

Councilperson Paradise addressed the issue of the parking lot behind the library being used by Downtown Auto and Eight Cap and there is no parking for people going to the library or using its community room. Manager Yonker agreed it was an issue but we do not have restrictions on the lot currently. Mayor Palmer added that if the lot is repaved, restrictions will need to be put in place. Manager Yonker asked if the Planning Commission addressed the limitations of parking when the addition to Downtown Auto was approved. Councilperson Gruesbeck said it was approved that they could have a few cars right next to the building on a temporary basis only.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Paradise to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43512-43560 and Payroll Checks #14148-14196, DD940-DD955, EFT #588-599 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 21, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Trevor Paradise, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Brian Henderson.

Audience in attendance was Kasey Elhert, Matt Burluson, Steve Clark, Dave Nelson and Jeremy Gallagher.

Mayor Palmer presented the minutes for approval.

Moved by Paradise, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 7, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety Committee met with the contracted township officials on the Fire and Rescue budgets for fiscal year 2017-2018, and also discussed the purchase of a new grass truck. The recommendation of the Committee is to purchase the grass truck from the 2016-2017 budget with funds being taken from the reserves and to recommend the budget to the Ways and Means Committee for incorporation.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Timmons to allow the purchase of a new grass truck, with funds coming from reserves, and amend the current year budget for the purchase; the chassis to be the first part of the purchase from Ithaca Chevrolet at a cost of \$35,821.43. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review two McNabb park reservation requests; one from the GAS Calf Scramble committee for a fee waiver for use of the park on March 25th and the other from the Gratiot Chamber of Commerce for the Agri-Fit Challenge for use on October 6-7, 2017. The committee recommends allowing the use for both, but not waiving the fee as requested by G.A.S.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to approve the McNabb Park reservation for the Gratiot Agricultural Society calf scramble on March 25th with a fee to be paid of \$50.00 and also the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce request for the use of October 6 and 7, 2017 for the Agri-Fit Challenge. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer further reported the Committee reviewed the RC Race track Agreement and directed staff to make some changes to that agreement, which they did and the new agreement is being recommended for approval. The Committee is also recommending the City purchase the dirt and assist with the initial grading of the track. City Manager Yonker stated the lease amount is 30% of gross receipts and is an annual lease with renewal for up to five years. It covers the responsibility of each party based on past lease experience and issues that arose. He added the Committee's recommendation to take on the purchase of the top soil and use city DPW labor and equipment for excavation and drainage has an estimated cost of \$5,000-\$6,000. The other changes were in tightening the conditions of defaults down from 60-90 days to 15-30 days.

Matt Burluson and Kasey Elhert had no questions at that time, however informed the Council that the LLC paperwork was completed and being filed. They also shared the new track logo with the members. Mayor Palmer stated the contract could be signed upon approval of the Council and the LLC completion. At that time, the city could commence work on the track.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to enter into the Lease Agreement with Ithaca RC Raceway, LLC and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which provided information to the Council on the RC race track agreement, the purchase offer for Lot #36 of Westwind Estates, the connection pathway presentation by Steve Clark, the Public Safety Committee budget meeting, meeting with the City of Alma on Fire Department collaboration, economic development projects and the planning commission, Library Board meeting/budget, Zeeland Farm Services project, Center Street paving project, Wellhead Protection program committee meeting, City Council Minutes

SAW grant, S. Pine River railroad crossing, Ithaca Senior mock interviews, AT&T tower lease, Chamber and Rotary events, and the State of Michigan proposed budget.

In addition, Manager Yonker reported the demolition of 229 E. Emerson Street had begun, but the property owner has yet to decide whether she will rebuild or not. If she chooses to sell the lot, it will be a nonconforming use lot due to its size. He reported he received an application from Rod Merchant for a potential building development on Commerce Drive for a variance for lot setbacks which will go before the Planning Commission at its next meeting. There will also need to be an agreement between him and the Keg because the The Keg is giving up the use of their side lot. Mr. Merchant has not purchased the property as of yet. Councilperson Timmons asked if the new owners of The Keg were aware of the request. Mayor Palmer said he was and Manager Yonker said he would also receive a formal notification of the variance request.

Manager Yonker reminded Council of the ribbon cutting for Mindful Therapy and their open house. He also received a letter from Child Advocacy requesting the parks be posted as smoke and tobacco free areas. He asked if Council would like to pursue the request. Discussion ensued on the number of signs being placed in the parks and who would police it. General consensus to not pursue the signs and leave the parks as is.

Manager Yonker updated Council on HB4001 advocating that the State Income Tax be eliminated. The House Republican Caucus would do a four-year reduction from 4.2% to 3.9% and could come up for vote as soon as the next day. Estimates from the House Fiscal Agency would be a loss of up to \$1B by 2022. Over all income tax revenue is \$9.2B and will leave a big hole to fill with no replacement revenue plan in place.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Paradise to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Manager Yonker presented an offer from Jeremy and Joann Gallagher to purchase Westwind Estates Subdivision Lot #36. The offer is \$12,000 and the City's asking price is \$12,500. They will build a home of 1,560 square feet. Mayor Palmer informed Mr. Gallagher that there will be a condition in the contract of construction within one-year of purchase and asked if that would be an issue. Mr. Gallagher said no and construction would begin within weeks of approval. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell inquired on earnest funds and Attorney Arnold added that \$1,000 would be appropriate when signing the contract. Mr. Gallagher agreed.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppkeberger to adopt Resolution 2017-03 Sale of Westwind Estates Lot #36. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Koppkeberger, Paradise, Schafer, Timmons, Gruesbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Henderson

Abstain: (0) None

Mayor Palmer asked Steve Clark to speak on the connection pathway.

Steve Clark, Rowe Professional Services, gave a presentation on the connection of the City sidewalk to the new Mid-Michigan Community Pathway. He said since discussions started last year, the firm has learned more on the structural needs and the MDOT requirements for the connection path. The piers have a filler wall which does not go all of the way back and was designed for accidents, protection, etc. The main issue is cutting back the wall for a ten foot path, and if done there would need to be substantial work because of the weight shift and height between the bottom of the bridge and the cyclist. Mr. Clark said the recommended, most practical option would be to put in a five-foot wide sidewalk which is more safe, require a minor amount of removal and wouldn't need as much height or backfill on the filler walls. Rowe PS designed a similar path for MDOT for a community down State and feel it would work in this area as well.

Mr. Clark added that all guardrail would require removal and chain link fencing added. The budget for this project is estimated at \$125,000 and because of the amount, it become a function of if the community really wants it. If it is the City's desire, Rowe will work with MDOT on the design to get it approved and a geoglobal study would be required a cost of \$4,000. In addition, because of the reduced size to five-feet, the sidewalk path would not be eligible for TAP funds and also is not a regional connection at this point. Mr. Clark said they did talk with MDOT on other program fund availability and from a State level it appears there is not any potential funds available from them or from the MDNR, who require an eight-foot path. There is a potential for local grant funds, barrier free funds, private donors and perhaps Crowd Funding funds, etc. He further added that it would be beneficial to create a funding strategy before going forward and then they would partner with the City with MDOT.

Mr. Clark informed the Council that the City of Alma is currently looking at finishing two gaps in their sections of pathways also.

Mayor Palmer thanked him for the presentation and set a Committee of the Whole for March 7, 2017 at 6:00pm to discuss the project in more detail and options for funding.

Councilperson Timmons inquired on Well #7 status. Manager Yonker stated as soon as Director Studt returns from leave, they will get the survey started. She inquired on the City and IPC cost sharing a new Santa House at a 50/50 share. She will address it with the IPC if Council agrees and the staff provides a cost estimate. Councilperson Timmons share that she was informed that the Christmas event is a City sponsored event, Clerk Fandell said the City helps to promote the event, however it is an IPC Chamber event and the budget is in the Chamber's budget, not the City's.

Councilperson Timmons inquired on the Code Enforcement Officer position status. Manager Yonker said nothing has been decided as of yet, however he may have a proposal for keeping it in house and will bring a proposal to the next meeting. Mayor Palmer make take it to the Personnel Committee first.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43563-43605 and Payroll Checks #14197-14209, DD956-DD961, EFT #600-606 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Paradise, second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

March 7, 2017

7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Trevor Paradise, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Brian Henderson.

Audience in attendance was Austin Coughlin, Ethan Schauer, Justin Hillman, Tyler Allen, Tim Rhodes, Justine Weeks, Corey Netzley, Sierra Brookshier, Kristi Davenport, Ivan Wheeler, Kristyn Ware and Brook Carman.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to excuse Councilperson Brian Henderson who was attending a family matter. Motion carried.

Moved by Paradise, second by Timmons to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 21, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met to review a preliminary budget and Manager Yonker was in attendance at that meeting. One large project will be changes to the tech area and Director Hill is working with IT Right on this. The project will be split across two budget years. Staff wage increases were also incorporated into the preliminary budget and Director Hill and Michelle Martyn have both completed their probation periods. The Board is still looking at solutions for the outside ramp and the Children's area of the library received a remodel and fresh paint. The work was done by the DPW and they did a great job.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met to discuss the connection from the City sidewalk system to the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway. Steve Clark of Rowe Professional Services was in attendance to assist with plans for funding and design. The project is estimated at \$125,000 and is not eligible for MDOT or MDNR grant funds due to the width of the proposed connection path. The Committee recommends moving forward with the connection project and having Rowe PS begin the design and timeline of the project. The Committee discussed the use of Caldwell Funds for the project but first recommends staff begin writing for local grants, private donations and governmental collaboration.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to approve the connection project and having Rowe Professional Services begin the design and develop a project timeline; and the City Manager is to start writing for grant funding, private donations and governmental collaboration requests. Motion carried.

Manager Yonker asked Mr. Clark if it would be prepared for the next meeting and he confirmed it could.

Department Reports

Mayor Palmer presented the written report submitted by Lt. Roy McCollum for the Ithaca Police Unit.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to receive the Ithaca Unit report as submitted. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the written report submitted by the Gratiot County Building Inspector for the annual permit activity.

Moved by Paradise, second by Koppleberger to receive the Building Permit report as submitted. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the Westwind Lot purchases, Ithaca RC Raceway LLC status, fire department equipment, US-127 Resurfacing project, MDOT revenue package, Planning Commission requests, economic development projects, trainings, Library Board meeting, ZFS project, Well #7, SAW Grant, railroad crossing projects, 324 E Newark code violation, AT&T tower lease, community involvement items, GAS lease meeting, County Manager's meeting, rental inspections and Chamber and school events.

In addition, Manager Yonker asked Attorney Arnold if contact had been made with the attorneys on the new water well and if the survey could begin. Attorney Arnold reported he had not received anything negative and it was okay to start the survey. Manager Yonker thanked him and informed Mr. Clark to begin the survey.

Manager Yonker gave an update on the Wellhead Protection Program Committee meeting and the decision to use some of the WHPP funds to purchase groundwater and surface water flow models for use in 4th or 5th grade classrooms at Ithaca North School. He also updated Council on the railroad crossings work. We are waiting to hear from the railroad on when the rail will be installed so we can coordinate updating the crossing at the four locations. In addition, he reported that City Hall staff came up with a good suggestion on a special construction newsletter to send to residents. He will be working with them on that for distribution in the next week or two.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented the offer from Corinne Netzley to purchase Westwind Estates Subdivision Lot #33. The offer is \$12,000 and the City's asking price is \$12,500. Mrs. Netzley stated she is looking to move into Ithaca to be closer to her family and plans to begin construction within the year, the exact date is dependent on the contractor's schedule. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported that earnest funds of \$1,000 was submitted with the offer.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2017-04 Sale of Westwind Estates Lot #33. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: (6) Paradise, Schafer, Timmons, Gruesbeck, Koppleberger, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (1) Henderson
Abstain: (0) None**

Mayor Palmer set the following committee meetings:

- Parks and Cemetery for March 21, 2017 at 6:30pm to discuss the GAS Lease agreement
- Ways and Means for March 21, 2017 at 6:15pm to discuss the Stonehouse Loan agreement.

Councilperson Timmons reported the IPC met and discussed the Santa House replacement and is committed to sharing the cost at a maximum of \$1,400. It will also be taking care of the city pots (36 total) but will not be planting the War Memorial this year in an effort to kill off the diseased foliage in the memorial. She further reported that students at North School also received a grant to put in a walking path at the school and purchase two Ya-Ya pits. The students did an excellent job of presenting their project.

Councilperson Paradise re-addressed the issue of the parking in the streets around the Clean Harbors building and asked if it had been followed up on as there are still illegally parked cars there all day and night and impedes the snow removal. Council members want action taken. Manager Yonker will take care of it. Councilperson Paradise asked for an update on the Center Street house. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated it was on the foreclosure list. Council members asked staff to check the status of the building permit.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43606-43647 and Payroll Checks #14210-14229, DD962-DD967, EFT #607-612 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered. He then asked the students from the Ithaca High School government class to introduce themselves. They so obliged.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Paradise to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 21, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and DPW Director Robert Studt.

Absent was Councilperson Trevor Paradise, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Ivan Wheeler, Steve Clark-Rowe Professional Services and Dawn Clark-Gratiot County Herald.

Mayor Palmer requested to add Agenda Item 9A: Contract Services for Connection Sidewalk under US-127. **Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Timmons to amend the agenda and add Item 9A: Contract Services for Connection Sidewalk under US-127. Motion carried.**

Mayor Palmer received a request from Councilperson Paradise to be excused due to illness. **Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to excuse Councilperson Paradise due to illness. Motion carried.**

Mayor Palmer presented the minutes for approval. **Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 7, 2017. Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments; none were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met and reviewed the seasonal mowing bids received. The Committee recommends the bid be awarded to Searles Lawn Care based on the bid submitted, the City purchasing policy and past performance/references. The Committee recommends a four-year contract, which is to include a clause to open the contract and to take advantage of the additional 10% discount if the budget allows. She further reported the Committee did not have enough time to address the GAS Fairgrounds Lease Agreement and request another meeting be set.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to award the Seasonal Mowing bid to Searles Lawn Care on the four-year contract to include a clause to open the contract at a maximum price per mow for Woodland Park \$470, Atkinson Park \$90, and Ithaca Cemetery \$950; in addition the annual price and 10% discount is to be utilized if the budget allows. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer set a Parks and Cemetery Committee meeting for March 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the GAS Fairgrounds Lease Agreement.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Ways and Means Committee met to discuss the Stonehouse Loan and consideration for discounting the loan if paid off early. The Committee recommends this consideration be given if done on a cash basis but be limited. Staff has confirmed that the reduction is allowed under the terms of the original funds received from the Federal/State aide given. The Committee also reviewed a request from an employee to open the Public Works Union collective bargaining agreement to allow for a change in the policy for the conversion of unused sick time into vacation time, allowing for a larger final average compensation under the MERS Defined Benefit pension plan.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to consider discounting the Stonehouse loan agreement if the loan is paid off early and is a cash deal. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Gruesbeck to keep the AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement closed until time for negotiations to begin for renewal of the contract. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report that provided information to the Council regarding updates on the Westwind Estates subdivision lot sales, trail connection sidewalk, RC racetrack lease and Facebook post, fire grass/brush truck order and GCCF grant award for the equipment skid, Planning Commission activity, ZFS development project, Well #7 survey, City limit signage, Isabella Bank sign, AT&T lease, GAS meeting with Seth Wolfe, Committee meeting updates, meeting with Representative Leonard and MDOT for completion of

the limited-access portion of US-127, rental inspections, community involvement, and Employee Appreciation Breakfast Safety meeting.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager's report. Councilperson Timmons asked about the status of the fire grass/brush truck, well #7 survey and Westwind lot sales. Clerk Fandell stated the truck had been ordered, the Gallagher lot sale was complete and the Netzley lot was waiting on the title work. Steve Clark, Rowe Professional Services (RPC) said the contract to do the survey was signed and received the day prior and work would commence tomorrow. Councilperson Schafer expressed appreciation for the written response to a resident the Manager shared with the Council in which he backed the employees against the resident's complaints. **Motion carried.**

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer asked Steve Clark to speak on the trail connection sidewalk proposal.

Steve Clark, Rowe Professional Services, reviewed the proposal for the Council. Also included was information and draft correspondence to Mike Sage of DTE Energy. Steve stated he was contacted by Councilperson Schafer to follow up on a phone call she received from Mr. Sage, as the "Ithaca Person of the Year." Councilperson Schafer shared that Mr. Sage represented DTE, who is developing a windfarm and was looking for a project partner, so she informed him of the trail connection pathway and referred him to Steve for additional information. Mr. Clark asked in addition to consideration of the proposal if Council would like the correspondence to be sent.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to authorize Mr. Clark to send the Memo to Mr. Sage and to approve the proposal of Rowe Professional Services Company for the Trail Connection Sidewalk under US-127 in the amount of \$33,900 and authorize the City Manager to sign; funds are to be taken from the Caldwell Fund and will be replenished with any grant funds that may be received. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer inquired if any reimbursement had been received on the Elm Street hazardous spill from last fall. Clerk Fandell will check how the expenses were handled and report back.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43648-43677 and Payroll Checks #14230-14253, DD968-DD973, EFT #613-617 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Ivan Wheeler, 423 E. Fillmore Road, inquired on what the trail connection sidewalk would look like. Mayor Palmer said that the proposal that was approved included the design and would connect the sidewalk system from Burger King to the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway. Councilperson Timmons added it would allow for safer access to the path and that is the goal.

Mr. Wheeler also inquired if any changes had been made to the hunting ordinance that was discussed last fall. Mayor Palmer informed him that no discussion had been held to change the ordinance or the rules. The City relies on the Sheriff Department to police the hunting permits issued. Mr. Wheeler said too many are being issued for the amount of land that is out there according to ordinance. Mayor Palmer asked if he had contacted the Sheriff; Mr. Wheeler had not but agreed to do so. The Mayor said the City would also follow up and asked the City Clerk to request Lt. McCollum attend the next Council meeting to discuss the issue.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council; none was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 4, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Rick Koppleberger and Alice Schafer. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilpersons Brian Henderson, Trevor Paradise and Cathy Timmons.

Audience in attendance was Ivan Wheeler, Seth Wolfe, Lt. Roy McCollum.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to excuse Councilpersons Brian Henderson, Cathy Timmons and Trevor Paradise who was away on vacation. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 21, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review the Gratiot Agricultural (GAS) Lease agreement. The agreement is the same as the prior two years except that it is only a one-year lease term, because of the late renewal request from GAS. It also includes an article for coordination with the the Horse Boarding Lessee in regards to the race track usage. The Committee recommends its approval.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to enter into the one-year lease agreement with the Gratiot Agricultural Society for use of McNabb Park and authorize the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

Seth Wolfe thanked the Council for the agreement and notified it of the Horse Show dates which are; May 5-6, June 16-17, June 28th, July 21-22 and August 11-12. He then asked the City Council to waive the park fees for these event dates in lieu of GAS doing repairs to the horse barn. Mr. Wolfe also informed the Council that the Calf/Pig Scramble was the largest they have had in ten years, with sixty-two children participating. The children caught thirty-six pigs, nine lambs and 7 feeder calfs. Those that didn't catch one received a rabbit. He invited the City Council to attend the appreciation dinner at the Ithaca Community Center on April 27, 2017 at 6:00pm and informed them that GAS was working with IPC on the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the McNabb Park Reservation Forms as submitted by GAS for the dates of May 5-6, June 16-17, June 28th, July 21-22 and August 11-12 and waive the park fees for repair work by GAS to the horse barn if completed by June 30, 2017; before and after pictures are to be provided. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met to review and prioritize budget items for the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. Administrative staff will continue working on the budget with this information and prepare for introduction review.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the GAS lease agreement, budget process, Westwind lot sales, RC Racetrack lease agreement, energy consultant for the fire hall lighting, MML Workers Compensation and Liability review, Medical Marijuana Facilities workshop, Planning Commission, ZFS development, Well #7 survey, SAW grant and Serenity Drive updates with the Drain Commissioner, AT&T Tower lease agreement, Board of Review, MML Capital Conference and community activities.

In addition, Manager Yonker reported the Well #7 survey was completed and certified. He also expanded on the LED lighting project for the Fire Hall/Community Center building. The City was contacted by the consultant because of the Consumers Energy Heating grant. This will actually be two projects. The first will be no cost to the City because of the grant and LED incentives, which is estimated to save \$800 annually. The second will be the exterior lighting which has a total cost of \$6,654 of which the City would have to pay \$2,700. The annual energy savings for this project is estimated at \$2,225. There is some money set aside in the budget for building repairs which would cover the cost, so he therefore approved the second project also.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gruesbeck to receive the City Manager report.

Councilperson Gruesbeck inquired on the structures at ZFS. Manager Yonker said they were supports for the silos and construction updates are available on the ZFS website. Councilperson Schafer inquired if the RC race track lease had been signed. Manager Yonker said the LLC was not yet completed, so no.

Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the list of delinquent invoices and water/sewer bills for 2017 Summer Tax placement. She requested permission to place the public notice informing property owners they have until April 30, 2017 to pay as stated by City Charter and placement on the summer tax roll for those that remain unpaid.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger for the City Clerk-Treasurer to post notice in the newspaper on the delinquent invoices and water/sewer bills as presented and place those that remain unpaid on the 2017 Summer Tax Roll. Motion carried.

Mr. Ivan Wheeler addressed the Council on the hunting ordinance within the city limits.

Mayor Palmer asked Lt. McCollum to report. Lt. McCollum reported that there is an issue with the growing number of homes and the number of permits being issued; add to that there are additional issues with “pushers” and “deer drivers” which increases the number of hunters on the properties. Recommendations for consideration would include going to archery only or buck shot to protect the homes. Whatever changes the Council makes, will not be popular to one party or another, however change does need to be made for safety reasons.

Mr. Wheeler added that goose hunting season was an issue because hunters were shooting after dark. He did contact the police at that time, however they could not find the hunters. Lt. McCollum added that bird shot is light and won't cause damage like other shot will. Mr. Wheeler stated he wasn't in favor of buck shot for deer because you get more wounded deer on the property, however he was in favor of archery and shot gun for land owners only.

Mayor Palmer discussed that the City was aware of a few problem hunters and they would not be receiving permits this year. Mr. Wheeler stated that when the idea of permits first started, the land owners almost lost all hunting privileges, and that is when rifle and muzzleloader hunting was removed. He doesn't want to see it go to archery solely, but respects what the discussion must be for safety reasons; that's why his request for guns remains with the land owners only. There used to be five hunters in an area and now there are nine to ten at times, so permits need to be limited on acreage size.

Mayor Palmer stated the City will support recommendations that provide safety to residents as that is the primary reason for the ordinance. The ordinance needs to make it safe and also needs to make sense. He informed Mr. Wheeler that the City will continue reviewing and if an amendment to the ordinance occurs it will take 45 days once introduced.

Councilperson Schafer asked if other communities had similar ordinances. Lt. McCollum confirmed and said he would research them for the next meeting.

Mayor Palmer asked Lt. McCollum to give his monthly report verbally and the Council could approve the written report at the next meeting as scheduled. He would then excuse the Lieutenant from attending the next meeting.

Lt. McCollum reported on the March activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported as the weather improves, there will be more activity. The officers made a traffic stop in March which the driver was a young lady from out-of-state who was carrying a loaded pistol and taser in her vehicle. She was unaware of the law and the situation was handled according to law. Mayor Palmer complimented the officers on their professionalism and handling of traffic stops. Lt. McCollum further reported on the inoperable vehicles reported and cited. He informed Council that one of the patrol cars is getting a blinker light repaired.

Councilperson Koppleberger inquired on the resident with too many dogs. Lt. McCollum commented he had not seen any reports but would follow up and report back. Mayor Palmer inquired on the Clean Harbor street parking issue, Councilperson Paradise had brought forward. Lt. McCollum asked where the Council would like them to park and he would address it with them. Part of their issue is lack of parking space. Council shared that they are blocking the access to the sidewalk and causing residents who need access to walk in the street, so at a minimum not over the curb and sidewalk. They need to address the issue with the City.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43678-43710 and Payroll Checks #14254-14282, DD974-DD980, EFT #618-623 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None was offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported the City Council petitions were available for those choosing to run for office and the notice to the public had been placed in the newspaper, on the website, public boards in City Hall and the Library and on social media.

Councilperson Schafer noted the article in the MML Review in which the City's Mayor Exchange with Auburn was highlighted. She also met a Councilmember from Zeeland at the MML Capital Conference and suggested setting up a Mayor Exchange day with them since we have ZFS in common. Lastly, she asked if the Code Enforcement work could be done with internal staff. Manager Yonker said he was leaning in that direction.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 18, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Absent was Councilperson Trevor Paradise.

Audience in attendance was David Rowley and Dawn Clark.

Mayor Palmer presented the minutes for approval.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 4, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments; none were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Koppleberger reported the Personnel Committee met to do the annual performance review of the City Manager. The committee also reported that the City Manager will get code enforcement up and running.

Department Reports

Mayor Palmer presented the Ithaca Unit report for approval. Lt. McCollum reported on the information at the last meeting.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Dave Nelson reported on the quarterly activity of the Fire and First Responder Departments. His written report included the the number of runs, education and training of personnel, equipment and building updates including exhaust system issues with Tanker 471 and an update on the meeting with Representative Leonard and MDOT regarding US127 when ZFS becomes operational. In addition to the written report, he informed the Council that the new brush truck arrived and five fire fighters would be attending the fire expo in Indianapolis. They will check out vendors to help with equipment for the skid unit, which received funding from a grant from the Community Foundation. Chief Nelson reported that during the quarter, 100% of personnel met the attendance requirements. This will drop slightly over the summer months due to vacations, but that is expected. City Manager Yonker commended Chief Nelson on offering additional training opportunities to help members meet the requirements. The policy is designed to keep personnel safe, active and trained and not as a punitive measure. Chief Nelson further reported he met with ZFS personnel regarding their fire needs and what training may be required of our department. ZFS has asked him to attend the weekly safety meetings with contractors to keep the City abreast of needs and issues while the project is under construction.

Mayor Palmer asked Chief Nelson to review the pay structure and run attendance with the department personnel now that they are operating at 100% so they fully understand the effects it has on the payroll.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported on the March 2017 quarter ending financial statements and investments.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to receive the quarter financial reports ending March 31, 2017 and place on file for audit. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report that provided information to the Council regarding updates on the GAS lease agreement, budget process, RC Racetrack lease agreement, LED energy lighting for the fire hall, Planning Commission, ZFS development, Well #7 survey, SAW grant and Serenity Drive updates with the Drain Commissioner, AT&T Tower lease agreement and community activities.

In addition, he reported the railroad crossings on South Pine River are installed and operational and the DPW has installed the stop bars also. He received a brief tour of the control box and the box triggers the signal for it to go down. He reported Bob Studt had communication with MDOT regarding the replacement of the curve

rails and they are not in the current or newly proposed State budget, nor are any crossing projects. He will be contacting Rep. Leonard to see if something can be done because of the condition and disrepair of them.

Manager Yonker reported he received the easement agreement from Rod Merchant for the property on Commerce Drive for development of the property as requested by the Planning Commission. He was also contacted by Matt Burluson and the RC raceway group has received its LLC, so the agreement will be signed and work will commence. The group will be out this weekend pulling up the track in preparation of the grading and drainage work.

Councilperson Gruesbeck inquired as to what residents should do with the dirt in their yard and if notification had been sent regarding what the City was doing. Manager Yonker said information was placed on Facebook, the website and the news would be included in the water bill newsletter going out on the 25th.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2017-05 for adoption. If approved, it would allow the City to submit a grant application in conjunction with the State of Michigan for the purchase of the new election voting system and management system software with HAVA grant and State appropriated funds. The City would be able to use the new system for the August Primary Election. There is no match to the grant, however the contract will obligate the City to a maintenance contract on the machines in which it would pay \$615.00 annually in years six (6) through ten (10).

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to adopt Resolution 2017-05 Approving the Grant Application for a New Election Voting System and Management System Software. Motion carried by the following Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (6) Schafer, Timmons, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Paradise

Abstain: (0) None

City Manager Yonker presented Resolution 2017-06. If approved, it would allow for the petitioning of Drain #106 for maintenance and repair. He gave the history on the drain and water issues being experienced on St. Charles Road and Serenity Drive. The drain has some serious infrastructure issues and the upper pond was not draining properly and the lower pond was getting too full. A few years ago, the City worked with Drain Commissioner Denman to clean out the area so the ponds would work properly as designed. The drainage district goes from State Road to Whispering Pines. He reported that City staff met with Drain Commissioner Barnes, Joe Sherwood and both engineers to find a solution. Commissioner Barnes provided the records to show it was originally installed as an agricultural drain in 1915, thus making it over 100 years old. Mayor Palmer added there was no residential homes there at that time. Manager Yonker reported that both the County and City have walked the area and concur that there is no reason to keep repairing it due to age and condition, but fully replacing it instead so it is done properly and will serve the district the best. The two ways to accomplish this are 1) The City petitions based on the infrastructure and property in open, or 2) the resident's petition. There are approximately 50 parcels in the district for the assessment, of which the City is one and would also receive a drain-at-large assessment.

Mayor Palmer stated as of the past Friday, the residents had not filed the petition, but has had one pulled for a long time. There is uncertainty as to why it has not been filed, speculating that they are not getting the required signatures, or they are waiting to see if the City will fix the issue at the City's cost and not assess.

Councilperson Schafer asked if the problem was worse than some of the other neighborhoods in the City. Manager Yonker and Mayor Palmer confirmed that it was and until the Drain Commissioner receives a petition, he can't do anything to help the issues. Resident Matt Vernon has voiced his opinion and issues and the City has received other complaints from homes out in the area regarding sump pumps continually running and trying to keep up with the water.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2017-06 Approving the filing of the Petition to the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner for Repair to Drain 106. Motion carried by the following Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (6) Schafer, Timmons, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Paradise

Abstain: (0) None

Mayor Palmer directed the City Clerk to submit the petition the next day.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell discussed the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget and preparation of it with the City Council. The construction projects and ongoing grants are going to cross budget years and staff needs more time to finalize the draft for consideration by the committee.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to acknowledge the schedule for the introduction of the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget and allow for the Introduction to be done at the May 2, 2017 regular meeting. Motion carried.

City Manager Yonker requested approval of the AT&T Tower Lease Agreement Amendment. He reported he has been working with AT&T on the amendment and their legal counsel released it for approval. Part of the lengthy renewal was due to the fact that AT&T owed the City money from prior amendments and he wouldn't allow them to add or amend the lease until they paid the arrearage. He gave a summation of the new terms and lease rates. The City falls in the mid-range for tower rental fees when compared to other communities. Manager Yonker added that Dixon Engineering does a strength and integrity study of the tower and tank when requests are received. There is one spot on the tower that Casair and AT&T will need to work out per the engineers analysis.

Councilperson Henderson asked if there was any provision that they move their equipment when we have to paint the towers. Utility Services is running into that problem in other communities. Manager Yonker said it was in the original lease with NPI, but not the amendment, but it defaults to the original in its absence; however he would double check prior to signing the amendment.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the Fourth Lease Amendment and First Amendment to Short Form of Lease with AT&T (New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC), provided the clause that they remove the equipment when the tower is painted is included, and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion carried.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43711-43753 and Payroll Checks #14283-14295, DD981-DD986, EFT #624-629 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Councilperson Gruesbeck stated he was asked by Larry Ringle of the Senior Activity Board to have the City Council consider putting in a walking/bicycle path around town. Councilperson Gruesbeck shared the discussions the Council has been having and that there was no master plan for a path. The Board would support any project like that, not monetarily necessarily, but with means that they could do.

Mayor Palmer asked Clerk Fandell for an update on the petitions filed for the City Election. Clerk Fandell reported that one person had pulled and filed a petition for Councilperson and one person had pulled and filed a petition for Mayor.

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the closed session.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to enter into a closed session for the purpose of land acquisition. Motion carried by the following Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (6) Timmons, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Paradise

The audience was excused and City Council entered into closed session at 8:08pm.

City Council returned to open session at 8:31pm.

Mayor Palmer asked for Public Comments; none were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council; none was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 2, 2017
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppkeberger, and Alice Schafer. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Trevor Paradise and Cathy Timmons.

Audience in attendance was Ivan Wheeler, Dale Sherman, Dawn Clark and Scott Gray.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Schafer to excuse Councilperson Timmons due to a family illness. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppkeberger to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 18, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Ways and Means Committee met to review the 2017-2018 budget draft for introduction. The committee made a few minor changes and they are incorporated in the budget document being introduced later in the meeting. The budget supports a water millage of 3.8 mills and an increase in the water and sewer rates of about 20%. The water and sewer rates were evaluated by staff through the annual rate analysis provided Michigan Rural Water. She added the budget footnotes aide in the explanations of line items and the City Manager and Treasurer can answer any questions if needed. The budget also includes the SAW grant and the priority list set by the Council. One item that was removed was the replacement of the Santa House. The committee felt moving the Christmas event to the Community Center would be more cost efficient and warmer for children and parents. There is money in the budget to support some items for the event but not as much as a new house would cost both the City and Ithaca Promotional Committee.

The Committee recommends the introduction of the budget as presented.

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met on the Hunting ordinance and several residents were in attendance. One commonality among all is everyone is in favor of making it safer for residents and land owners. One suggestion was to designate a hunting area and not change the existing zones. He reported there were no recommendations at this time but the committee will look at it more and notify residents if and when changes are to be made. Councilperson Schafer added that she appreciated Lt. McCollum and Sheriff Wright for their input on history and hunting violators.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the budget adoption schedule, Countywide master plan, RC race track, LED lighting conversion, ZFS development, well #7, Brush truck, Drain #106-1 petition, railroad signals, AT&T Lease agreement, community and civic involvement and the Center/Pine River Streets resurfacing project.

In addition, Manager Yonker reported that he and Mayor Palmer attended the Countywide Brownfield meeting and the Authority approved the Brownfield plan for ZFS. The next step is to secure the leases and easements so that the project can move forward. The City has all of the legal descriptions from Rowe PS and he will get them to Attorney Arnold for the easements to be drafted for the property owners to sign. The Brownfield document shows the renaissance zone for the first fifteen years and then the taxes will begin in year thirteen and that is when ZFS will begin to recoup its funds.

Manager Yonker further reported the resurfacing project for Pine River/Center Street began. The concrete removal was complete and they were hoping to have all of the curb pours done that evening. The contractor may start milling later in the week, weather permitting, and possibly pave as early as next week. The LED lighting in the fire hall was complete except for two in the police department portion, which will be done the next day. He reported the DDA would be meeting Friday at noon as a reschedule from April due to a lack of quorum.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Schafer to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

City Council Minutes

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget for introduction.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to introduce the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Schafer to set a public hearing to take comments on the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget and supporting millages and utility rates for May 16, 2017 at 7:00pm or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2017-07 for adoption. She explained that the Drain Commission's legal counsel was requiring a corrected Resolution as the Drain Commission office staff provided an old version of the resolution and the previous adopted one was incorrect and covered the entire drain and not just the portion the City was requesting for repair.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to rescind Resolution 2017-06 Petition for maintenance and improvement on Drain #106. Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppkeberger, Schafer, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (2) Paradise, Timmons

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppkeberger to adopt Resolution 2017-07 Petition for Maintenance and Improvement of a Drain #106-1. Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Henderson, Koppkeberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (2) Paradise, Timmons

Mayor Palmer presented a resignation from office from Councilperson Trevor Paradise.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppkeberger to regretfully receive and approve the resignation of Trevor Paradise from the City Council. Motion Carried.

Mayor Palmer instructed the Council that it had thirty days to appoint a new Councilperson as set by City Charter. Attorney Arnold, Manager Yonker and Clerk Fandell had confirmed the process. Clerk Fandell added that the appointment would end on November 21, 2017. The new candidates are eligible and then the position would vacate once again and would need a new appointment for the remaining two years of the term. Councilperson Koppkeberger asked if an advertisement needed to be placed. Attorney Arnold stated it did not, but was up to the Council's discretion. Councilperson Schafer asked for confirmation that they must meet the criteria as set by Charter and Attorney Arnold confirmed. Councilperson Gruesbeck asked if a letter of interest would be sufficient. Mayor Palmer said a letter or email would be preferred. Council directed staff to place the advertisement on Facebook and the City website.

Councilperson Schafer said she was contacted by the owners of Rosewood and they still want to hook into the sanitary sewer and inquired what the status was. Her understanding is that there is a new person at the Mid Michigan Health Department. Manager Yonker said the City had updated the new staff member on the status and he was working on the 425 Agreement and required easement. The connection could possibly be made in late spring once these items get completed.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43754-43784, Grant Program Checks #1073 and Payroll Checks #14296-14330, DD987-DD996, EFT #630-635 as listed in the Check Register Book. Councilperson Schafer inquired on the \$1,790 invoice for the lift stations and the \$1,243 invoice from Pyramid Control. Treasurer Fandell stated the first item was for the annual inspections and was budgeted. The second item was a street light that was damaged by the 3/8/17 wind storm and would be reimbursed under the insurance claim. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppkeberger to enter into closed session for the purpose of land purchase. Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: (5) Koppkeberger, Schafer, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Timmons

**Mayor Palmer moved to closed session at 7:35pm.
City Council returned to open session at 7:46pm.**

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to purchase 1.04 acres of land from the Grace A. Vanderbeek Trust at a cost of \$20,801.00 for the purpose of a new municipal water well and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign. Motion carried by roll call vote:

**Ayes: (5) Schafer, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (1) Timmons**

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to authorize the City Treasurer to make payment for said property purchase on the closing date to be determined by Attorney Arnold. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 10, 2017
7:00 PM**

The special meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Rick Koppleberger and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Brian Henderson, Alice Schafer* and Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Mike McDonald, Brett Baublitz and Caleb Baublitz.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Appointment of City Councilperson

Mayor Palmer discussed the vacancy of the elected seat for City Councilperson due to the accepted resignation of Trevor Paradise. The vacancy was advertised on the City's website, social media, in the Morning Sun ads and as an article in both the Morning Sun and Gratiot County Herald.

He reiterated that residents who were interested were instructed to submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk. He added that one letter was received from Brett Baublitz, a lifetime resident of the City and former City firefighter. Mr. Baublitz is a respected member of the community and wished to continue his service to the community as a Councilperson.

He asked the Council to approve the recommended appointment of Brett Baublitz to City Council.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to appoint Brett Baublitz as City Councilperson to be effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Fandell administered the Oath of Office to Brett Baublitz.

Mayor Palmer seated Councilperson Baublitz.

Mayor Palmer requested approval of appointing Councilperson Baublitz to the Building & Grounds, Equipment and Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committees.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to appoint Councilperson Baublitz to the Building & Grounds, Equipment and Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committees. Motion carried.

*Councilperson Schafer arrived at 7:06pm.

Mayor Palmer requested approval of the appointment of Councilperson Timmons to the Fairboard.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Baublitz to appoint Councilperson Timmons to the Gratiot Agricultural Society Board. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council.

City Manager Yonker inquired on a request received to split a lot in Westwind Estates Subdivision. Mayor Palmer set a Ways and Means Committee meeting for May 16, 2017 at 6:00pm for this item.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Timmons to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 16, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppkeberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppkeberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Scott Gray.

Mayor Palmer asked to add Item 10C Resolution 2017-10 to the agenda.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Henderson to add Resolution 2017-10 to the agenda as Item 10C. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 2, 2017. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppkeberger to approve the minutes of the special meeting held May 10, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Scott Gray thanked Councilperson Baublitz for filling the vacancy on the Council.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Ways and Means Committee met to discuss the Westwind lots. The City Manager received a request for consideration on selling a lot and allowing it to be split so that neighbors could each have a portion and no home could be built. The Committee's review showed only five lots left and available for sale and with the ZFS project, plus recent sales, it recommends maintaining the current policy to sell, not split and require a home to begin construction within a year.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppkeberger to maintain the policy for the sale of the Westwind Estates lots that any lot sold must have new home construction begin within one-year of the closing of the sale. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer further reported that the committee discussed the correspondence the Mayor received from Ceo Bauer regarding the connection sidewalk to the Mid-Michigan Community pathway and the use of Caldwell funds to make the connection and provide more safety for residents and users of the path. She added that City Manager Yonker talked with him regarding his plan and a possible street crossing as Dilts Road and closer to town for safety. Councilperson Timmons stated it had been some time since we approached MDOT and perhaps now would be the appropriate time. City Manager Yonker said he would make the contact.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum provided a written report on the April activity of the Ithaca Unit.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Timmons to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Gratiot County Building Department provided a listing of permits issued to date for 2017.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to receive the Building Permits report. Motion carried.

Budget Presentation

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the Public Hearing for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget.

Moved by Schafer, second by Baublitz to open the Public Hearing for the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing 7:15pm.

City Manager Yonker gave a power point presentation on the 2017-2018 budget.

Scott Gray asked where the water usage cost of \$400K went to. Manager Yonker and Treasurer Fandell explained it covered the new Center Street water line, water tower agreements and the new well. He additionally asked what the service charges were. Manager Yonker said it covers services for water, sewer, library and cemetery services.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

**Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the hearing at 8:24pm.**

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2017-08 Approving the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Millage Rates. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Baublitz, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Schafer, Timmons, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the Countywide master plan, RC race track, LED lighting conversion, ZFS development, well #7, Brush truck, Drain #106-1 petition, DDA meeting, county permit fees, webinars, MI Green Communities Annual Conference attendance, community and civic involvement and the Center/Pine River Streets resurfacing project.

In addition, Manager Yonker reported that the soil for the RC racetrack was arriving and opening day was scheduled for June 13, 2017. The Downtown planters would be arriving on Thursday and the new brackets and flags would be installed for Memorial Day. The speaker system was also tested and in full operation for the Dust Off Car Show. He reported he received notice that GAS was awarded a State harness race on June 20, 2017 at 1:00pm. They will coordinate with the Daniels' on the track maintenance for the race and Director Studt is also involved. He asked Attorney Arnold for an update on Well #7. Attorney Arnold reported the title work is still in progress, however the purchase agreement has been signed and accepted.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2017-09 for approval. She explained that annually the City must name its depositories and this resolution accomplishes that requirement.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2017-09 Designation of Depositories. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the list of recommended Board and Committee appointments to the Council for consideration. He explained that there are still some vacancies that will need to be addressed and the Library has two names submitted. Councilperson Shafer explained that one of the applicants is a non-resident and the Library Board can have one member from the district, however that position is currently filled by Joy Heinlein, so Ms. Lake would not qualify for the open seat at this time. Mayor Palmer discussed the appointment of Scott Gray to the Board of Review in that if elected in November, he would have to resign from the Board of Review and that could leave a new vacancy.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to appoint the following: Douglas Wright and Jerry Timmons to the Planning Commission for term ending 6/30/2020; Janet Strong and Shelly Betancourt to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending 6/30/2020; Scott Gray to the Board of Review for a term ending 6/30/2020; and Mary Humm to the Thompson Home Public Library Board for a term ending 6/30/2022. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell will send out letters to the applicants and informed Council that the filing date had been changed on the website for the vacancies to "until filled".

City Manager Yonker presented Resolution 2017-10 which if adopted would hold MDOT harmless and allow it and the City to work in the MDOT right-of-way. MDOT changed its form in December of 2016 and we need to update it.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2017-10 Performance for Governmental Agencies. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer informed the Council that the DDA is having issue with getting a quorum for its meetings and hasn't met. The last three attempts were cancelled, two members have resigned, and there are four vacancies as of 6/30/17. The Council and DDA need to have a meeting to discuss the future of the DDA.

City Manager Yonker stated the Council had authorized him to assist with the TIF renewal plan. Currently, the DDA captures 20% which equals just under \$15K. If it changes to 100% then it would have more working capital to do more with. The increase in capture would reduce the General fund by 5x and the same for the County. It is uncertain if the County will push back or accept the change. With new legislation, there are limited items for capture, so we would need to decide if it is worth the additional capture. If the DDA does not capture, then general funds could still be used in the downtown. Councilperson Schafer said when the

DDA started it was used to loan the funds from the fire and grants and façade work. Now that has gone away and the Main Street program was good, but the businesses did not buy into it so it may be time to dissolve the authority. Manager Yonker said dissolution would require an ordinance, but staff needs to do a full analysis prior to a decision being made. The decision will need to be made by late summer/early fall so as not to miss the TIF renewal deadline if the authority continues.

Councilperson Schafer reported the street light in on the 700 Block of S. St. Johns Street is on all of the time.

Councilperson Timmons reminded all of the Dust Off Car Show on Sunday.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43785-43819, Water/Sewer Bond Debt ACH #3A and Payroll Checks #14331-14346, DD997-DD1002, EFT #636-642 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 6, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppkeberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was City Manager Yonker (attending Michigan Green Communities Conference)

Audience in attendance was Scott Gray, Clark Hubbard, Ivan Wheeler and Brian Adkins.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 16, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the RC race track, Drain #106-1 petition, ZFS development, well #7, Brush truck, safety trailer purchase, grant for TIC Mask, DDA meeting, webinars, MI Green Communities Annual Conference attendance, community and civic involvement, the Center/Pine River Streets resurfacing project, retirement of Mike Allen, recognition of Cathy Timmons – Child Advocate of the Year, Barb Fandell- President Elect for the MMTA and Jonathan Palmer – one of Ithaca's top students for 2017.

Mayor Palmer commented on the Memorial Day parade and how nice it was having the speaker system in good working order. He also highlighted the paving referenced in the Manager's report and that the contractor was scheduled to begin after school lets out. He congratulated Cathy Timmons and Barb Fandell on their accomplishments.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2017-11 for adoption and asked Treasurer Fandell to address. Treasurer Fandell stated there were no changes since the public hearing presentation. She confirmed that the projects the Council had requested were in the budget. The resolution also supports the Water/Sewer rates and millages discussed during the public hearing held in May. Councilperson Schafer commended staff on the budget presentation and work which went into its creation.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2017-11 Budget Appropriations for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppkeberger, Schafer, Timmons, Baublitz, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Councilperson Timmons commended Clerk-Treasurer Fandell on her MMTA Board position. Ms. Fandell informed the Council that she was able to qualify for the Advanced Certified Public Finance Administrator certification and has applied. In October she will become the President of the MMTA and as a thank you to the City for allowing her to serve the board the past ten years, will be able to attend the educational events at no charge for the classes. She also informed the Council that she should have accumulated enough points to apply for the Certified Master Clerk certification after the Clerk's conference in late June.

Councilperson Timmons reported she has been working with the County on the War Memorial and has verified it is owned by the County after the Veterans made the original donation. The County does have budget line item for the maintenance of the Memorial. Councilperson Henderson added that the County should be paying and performing the maintenance on it and not the City.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell updated Council on the status of the new phone system and Mike Allen's retirement. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell received a request from Jack Martin, with the Cal/Pig Scramble Committee for the Fair Board to waive the \$50 fee charged for the scramble event in April. This was the first year they were charged. Clerk-Fandell explained to Mr. Martin that it was the understanding of the Council and staff that the committee is not under the GAS umbrella and thus did not fall under the lease agreement terms for waiver of fees. Mr. Martin confirmed but said the scramble supports the fair and was separated due to liability insurance reasons and asked for the fee to be waived. He was informed that the request needs to accompany the registration form in the future.

Moved by Henderson, second by Baublitz to waive the \$50 park rental fee for the Cal/Pig Scramble Committee for the April use. Motion Carried.

Mayor Palmer directed Clerk Fandell to notify of the fee waiver and to clarify that in the future the request must come prior to the event or it will not be consider.

Councilperson Schafer sied Rosewood has had no progress on hooking into the City sewer system and are still waiting.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43820-43865, and Payroll Checks #14347-14366, DD1003-DD1008, EFT #643-648 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Scott Gray requested that an alternative locking method be looked at for the gate on North Street to the Industrial Park as people are riding around it and wrecking the grass. It would be more convenient if it could be locked but leave enough room for bicycles and lawn mowers to get through so they won't go around.

Ike Wheeler asked if the old RC track would be used in the future. Mayor Palmer informed the audience that the new group had taken over and the grand opening for the Ithaca Raceway was last Saturday.

Brian Adkins, President of AYSO addressed the Council on the AYSO tournament event coming the next weekend. There are over 50 games scheduled for the tournament and he has been in touch with Director Studt on their needs.

Mayor Palmer set a Public Safety/Code Enforcement meeting for June 20, 2017 at 6:00pm to address the hunting ordinance.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 20, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Pro-Tem Alice Schafer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Absent was Mayor Tim Palmer.

Audience in attendance was Scott Gray, Ivan Wheeler, Bryan Adkins, Tracy Cordes, Bob Garland, Kurt Brauer, Thomas Colis, Jim Wheeler and Don Schurr.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to amend the agenda by removing Items 9B(4) and 9B(5) as the documents will not be presented for consideration until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 6, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Pro-Tem Schafer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to review a project request by Cavin Beck to build an Octaball (GaGa) pit in Woodland Park in order to obtain his Eagle Scout status. The Committee recommends approving the project and having Mr. Beck work with the City Manager of the placement, signage and rules board and other details as required.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the Eagle Scout project of a Octaball (GaGa) pit for Woodland Park by Cavin Beck with the City Manager as the project contact and coordinator for the City. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee met to review the appointment of officers for the Fire Department and review of the Hunting Ordinance. The committee discussed changes to the Hunting Ordinance for "archery only" areas, allowing hunting in the South Industrial Park and ZFS property. The committee directed the City Manager to prepare the new maps and ordinance changes and bring back for introduction so changes are in place for the fall hunting season. The committee also reviewed the applications by members and recommendations of Chief Nelson for the Medical Officer and Fire 2nd Lieutenant officer positions. The committee recommends the appointment of Rick Bongard to the Medical Officer position and Jamie Gulick to the 2nd Lieutenant position.

City Manager Yonker asked representatives from ZFS about hunting on the property. Bob Garland stated it would not be allowed due to company policy that no weapons are allowed on any ZFS owned property, so hunting would not be allowed. Kurt Brauer confirmed.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Timmons to appoint Rick Bongard to the Medical Officer position and Jamie Gulick to the 2nd Lieutenant position of the Fire Department. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Lieutenant Roy McCollum provided a written report for the May activity of the Ithaca Unit.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the RC race track race, the 16-17 fiscal year budget and amendments, ZFS development, well #7, Drain #106-1, Brush truck, DDA and Planning Commission meetings, resignation of the County Building Inspectors, MI Green Communities Annual Conference, Dust-Off Car Show, street paving projects and community and civic involvement

In addition, Manager Yonker reported that DDA would like to reduce the number of board members by two and would like a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss the future of the DDA and TIF plan. He presented a Consumers Energy flyer showing the smart reader installation schedule/procedure for residents within the City and noted the City will help provide this information through its social media. He further reported the countywide manager's group met with GGDI on the Master Plan and are hoping to present a report City Council Minutes

by the end of June. The County has selected Dale Sherman as the interim building inspector until a new one can be hired. He reported that all of the permits for the ZFS project have been received and the bid packages are out and due back for opening on July 18, 2017.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager Yonker presented a request from Gratiot Agricultural Society to approve the Fireworks permit for June 24, 2017. Chief Nelson said the same company was being used as in the past years and he had staff scheduled to cover the event.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the Permit for Fireworks Other than Consumer or Low Impact for the Gratiot Agricultural Society to hold in McNabb Park on June 24, 2017. Motion carried.

City Manager Yonker presented the ZFS Ithaca, LLC project agreements for Council consideration and approval and asked Attorney Thomas Colis of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone to review them with the Council. Mr. Colis explained that the easements are not as traditional as to what the Council normally reviews. With these, ZFS will operate, repair and maintain everything, but not own. The easements are very specific and ties to the thirty-year terms. The City will be able to inspect the items over the term to make sure they are being maintained properly. The leases give ZFS permission to operate and the timing of the leases directly tie to the timing on the easements. This makes them go hand in hand so a violation of one, violates the other. The lease allows the City limited use. The documents and structure are being done for the Brownfield Redevelopment reimbursements and should the State of Michigan remove the City's requirement to own, then the easements can be removed. Mr. Colis said a second signature line would be added so that the Mayor and City Clerk can be the legal signers of the documents.

Kurt Brauer, attorney for ZFS Ithaca, LLC, thanked the City Manager and Greater Gratiot Development for the team effort on the project. Mayor Pro-Tem Schafer extended the City's pleasure in having ZFS in the community.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve the easements for the Rail Lines and Electrical Substation between ZFS Ithaca, LLC and the City of Ithaca and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk as signers of the documents. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to approve the lease agreements for the Rail Lines and Electrical Substation between ZFS Ithaca, LLC and the City of Ithaca and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk as signers of the documents. Motion carried.

Bob Garland gave a brief project update. Once in operation, the initial traffic will be all truck and eventually will transition to the rail. There will be seventy-four jobs created, fifty on site in Ithaca and twenty-four corporate positions and drivers. The facility plans to take grain in the fall of 2018 and meal grain in 2019. He also added that the eagles had lost their hatchlings over the winter.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented and reviewed the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget amendments for approval.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to adopt the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget Amendments as follows: Motion Carried.

2016-2017 Budget Amendments for City Council 6-20-17		ADOPTED	PRIOR	CURRENT	FINAL
FUND		BUDGET	AMENDMENTS	AMENDMENTS	AMENDED BUDGET
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND					
101-000-402.000	CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES	861,223.00	0.00	7,777.00	869,000.00
101-000-407.000	425 AGREEMENT PAYMENTS	(16,458.00)	0.00	781.00	(15,677.00)
101-000-426.000	TAXES -SIDEWALK MILLAGE	65,000.00	0.00	(1,400.00)	63,600.00
101-000-455.000	WATER TOWER RENTAL	29,760.00	0.00	14,475.00	44,235.00
101-000-573.000	LOCAL COMMUN STABILIZATION SHARE	0.00	0.00	36,957.00	36,957.00
101-000-665.000	INTEREST EARNED	3,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
101-000-673.271	SALE OF ASSETS - WESTWIND LOT	0.00	0.00	23,500.00	23,500.00
101-000-677.000	REIMBURSEMENTS RUBBISH TAGS	3,000.00	0.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
101-000-699.000	TRANSFERS IN	111,138.00	0.00	(100,000.00)	11,138.00
	REVENUES to Amend	1,594,122.00	9,900.00	(17,910.00)	1,586,112.00
DEPT: 101 - CITY COUNCIL					
		32,155.00	0.00	(2,140.00)	30,015.00
DEPT: 172 - CITY MANAGER					
		86,019.00	0.00	(1,500.00)	84,519.00
DEPT: 228 - TECHNOLOGY					
		11,275.00	0.00	1,328.00	12,603.00
DEPT: 247 - BOARD OF REVIEW					
		1,000.00	400.00	(500.00)	900.00
DEPT: 257 - ASSESSOR					
		27,860.00	0.00	3,500.00	31,360.00
DEPT: 263 - COMMUNITY CENTER					
		6,505.00	0.00	(400.00)	6,105.00
DEPT: 264 - OTHER BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS					
		52,832.00	0.00	6,500.00	59,332.00
DEPT: 265 - CITY HALL AND GROUNDS					
		134,800.00	0.00	(98,500.00)	36,300.00
DEPT: 266 - ATTORNEY & PROFESSIONAL COUNSEL					
		11,350.00	0.00	4,200.00	15,550.00
DEPT: 301 - POLICE DEPARTMENT					
		394,104.00	0.00	(4,282.00)	389,822.00
DEPT: 372 - CODE ENFORCEMENT					
		32,650.00	0.00	(12,475.00)	20,175.00
DEPT: 441 - PUBLIC WORKS					
		105,540.00	0.00	13,410.00	118,950.00
DEPT: 445 - DRAINS - TAXES AT LARGE					
		40,001.00	0.00	(166.00)	39,835.00
DEPT: 528 - RUBBISH TAGS					
		3,000.00	0.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
DEPT: 695 - WESTWIND ESTATES					
		0.00	0.00	616.00	616.00
DEPT: 751 - CITY PARKS					
		45,475.00	0.00	20,655.00	66,130.00
DEPT: 752 - MCNABB PARK					
		52,598.00	0.00	3,300.00	55,898.00
DEPT: 753 - RECREATION					
		4,000.00	0.00	(4,000.00)	0.00
DEPT: 851 - INSURANCE AND BONDS					
		17,650.00	550.00	930.00	19,130.00
DEPT: 899 - TAX TRIBUNAL REFUNDS ORDERED					
		500.00	0.00	867.00	1,367.00
DEPT: 999 - TRANSFERS OUT					
		246,377.00	0.00	(56,409.00)	189,968.00
	TOTAL Expenditures to Amend	1,305,691.00	950.00	(126,066.00)	1,180,575.00
Fund 150 - CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	0.00	0.00	1,509.00	1,509.00
Fund 202 - MAJOR STREETS FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	277,653.00	0.00	(190.00)	277,463.00
	Expenditures to Amend	334,196.00	3,446.00	2,145.00	339,787.00
Fund 203 - LOCAL STREETS FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	203,013.00	0.00	(1,220.00)	201,793.00
	Expenditures to Amend	167,122.00	18,176.00	(2,587.00)	182,711.00
Fund 206 - FIRE OPERATING FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	182,000.00	33,600.00	50,080.00	265,680.00
	Expenditures to Amend	182,000.00	39,752.00	40,382.00	262,134.00
Fund 209 - CEMETERY OPERATING FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	46,308.00	0.00	2,550.00	48,858.00
	Expenditures to Amend	46,308.00	0.00	9,608.00	55,916.00
Fund 211 - CEMETERY SINKING FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	6,000.00	0.00	3,140.00	9,140.00
Fund 214 - FIRE & RESCUE SINKING FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	17,060.00	0.00	0.00	17,060.00
	Expenditures to Amend	0.00	0.00	40,400.00	40,400.00
Fund 217 - CALDWELL FUND					
	Expenditures to Amend	0.00	0.00	33,900.00	33,900.00
Fund 218 - GIBBS MEMORIAL FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	55,300.00	0.00	(54,300.00)	1,000.00
	Expenditures to Amend	100,000.00	0.00	(100,000.00)	0.00
Fund 244 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
	Revenues to Amend	8,148.00	0.00	33,900.00	42,048.00
	Expenditures to Amend	0.00	0.00	33,900.00	33,900.00
Fund 248 - DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY					
	Revenues to Amend	18,810.00	0.00	(3,680.00)	15,130.00
	Expenditures to Amend	18,698.00	0.00	(3,460.00)	15,238.00
Fund 271 - LIBRARY OPERATING FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	216,300.00	(2,323.00)	11,873.00	225,850.00
	Expenditures to Amend	162,306.00	0.00	4,462.00	166,768.00
Fund 286 - GRANT PROGRAM FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	0.00	0.00	143,879.00	143,879.00
	Expenditures to Amend	0.00	0.00	173,657.00	173,657.00
Fund 592 - WATER AND SEWER FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	1,001,828.00	0.00	167,800.00	1,169,628.00
	Expenditures to Amend	1,328,944.00	0.00	227,365.00	1,556,309.00
Fund 666 - MATERIAL FUND					
	Revenues to Amend	2,135.00	0.00	15,020.00	17,155.00
Fund 777 - PP TRUST -ICAA PERK UP PARK					
	Expenditures to Amend	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00

Mayor Pro-Tem Schafer invited County Administrator Tracy Cordes to speak and did introductions of the City Council. Ms. Cordes spoke to her background and told the City Council that she was looking forward to more collaborative efforts with the City.

Bryan Adkins gave an update on the AYSO tournament and marked it as a success. The two day tournament was well attended, received good reviews and everyone had fun. It had been nine years since the tournament was hosted by Ithaca. City Manager Yonker added that AYSO did a great job with marking the parking areas and clean up during and after the tournament. He also added that the police officers were present and several business profited from the day. Mr. Adkins added that all AYSO purchases for the tournament were locally within the County.

Attorney Arnold reported that the title insurance on the property for Well #7 had been received and he was still waiting for the closing documents from Attorney Costanzo.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43867-43917, and Payroll Checks #14367-14382, DD1009-DD1014, EFT #649-654 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Pro-Tem Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Pro-Tem Schafer informed the Council of her mother's passing. She was 102 years of age and donated her body to MSU. A memorial service will be held in July.

Mayor Pro-Tem Schafer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

July 11, 2017

7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Rosemary Horvath.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 20, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Henderson reported the Streets and Parking Committee met to review the quote for the Maple Street paving project. The quote came in over budget by \$11,500 and the committee recommends approving the completion of the paving and amending the budget. The Committee also discussed the city parking lot behind the library, the adjacent alley and the moving of the gate or lock reconfiguration by the Senior Activity building. City Manager Yonker stated he talked with Don Schurr of Greater Gratiot Development and confirmed the road is an exit for emergency purposes and the certified industrial park does not allow for it to be a truck exit. Councilperson Baublitz asked if they discussed the downtown mall and there are several trucks with trailers going through. The issue is the lack of signange from Pine River and Main streets so drivers don't see the signs until after they have turned. Councilperson Henderson also noted the Committee discussed the realignment of Dilts Road and Industrial Parkway.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to approve the Maple Street paving project and amend the budget for the project cost increase of \$11,500. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the RC race track, Ithaca Schools swimming pool removal, Drain #106-1 petition, ZFS development, street paving projects, well #7, Anchor Danly MTT, new phone system, Planning Commission updates, webinars, County Master Plan, City Hall landscape, city street signs and community activities.

Manager Yonker reported that he and staff met with MDOT, the Sherriff, Lt. McCollum, Rowe, ZFS and GGDI to discuss several issues. One topic was the Dilts Rd/Industrial Parkway realignment. MDOT is not willing to put a light there or review it until the roads are realigned. He recommended talking with the property owner on the NW corner on purchasing the property to help with the realignment. Councilperson Henderson noted there were underground storage tanks there that would have to be checked out before purchase consideration.

Manager Yonker said another topic was the 3-lane reconfiguration. MDOT agreed to run models on the changeover as it is configured today and projections of future with ZFS traffic assumptions. There are concerns with the commercial versus residential in the area, they will analyze traffic studies and then meet with the Council on the findings. The MDOT staff also showed plans to close or create a cul-de-sac on Bagley Road. They are looking to make a decision in the next year with construction in the Spring of 2019.

Manager Yonker further reported that the final design prints for the connector sidewalk had been submitted to MDOT and if FEWA approves them, construction could be slated for the Fall. Councilperson Schafer asked if DTE has communicated anything further on project cost sharing. Manager Yonker said not yet, however Steve Clark from Rowe said it is still a possibility once the project designs are approved.

Manager Yonker informed Council that he would be attending the Drain #101-6 hearing and will follow up on the 101 Drain hearing with Commissioner Barnes due to the letter being signed by the Midland County Drain office. He further asked Council for direction on the filling of the Planning Commission vacancies. There are currently three vacancies leaving only six of the nine positions filled. Just as the DDA wants to lower the count on its board, the planning commission could consider the same. State law allows a Commission to have 5, 7, or 9 members and asked if the Council would like the reduction consideration presented to the planning commission board or no. Councilpersons agreed to have City Manager Yonker present the reduction consideration to the planning commission; reducing to five members and utilizing the others for the Zoning Board of Appeals that needs to be established.

City Council Minutes

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell requested the Council to appoint the Officer Delegate for the MERS annual meeting.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to appoint Bob Studt as the Officer Delegate and Chris Yonker as the Officer Alternate Delegate to the MERS 71st annual meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented the MML Workers Compensation Fund Board of Trustees slate of candidates for election consideration.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to cast the ballot for the five incumbent Trustees to the MML Workers Compensation Fund Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck asked which staff member was handling code violations and rental inspections. Manager Yonker said Assessor Hunter was handling rental inspections and Jennifer Reed was handling the code issues. Mayor Palmer asked for an update on the code process as Council feels there is disconnect in the process among itself, the City Attorney and all staff. In addition he added that the Council adopted a six-step process under Bill Cousins and is concerned it is not being followed.

Manager Yonker responded that Attorney Arnold was working on the written procedure; Attorney Arnold confirmed it was still in process. Manager Yonker also stated that the sixth step in the process does not match the IPMC and needs to be changed. Mayor Palmer asked how the process works. Manager Yonker explained that he will set it up so Jennifer will get out more and inspect the issues on a regular basis and also provide a written report to the Council. Councilperson Schafer asked if the police were handling the inoperable vehicles and Mayor Palmer stated no – the Sherriff will not allow it as he wants them to concentrate on law enforcement and not code issues. Attorney Arnold noted that they do not recognize City ordinances as law; as compared to state laws. Councilperson Timmons requested the adopted six-step process be sent to her as she was not a member when it was passed.

Mayor Palmer addressed the old issue of the trees on Center Street that are causing safety issues for drivers. When previously discussed, the Council did not direct anyone to draft a resolution to MDOT for their removal. Manager Yonker stated that pictures were taken of the trees and if drivers stop behind the stop bar they have clear vision, but if they pull forward they do not. He cautioned taking trees down because then you have to determine “when do you stop” if other requests are received. Council discussed the trees causing the issues and determine them to be three on the NE side of Center/Union and two on the SW side of Center/S. St. Johns. City Manager Yonker said he would prepare the Resolution for the next meeting.

Mayor Palmer asked Attorney Arnold when the property closing for the water well property would be. Attorney Arnold reported the title insurance was received and he had contacted Mr. Constanzo twice. There was a miscommunication in the delivery of the title insurance, so that caused a delay.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Baublitz to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43918-43974, and Payroll Checks #14383-14427, DD1015-DD1029, EFT #655-668 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

July 25, 2017

7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Fire Chief Dave Nelson and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Absent was Councilperson Brett Baublitz.

Audience in attendance was Rosemary Horvath.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to excuse Councilperson Baublitz who was out of state attending a family matter. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 11, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Department Reports

Fire Chief Nelson reported the quotes for equipping the brush truck were coming in under budget. The lighting is in and the truck will be taken to Pro Comm for installation. The skid unit will be selected and ordered and once done, will have a five to six week delivery time frame. He reported there was a 59% increase in fire runs and 47% increase in Rescue calls for the quarter.

Councilperson Timmons asked when the department trained on CPR and first aid. Chief Nelson said it is the second Tuesday in January and will be open to all city staff and City Council.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

Lt. McCollum reported on the Ithaca Unit activity. The kidnapped victim that escaped from his captors when they stopped in the City is part of the ongoing investigation. It has not been determined why or what brought them to Ithaca, but the stopped and help he received saved his life. He informed Council that Officer Morningstar is not, nor ever was assigned to the Ithaca Unit, but has helped to fill shifts when needed. He further reported the patrol car needed a small repair despite having to be towed.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer called for action on the County Building Permit report.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the Co. Building Permit report. Motion carried.

City Manager Yonker reported on the new Code Officer's report. Mayor Palmer asked what amount of time was being spent on code enforcement and how long was she spending out in the community. Manager Yonker stated more time should be spent on the code issues and that the goal for being out in the community is half a day a week at least. Finalizing the process has been a hindrance to the time spent. Mayor Palmer asked Attorney Arnold what the process for a ticket was. Attorney Arnold stated it is the same process as a warrant; he reviews the report and ordinance, determines if there is cause, signs off and goes forward with the filing through the court. It is a one-two day process. Attorney Arnold stated he had the process finalized and will send to City Manager Yonker. Councilperson Timmons requested the addresses be added to the report or for the Code Officer to attach the spreadsheet with detail rather than redoing a summation. Members agreed to the format and reporting on a monthly basis until further notice.

Moved by Timmons, second Schafer by to receive the Code Officer's report. Motion carried

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the RC race track, Drain #106-1 petition, ZFS development, Well #7, 2017 paving projects, code enforcement properties and new construction, Planning Commission meeting, Countywide Master Plan, MDOT meeting and the generous volunteer efforts of Linda and Rick Bongard who donated and planted the flowers in front of the fire hall.

City Manager Yonker reported that Rural Urban Day attendance was down some from last year, most likely due to the very hot weather and that John Moolenaar will be visiting Ithaca on his tour of communities. He informed Council that he would be attending the Drain #106-1 meeting, but not the 101 Drain meeting as the city received notice but does not have property in the open on that drain.

City Manager Yonker noted the newsletter and water/sewer rate increase letter that was being mailed with the current water bills was distributed out to the Council so they had the information at hand and prior to residents receiving them. He further updated members on the options for the County Building Inspector and the ZFS project bid award status. He reported that a request was received from resident Bob Smith to volunteer to do work in the cemetery to repair old foundations and clean headstones. Mr. Smith is willing to sign a liability waiver and has talked with a monument company on how to properly clean a headstone. Manager Yonker requested Council approval or objection to allowing it pending approval from the City's insurance company for liability. City Council had no objections.

Manager Yonker stated the Maple Street and Union Street restoration from paving was being completed and the Senior parking lot is complete. Councilperson Gruesbeck said the Senior Board does not want lines painted in the parking lot. Mayor Palmer acknowledged their request, but we will have to comply with handicap markings at a minimum.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2017-12 for adoption which if approved would remove the Well #7 property from the PA116 Farmland Preservation Agreement so the closing of the property from the Vanderbeek Estate can be completed.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adopt Resolution 2017-12 Removal of Wellhouse #7 property from PA116 Farmland Preservation Agreement. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Henderson, Koppleberger, Schafer, Timmons, Gruesbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Baublitz

Mayor Palmer presented Resolution 2017-13 for adoption which if approved would allow MDOT to remove the large trees on Center Street by Union and S. St. Johns for safety of the residents as formerly discussed.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2017-13 Approving the Removal of Trees on US-127 Business Route by MDOT. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Henderson, Koppleberger, Schafer, Timmons, Gruesbeck, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Baublitz

Councilperson Timmons asked when the sidewalk Zone II work would begin. Mayor Palmer stated it was a September construction to allow for collection of the tax dollars that fund the project. She further inquired on the Connector Sidewalk to the pathway project. Manager Yonker said an update was received from Rowe earlier that day and it was still under review by MDOT, which had requested additional information. Lastly, she requested the weeds in the downtown be addressed as areas were getting bad. Manager Yonker said the DPW sprayed that day and he would follow up with them on her request.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #43975-44014, and Payroll Checks #14428-14462, DD1030-DD1039, EFT #669-672 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 8, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brett Baublitz, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Fire Chief Dave Nelson and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Absent was Councilperson Brian Henderson.

Audience in attendance was Brian Treborg, Don Schurr, Jim Wheeler, Steve Clark, Bob Garland, Mike McDonald and Tom McDonald.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to excuse Councilperson Henderson who was attending a family matter. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 25, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report and highlighted the following items with the Council. He reported the County Hazard Mitigation Plan would be an 18—24 month process to reach a finalized plan. Each community will have input prior to the final adoption by the County. The plan is required in order for the County to be eligible and received FEMA disaster federal assistance in the event one occurs. Don Schurr added that meeting will be held monthly and will include a wide call for citizen participation from each community and will address serious weather like ice storms, tornados, floods, etc. Councilperson Timmons inquired how the process time could be shortened. Mr. Schurr shared that more people and more frequent meetings would be the way to accomplish that.

Manager Yonker reported that he had meetings with Granger and Republic Services regarding the City's refuse contract. The City is in the final year of the current contract and he requested a committee meeting to discuss the service. He informed members that he participated in a webinar which discussed recycling, of which a representative from Republic Services sat on the panel. There are three types of recycling collection; Bins, Blue Bags and Separate Carts. The webinar stated that research shows cart use promotes higher recycling.

Manager Yonker reported that Lakeside Motor Sports donated the UTV unit for use by the Fire Department and it will get traded out annually through this program. The Fire Chief has written a grant to get more thermal mask through the Fire Chiefs Association. He further reported the County Master Plan would be presented to the Planning Commission at its next meeting for approval and once completed will then come to the City Council for distribution approval, the 63-day review period, public hearing, and final adoption. He further informed Council that the DPW had sealed the downtown sidewalks and had to shut down the street for a couple of hours for it to dry. He thanked Mayor Palmer and his son for helping with placing the new bark downtown. Manager Yonker asked Attorney Arnold for an update on Well #7 property. Attorney Arnold said there was no progression and we are still waiting for the State to release it from the PA116 agreement. Manager Yonker informed Council that we will have to proceed with ordering the parts or we will not be able to install the well until next spring; and with the well maintenance underway, we are currently operating with only two wells. He lastly reported that a meeting was held with AYSO at their request regarding the addition of new fields and condition of existing.

Councilperson Schafer commented that the explanation that went to residents regarding the water rates was very informative and well done. Mayor Palmer showed a bill comparison of his home with rates in the City as compared to neighboring communities. He thanked the office staff and Manager for their work and time spent helping the residents understand the rate structure.

Councilperson Timmons asked when the brush truck was going to be put into service because it was purchased in late March, early April. Manager Yonker stated it would be about six more weeks.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer asked to amend the agenda to add item 8D: Resolution 2017-14.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to amend the agenda to add item 8D: Resolution 2017-14. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell requested the appointment of the voting delegates to the MML Annual Meeting. Councilpersons Schafer and Timmons will be attending.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Koppkeberger to appoint Cathy Timmons as the Delegate and Alice Schafer as the Alternate Delegate to the MML Annual Meeting. Motion Carried.

City Manager Yonker presented the ZFS Ithaca, LLC project implementation Agreements for approval and introduced Brian Treborg from Zeeland Farm Services. Manager Yonker gave an overview of the agreements and stated with the approval of the three, there was only one more left to finalize. The Water/Sewer Construction and Engineering Reimbursement Agreement, the ZFS Easement to the City of Ithaca for Installation of Water/Sewer Infrastructure, and the Community Participation Agreement were presented for approval. Manager Yonker also informed the Council that in addition to the ZFS easement to the City, he was working on receiving the easements from property owners for the project.

Manager Yonker explained that the Community Participation Agreement is being placed to assist the City financially for the significant external cost it has to endure due to the project size and additional time and resources from staff to accomplish a project of this magnitude. The fire suppression system used by ZFS is unique and will require additional training on the City's part. He explained that a portion of the funds will go to Greater Gratiot Development for the paperwork and reporting requirements of the Brownfield administration and reporting over the next 25 years. He added that the agreement shows that ZFS wants to be part of and supports the community. Councilperson Timmons asked how it benefitted the community because she didn't see the support in it. Mr. Treborg addressed the Council, stating that when the project began, ZFS wanted to make sure whatever burden was put on the City for the cost of doing business would be relieved. The agreement pays the cost each year so the hope is that the work will diminish over time. He felt maybe the document title was the best name for the document, but pointed out that the value of the infrastructure addition alone was a great resource for the community. Jim Wheeler added that the benefit of the tax base and out jobs of employment and housing would also greatly benefit the community. Councilperson Schafer stated it was a very generous agreement and thanked Mr. Treborg and ZFS for it. Mayor Palmer called for action.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve the Agreement for Payment of Consulting Services and Water and Sewer Construction Cost Between the City of Ithaca and ZFS Ithaca, LLC and authorize the Mayor and Clerk as signers. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve the ZFS Ithaca, LLC Easement to the City of Ithaca for the Installation of Water/Sewer Infrastructure of Water, Sanitary Sewer Lines & Pump Station with a change to page 4 adding an additional signer and authorize the Mayor and Clerk as signers. Motion carried.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to approve the Community Participation between ZFS Ithaca, LLC and the City of Ithaca and authorize the Mayor and Clerk as signers. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked Steve Clark to speak on Item 8C the bid award for the ZFS sanitary sewer and water main project. Mr. Clark explained that three bids were received and opened out of six potential bidders. The firm is recommending the low bidder, Isabella Corporation. He added that Isabella Corporation is very qualified and Rowe has worked with them on several projects and have been pleased with their quality of work as well. City Manager Yonker said the bid came in under engineer estimates by approximately 9%. Mr. Clark informed Council that a pre-construction meeting was held outlining the timeline, permit requirements, rules for private property and all aspects of the projects. All utilities, GGDI, ZFS, Rowe and city staff were in attendance. If awarded, the company have a tentative start date for mobilization by week's end with test holes being drilled next week and a completion date of November. He added that the Rowe project engineers on site are both from Ithaca.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppkeberger to award the bid for the ZFS Project Sanitary Sewer and Water Main to Isabella Corporation in the amount of \$638,380.00. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2017-14 for adoption. City Manager Yonker stated the contract was received from MDOT the day prior and is for the construction maintenance and operation for the new connector sidewalk under US-127. He, Bob Studt, Clerk Fandell and Steve Clark have all reviewed it. Mr. Clark explained that part of the process to do construction under the FHSA requires a contract be in place. This contract states that the City is responsible for 100% of the costs, liability, etc. He further reviewed the project timeline with the Council.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to adopt Resolution 2017-14 MDOT/City of Ithaca Contract for the Construction, Maintenance and Operation of a Sidewalk Along Highway US-127BR (Center Street) with a correction changing the City Manager to the City Clerk. Motion Carried.

Councilperson Timmons informed Council that the War Memorial does not belong to anyone but the VFW. She and her husband hired the maintenance on it and are meeting with the VFW on who will take care of it for the long term. She asked for an update on the Center Street trees. Clerk Fandell said the resolution was sent in and Jason Potts of MDOT met with Bob Studt and the trees are on MDOT's schedule for removal before the end of September. Councilperson Timmons inquired on the street light outages and east side entry sign. Manager Yonker said all lights had been reported to Consumers for repair and the sign is awaiting MDOT approval for the design, and DPW has priced everything out.

Mayor Palmer reported that no appeals were filed on the 106-1 Drain and the project will proceed.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44015-44049, and Payroll Checks #14463-14480, DD1040-DD1045, EFT #673-678 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 22, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell and Fire Chief Dave Nelson.

Absent was Councilperson Alice Schafer.

Audience in attendance was Bill and Char Stahl, Brian and Diane Godley and Jody Buerge.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to excuse Councilperson Schafer who was attending a family matter. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 8, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Diane Godley addressed the Council. She is starting up a new group, "Community Strong", which is being designed to help other groups in Ithaca work together and help strengthen the community. The focus will be the downtown businesses and she has received permission from one business owner to paint the windows of the currently vacant building. She requested permission to hold a community potluck in the downtown on September 30th and requested the street to be closed for the event. Attendees would bring a dish to pass and the painting would be done at the conclusion of dinner. She will not need electric and has a food license if needed. Her goal is to start Fun Fest week with a community picnic.

Mayor Palmer commended her for her efforts. He explained that the Council could not approve the request without getting additional information and checking into liability and legalities first. Diane asked if the sidewalk could be closed if the street was the only issue. Mayor Palmer told her possibly, but staff needed to do its due diligence. Mayor Palmer asked Ms. Godley if she could meet with the City Manager the next day, she agreed and the meeting was set for 8/23/17 at 4:00pm.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the 9-1-1 Authority Board meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum, however he will submit the minutes in the next packet for Council information.

Mayor Palmer reported the Ways and Means Committee meeting was cancelled and the Personnel Committee was scheduled. Councilperson Koppleberger reported the Personnel Committee met, but there is no action to be taken.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum provided a written report on the Ithaca Unit activity.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

City Manager Yonker presented the Code Officer's report. Mayor Palmer liked the report and incorporated changes made. He then inquired as to why the City is mowing a property six times and not issuing citations to the property owner. He added that the City Council requested the Code process prior and would like to receive it by the next meeting. Mayor Palmer asked if Ms. Reed had brought any tickets to Attorney Arnold. Attorney Arnold said not as of late. He has not issued any this summer. Councilperson Baublitz said the report shows four citations have been issued, so inquired where they were in the process, especially since one was from July 17th. Councilpersons requested that a follow up/status be added to the report. Attorney Arnold informed members that Ms. Reed gets to a certain point in her violations and brings to him for further enforcement. He sends a letter that the citation will be issued if the blight is not taken care of. If not, then a ticket would be authorized and served with appropriate fines.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to receive the Code Officer's report. Motion carried

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS Development, Maple/Union paving projects, Drain #106-1, new brush truck, Well #7 property, Planning Commission, and ZBA

Membership changes, County Master Plan, Building Inspector replacement progress, new roof on the concession building at McNabb Park, IPC golf outing and other community events.

In addition, he reported that everything is in place for the US-27 motor cruise on August 24th. He commended staff, IPC, Jerry Timmons and all of the volunteers for the successful planning. Manager Yonker further reported on the Well #7 property and the PA116 status. Clerk Fandell talked with the Farmland Preservation Division at the State of Michigan and it could take up to six months to get the withdrawal approved, pending how fast Treasury is able to review it. They were able to put a request to expedite it and she was able to obtain a constituent phone contact at Treasury. Manager Yonker will be making contact with him to see if it can be expedited faster due to it being a public viability issue for the city's water supply. Attorney Arnold added that he had made the request to Attorney Costanzo for the temporary easement but had not yet received a response. Manager Yonker informed Council that they have proceeded with ordering the parts so that they are on hand when the release is received and construction can start immediately.

Manager Yonker reported that the final agreement with ZFS is in the draft stage and was sent to ZFS for comment the prior Thursday. He is hoping to bring it to the 9/5/17 meeting for approval, but there is not a rush to complete it as it does not require any other approvals except the City and ZFS and both parties want a fair and equitable agreement done proper the first time. He further reported that two of three private easements had been signed and received and he is still working on the Weburg property easement.

Manager Yonker reported the Countywide Master Plan was approved by the Planning Commission and now requires City Council approval for the distribution process and public review. Greater Gratiot Development will be handling the distribution for all communities.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the Countywide Master Plan as submitted by the Steering Committee and approved by the City of Ithaca Planning Commission; and approve the plan for distribution of public review. Motion carried.

Manager Yonker referenced the attached memo from his report regarding the request from Chief Nelson to keep the old brush truck to haul the new UTV and trailer. The department's only other option is the Safety Van and that is near weight capacity when fully loaded. The truck and trailer could be placed in the bay where the Seagraves is stored and move the Seagraves to the Exhibit building storage. The department is currently spending operating funds to keep it in running condition for parades which can continue, or the decision could be made to keep it for historical viewing, or be sold. Fund raising could be done to help defray the cost to put it under glass and display in front of the Fire Hall, or location of City Council's choice.

Mayor Palmer asked Chief Nelson how many staff members could drive it. Chief Nelson stated that four could. The Seagraves was purchased in the early to mid-50's as a backup truck. The last time it was pumped was during the Detroit Mobile Home fire. Councilperson Gruesbeck commented that people are too quick to throw away history and it should be thought about. Chief Nelson added that the request for keeping the old brush truck was discussed with the department and the UTV donation was received after the new brush truck was already purchased.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Henderson to not sell the old brush truck and keep it for hauling the UTV and trailer. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to not sell the Seagraves and move it into storage at the Exhibit barn. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Mayor Palmer presented the amendment to Ordinance Chapter 22 Offenses, Article VI, Sections 22-161 and 22-163 for introduction, which would amend hunting restrictions in some areas and create a hunting map within the City boundaries. He asked Manager Yonker to discuss.

Manager Yonker explained the amendments work with the DNR guidelines to keep hunting within the City limits. The DNR took cases to the Supreme Court where cities restricted hunting but it felt it should have full control over all regulation and restrictions. Based on research and other communities experience the amendments will 1) regulate the discharge of firearms within certain areas, 2) add a map based on land use and not zones, with a couple of exceptions which allow for archery only; a 19-acre parcel which is surrounded by commercial development will be limited to archery and shot gun only. Going forward, any changes to the map may be done by Resolution and will not require an amendment to the ordinance. He added that Lt. McCollum reviewed and recommended adding the following to p.2 (3)(v); "unless written permission is received from the property owner". Councilperson Henderson commented that Michigan is now an open carry state so Section 22-161 should have the following words stricken from line 4; "if the weapon is concealed".

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Henderson to introduce Ordinance Amendment: Chapter 22 Offenses, Article VI Offenses Against Public Safety, Section 22-161 Possession of Firearms or Weapons and Section 22-163 Discharge of Firearms with changes to the presented copy of Section 22-161 line 4: deletion of "if the weapon is concealed" and p2 Section 22-163 item (3)(v) adding at the end "unless written permission is received from the property owner". Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to set a public hearing to take comment on amending Ordinance Chapter 22 Offenses, Article VI Offenses Against Public Safety, Section 22-161 Possession of Firearms or Weapons and Section 22-163 Discharge of Firearms for September 5, 2017 at 7:00pm or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion carried.

Councilperson Henderson inquired how the disc golf course was proceeding. Manager Yonker said he had been contacted by the gentlemen that designed the Reed Park course and was setting up a meeting with him to do a walkthrough of the park for potential design.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Baublitz, second by Timmons to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44050-44095, and Payroll Checks #14481-14498, DD1046-DD1051, EFT #679-684 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Diane Godley said that Keith Aten is very reputable and very good at designing the disc golf courses. He may even be able to help with the baskets and supplies resource.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 5, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Fire Chief Dave Nelson and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Rob Boden, Scott Gray, Ivan Wheeler, Sean Bradley and Steve Clark.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 22, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Committee met to discuss changes to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) No. 301 and No. 703 which address payroll and other minor changes as presented. The Committee also discussed annual medical physicals for public safety staff, the transfer of use of the antennae on the north water tower from the 9-1-1 Authority to the County Road Commission and the use of Community Center as an emergency shelter for the North Elementary school and Head start for limited occurrences. The Committee has one recommendation and that is to approve the SOP changes as presented by Fire Chief Nelson.

Moved by Timmons, second by Gruesbeck to approve the changes (dated 9/5/17) to the Standard Operating Procedures No. 301 and No. 703. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the Public Hearing on Ordinance amendment Chapter 22.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to open the public hearing to take comment on Ordinance amendment to Chapter 22 Offenses; Article VI Offenses Against Public Safety; Sections 22-161 and 22-163. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the hearing at 7:04pm.

City Manager Yonker presented the proposed amendments; stating the two changes were made as requested at the introduction of the amendment. He reported the zoning districts had been removed and the new map would follow land use instead of zoning. The ZFS property, parks, schools and other public property are excluded from the hunting areas. There are areas for archery only and one for archery/shot gun only at the request of the land owner due to neighboring commercial businesses. The amendments work with the DNR guidelines to keep hunting within the City limits.

Lt. McCollum inquired about the land near Hutchinson in the South Industrial Park as it was marked as a no discharge and permits are usually issued there. Attorney Arnold said that is township property, however the City owns 40 acres that is part of McNabb park. Lt. McCollum requested consideration from the Council to allow the department to issue hunting permits with no expiration so that persons requesting them do not have to come in annually. A property owner would retain the right to have the permit revoked at any time by notifying the department. The Council had no objection.

Ivan Wheeler questioned Section 22-163 a(2) regarding target ranges and asked what the thought was on personal target ranges within the city limits. Mayor Palmer said the ordinance currently covers that issue and it would follow as currently adopted by going through the Planning Commission.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

**Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:15pm.**

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adopt the Amendment to Ordinance Chapter 22 Offenses; Article VI Offenses Against Public Safety; Sections 22-161 Possession of Firearms or Weapons and Section 22-163 Discharge of Firearms. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (7) Schafer, Timmons, Baublitz, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Mayor Palmer thanked Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Boden, Lt. McCollum and all involved with making a smooth change and safer ordinance for the residents of Ithaca.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS Development, Drain #106-1, brush truck, Well #7 property, Planning Commission, and ZBA Membership changes, County Master Plan, Building Inspector replacement progress, US-127 Connector Sidewalk project bid, designation of the Community Center as Emergency Centers for North Elementary School, the Fire Department recommended changes to the SOPs, the refuse contract, new salt shed construction, McNabb Park playground equipment, Storm Sewer Condition Assessment for the SAW Grant, update on the service agreement with the County for the Health Department Building in Commerce Park, home demolitions and other vacant properties, webinars and other community events.

Manager Yonker reported that the large sanitary wet well for the ZFS project is in and the manholes are ordered. The easements are all secured and the rail permit has been received so things are moving forward. The City Hall is having the new workstations installed over the next few days. These computers were budgeted and are on a four-year replacement schedule in the Capital Improvement Plan. He further reported that an invitation was received for staff and Councilpersons from Republic Services to tour their recycling facility. Interested officials from all communities in the County will take a bus tour on 9/13/17. He requested members RSVP if interested in attending. He informed members of the upcoming contract expiration and the need to consider if the City would like to move from blue bag recycling to recycling carts as carts are proving to offer more use than the bags. City Manager Yonker further reported that Rowe has received the data back to TV camera the storm sewers and the RFQ will be released soon. Lastly, he has received inquiries on the Monosem, Brick Alley Pub and Chee Peng buildings in the last couple of weeks.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Manager Yonker presented an amendment to Ordinance Chapter 2: Administration Article IV, Division 2, Sections 2-162 and 2-163. If introduced and amended the changes would allow for the authorization to change the number of members that serve on the Planning Commission. The law allows the City to make changes to the number based on City Charter and the new laws passed. Section 2-162 updates the laws in the Ordinance and Section 2-163 will allow the change to the number of Commissioners to be the Mayor plus six members. He further explained that Page 2(e) allows for compensation of Commissioners if approved by the City Council. This was a change and is part of the new laws. The current makeup of the Commission is the Mayor plus eight commissioners, currently there are vacancies so the change would only eliminate one person who is serving and then two members would be up for reappointment each year.

Mayor Palmer asked that confirmation be made on the compensation for members as the City Charter specifically states there is no compensation for members. Manager Yonker stated that there are some items that State statute can supersede City Charter and he will check on it and removed it if it is in conflict.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to introduce an Amendment to Ordinance Chapter 2 Administration; Article IV Boards and Commissions; Division 2 Planning Commission; Section 2-162 Powers and Duties and Section 2-163 Composition; compensation. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to set a public hearing to take comment on Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 2 Administration; Article IV Boards and Commissions; Division 2 Planning Commission; Section 2-162 Powers and Duties and Section 2-163 Composition; compensation for September 19, 2017 at 7:00pm or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked Steve Clark to speak on the US-127 Connector Sidewalk project bid. Mr. Clark addressed the Council and reported that bids for the project were opened on August 29th. Three bids were received and there was a large spread amongst the bidders, however one was within 2% of the engineer's estimates. Speculation as to why the bids varied in range was the highest bid was going to have to subcontract a lot of the work and the other bidder had more limited experience with this type of project. He said Rowe has checked the bid and references and recommends award go to Crawford Contracting Inc. Mayor Palmer thanked Mr. Clark.

Mayor Palmer discussed with the Council that as a board it has discussed this project and the use of Caldwell funds with offset grants being used to replace the funds if received. Although it has been discussed, no formal action has been taken. He further expressed that Mr. Caldwell was an avid bicyclist and feels this would be

appropriate use of the funds and he has heard from community members in support. Bill Caldwell had two request when bequeathing the funds, that they be used for bicycling/walking and good of the community and that his name not be placed on anything. Councilperson Timmons shared that he would approve of providing the safety for the community.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve expending \$145,000.00 of the Caldwell Funds to for the US-127 Connector Sidewalk.

Councilperson Henderson inquired if the policy the Council set was being followed or if a repayment plan needed to be put in place. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated the motion was in order and was following the policy in accordance to its use. When using funds internally, the Council can contribute or require a repayment of funds as long as it is within the "spirit of Bill Caldwell" as stated in the policy. Councilperson Gruesbeck added that the Council can acknowledge the use of the funds for the project even though they cannot name it after Mr. Caldwell. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Baublitz, second by Henderson to award the bid for the US-127 Connector Sidewalk to Crawford Contracting, Inc as recommended by Rowe Professional Services, in the amount of \$144,657.78. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked Mr. Clark if he could arrange a public ground breaking ceremony before the project start. Mr. Clark said he would oblige.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell requested the City Council appoint an officer to the Election Commission as required by City Charter. She, as Clerk, is the Chair of the Commission and Assessor Hunter is the other member named by Charter.

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to appoint the City Manager to the Election Commission. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gruesbeck presented the potential candidates for board officer appointments to the Senior Activity Board. He explained that by adopted procedures, the City Council approves the candidates to be voted on and then will officially appoint them after the election is held. Three of the five will be elected.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Timmons to approve the candidates for the Senior Activity Board election of officers as follows: Pat Chatterdon, Paul Hornak, Mary Humm, Marty Wieferich and Kevin Twardy. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked for any old business. None was offered.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Baublitz to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44096-44137, and Payroll Checks #14499-14517, DD1052-DD1056, EFT #685-689 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 19, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Brett Baublitz.

Audience in attendance was Scott Gray.

Mayor Palmer asked to amend the agenda to add Item 10D GAS Fair dates. **Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to amend the agenda to add Item 10D GAS Fair dates. Motion carried.**

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to excuse Councilperson Baublitz who was attending a work function. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 5, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Gruesbeck reported the Public Safety/Code Enforcement Committee met to discuss the code process and Code Officers report was reviewed. There are no recommendations at this time.

Department Reports

Lt. McCollum provided a written report on the Ithaca Unit activity.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to receive the Code Officer's report. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the June Financial reports and discussed the adjustments that would still be made regarding pension liability and status of the funds.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to receive the June Financial reports and place on file for audit. Motion carried.

Public Hearing – Ordinance

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the public hearing on Ordinance amendments.

Moved by Henderson, second by Timmons to open the public hearing on Ordinance Amendment Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 2 Planning Commission, Sections 2-162 and 2-163. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the hearing at 7:10pm.

City Manager Yonker stated the Planning Commission approved the changes at its last meeting. If amended, the change to Section 2-162 will update the ordinance to current laws and Section 2-163 will allow the change of the commission numbers to go to six members plus the Mayor. It will also allow for two of the members to be non-electors of the City. In addition, the amendment to this section would allow the City Council to set compensation for members if needed. Manager Yonker stated the bylaws for the Planning Commission need to be updated or created and he would be working with staff to prepare them.

Councilperson Henderson asked if the compensation was in conflict with the City Charter and Mayor Palmer asked if the statute superseded that piece. Attorney Arnold advised it was okay to proceed with the amendment because the wording is permissive and could be reviewed at the time of change if needed.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

**Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:18pm.**

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adopt Ordinance Amendment Chapter 2 Administration; Article IV Boards and Commissions; Division 2 Planning Commission; Section 2-162 Powers and Duties and Section 2-163 Composition; compensation. Motion carried with the following Roll Call vote:

Ayes: (6) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Kopplesberger, Schafer, Timmons, Palmer

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Baublitz

Abstain: (0) None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS Development, Sidewalk Under US-127 project, Drain #106-1, new brush truck, Well #7 property, Planning Commission, and ZBA Membership changes, DDA membership number change, Redevelopment Ready Community training, County Master Plan, refuse contract, Building Inspector replacement progress, salt shed, playground equipment, housing demolition, webinar participation and some city property destruction by Woodland Park.

In addition, he reported the Sidewalk project that was slated to start the next day was delayed until Monday due to concrete spawning off the bridge and MDOT's ability to fix the issue due to mobilization of specialty equipment. He reported the renovations on Well #4 were completed and the pump refurbished. The staff is taking samples and once two good samples are received it can be put back into service. The refurb increased the flow from 220gpm to 380gpm; which is near the original capacity. He did discover that the ten-inch line goes down and is reduced to an eight-inch line. He added that Well #6 is having issues with the SCADA system and Director Studt is working to identify the problems. Renovations on the next well will not begin until Well #6 is properly back online. He asked Attorney Arnold to update Council on Well #7. Attorney Arnold reported that the Vanderbeek's do not have State approval for the PA116 and the assessor had sent in the land separation, but Attorney Costanzo had not yet provided anything. The VanDerBeek's do have the payback figures for the PA116 property but the documents have not been received from the State yet. There is a chance the property could close this week pending completion of the two aforementioned issues. They will not allow the City on the property until closing is complete.

Manager Yonker further reported the Zone 2 Sidewalk work would begin that week. Director Studt gave him the proposal from Inniger Masonry for the cost. Director Studt walked the full zone with Mr. Inniger and based on last year's conversation, they were going to give a discount for longer runs. The price submitted is actually higher than last year's prices by \$0.04 per square foot for four-inch and \$0.06 per square foot for six-inch. The actual cost estimate is \$64,257.10 for the zone. He reported Treasurer Fandell has informed that the tax millage expected to be collected is \$60,200 and in addition to the contractor's quote, there is \$887 in ADA ramps for the sidewalk bringing total cost to about \$65,000. Council will need to make the decision to proceed and spend over the budget or cut back on the work in the zone.

Moved by Timmons, second by Schafer to approve the contract with Inniger Masonry for Zone Two Sidewalk repair in the amount of \$64,270.10 and amend the budget for the total project cost. Motion carried.

Manager Yonker updated Council on the Building Inspector position and that as of that day, no requests had been received by the County. Staff has discussed with the Public Safety/Code Committee the direction it would like to take if none are received. The County Administrator wants to turn everything over to the State of Michigan and the cities have told her directly that we will not let it go to the State. If the County chooses to turn it over, the cities will look at collaboration of hiring an inspector. That would leave the townships under the State control, but we are not able to bring them all in with us collaboratively. We will look at individual or firms. Another option will be to look at filling the office position as one will be open due to the resignation of Jennifer Reed. We will have to move quickly due to the ZFS project and he asked if there were any objections to staff starting to investigate options with the other cities prior to the meeting next week. There were no objections.

Moved by Timmons, second by Kopplesberger to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Manager Yonker presented Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 40 Zoning Article 31 Board of Appeals for introduction. He explained if amended the changes would allow for the establishing of the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with State statute. The board would consist of one Planning Commission member, one member from City Council and one elector of the City. It would also call for the appointment of two alternate members. Each alternate member would have full voting rights just as a regular member and the alternate would also follow the project through the completion of the steps. The statute does not allow a member to vote on subject matter in two places. The quorum would then be based on the members present after removing the others who voted in another board capacity.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to introduce Ordinance amendment to Chapter 40 Zoning; Article 31 Board of Appeals and set the public hearing for October 3, 2017 at 7:00pm or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion carried.

Manager Yonker presented Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 12 Community Development; Article II Downtown Development Authority; Section 12-33 Downtown Development Authority Board for introduction. He explained if amended it would change the make up of the DDA from Mayor +10 to Mayor +8. It also identifies the qualifications of members and one member must be a resident of the DDA district. The current board has four vacancies, with the elimination of two members, we are still required to fill two seats which expire in 2021. Council members discussed possible appointees to the position. Also being introduced are the changes to the By-Laws to match the Ordinance amendments.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to introduce Ordinance amendment to Chapter 12 Community Development; Article II Downtown Development Authority; Section 12-33 Downtown Development Authority Board and set the public hearing for October 3, 2017 at 7:00pm or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson, second by Schafer to introduce the Downtown Development Authority By-Law changes, with adoption date approval to come after the amendments to the Ordinance are in place. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer presented a letter from Gratiot Agricultural Society (GAS) asking for fair dates approval. Council members discussed the letter. Councilperson Timmons stated they applied for a grant and received one to put money into the buildings at McNabb Park that they do not own, but think they do, and did not inform the City they were writing. The grant has a \$5,000 match. Councilperson Schafer added that the contract makes clear that the buildings belong to the City. Mayor Palmer brought up that the City Council waived the park fees for events outside of the lease terms based on work they negotiated to do in lieu of paying the fees and that was not completed, nor was the request for the fair dates submitted on time according to the current lease. In addition, the grant was written without City consent. Councilperson Koppleberger asked who awarded the grant. Manager Yonker stated the Michigan Department of Agriculture, but had no other details. Councilperson Henderson shared concern with the timeline of completion under the grant when the original deadline was May of 2017.

Mayor Palmer put forth the issues and in addition to those, the Council discussed the history, the fair financials, work timeline, current lease, and previous failure to comply with agreement timelines of GAS and the potential redevelopment options for McNabb Park. They further discussed not renewing the lease and its ramifications.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Timmons to direct the City Manager to draft the letter to Gratiot Agricultural Society stating the City will not be entering into the renewal of the lease with it for the fairgrounds and McNabb Park and the fees for not meeting the prior obligation will be forgiven. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Palmer asked if there was any old business to discuss. Councilperson Henderson inquired on the status of the disc golf course. Manager Yonker said the baskets have been selected and would be ordering later in the week. Councilperson Schafer inquired on the Industrial gate issue. Manager Yonker stated the DPW was working to fix it so it remains open or they will pull the chain if there are no objections. No objections were made.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44138-44168, and Payroll Checks #14518-14532, DD1057-DD1062, EFT #690-694 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None was offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppleberger to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 3, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppelerger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Seth Wolfe, Julie Wolfe, Sandy Allen, Heather Skinner-Seeley, Kimberly Cross, Jack Martin, Brian Wolfe, Dick Davis, Jill Rose, Nelda Akers, Angie Bailey, Bill and Charlotte Stahl, Scott Gray, Jennifer Taylor, Jill Gilbert, Diane Godley and Shelley Bosley.

Moved by Timmons, second by Koppelerger to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 19, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Seth Wolfe of Gratiot Agricultural Society (GAS) asked to address the letter GAS received on not renewing the lease for the fair grounds. He said the Board was surprised to receive the letter to discontinue the fair and felt their absence at the meeting was part of reasons for misinformation and he needed to clarify some points. The board feels it has been working to make the fair better by changing the dates, working with the Ithaca Promotional Committee and the school on some new fair projects. He stated the letter referred to demolishing structures, which they assume are the race end buildings where demolition has been happening and while they appreciate the mowing the City does, they wonder how much maintenance the City is actually doing beside that. Mr. Wolfe stated there was only one horse race this last year, but it was the largest participated in, in the past years. The GAS volunteers are just that, and do their best to make it better. They have not had City representation at their meetings since Trevor Paradise left and the new representative missed the first meeting due to another commitment. He stated GAS has wrote a grant and it does have a match. He further stated the current lease was never signed so they have not been in lease for over 270 days. He told the City Manager this and was promised a signed copy but one was never received nor did they hear back from him. The GAS lease not being renewed will destroy the fair. To not allow the lease renewal for that reason seems unreasonable. GAS is asking the City not to make any changes to the fairgrounds until they can contact exhibitors for ideas and would like the City Council to reconsider its decision.

Jill Gilbert added that exhibits in 2003 had 103 and in 2016 they had 284. She reviewed the different events and activities and provided the increased statistics for them. The horse shows bring in 25 to 30 exhibitors to the fair. She added, that as a mom, she has three children whom all have participated in the fair and the youngest was going to start next year and now won't be able to. The fair teaches kids how to take care of animals and how, even though they go to market in the end, that that is how life works. It teaches them ethics, responsibility and life realities. The numbers prove it is coming up and we are trying.

Jack Martin stated the Scramble Committee, which is separate from GAS had 80 participants this year of which 55 brought the animals back to the fair. He feels the City is making a mistake and closing the fair would be a tragedy for the community.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Schafer reported the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Committee met to review the SAW Grant work proposals. This is the first year of the three-year grant from the State of Michigan. Staff prepared and sent an RFQ for the Storm Sewer condition assessment. Nine were received of which the top wa selected for further review. She reviewed the project scope for the assessment and the software including the recommended add ons and deletions. The grant has a 10% match of the \$559,000 grant. The Committee is concurring with Rowe's recommendation and recommends awarding the bid to RedZone Robotics, Inc in the amount of \$329,807.50.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to award the SAW Grant Storm Sewer Condition Assessment and Software work utilizing the SOLO inspection system option and adding the laser and sonar scan MSI inspection for pipelines 21 inch in diameter or greater option as bid to RedZone Robotics, Inc in the amount of \$329,807.50. Councilperson Timmons asked why a Michigan based company could not do the work. Mike Faeth of Rowe Professional Services explained the RFQ process and that location was not a weight factor. He added that this type of work is very technical and there were no local companies that responded or submitted. **Motion carried.**

Councilperson Schafer reported further that the Committee discuss the waste contract which expires July 31, 2018 and the City has an option in the contract for an extension. The committee discussed recycling using the current blue bag system versus carts. It requested the City Manager to look at the recycling options and prices with Granger first and present the proposals back to the committee for review before seeking public bids.

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the Public Hearing on Ordinance amendment Chapter 40; Article 31 Board of Appeals.

Moved by Schafer, second by Timmons to open the public hearing to take comment on an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 40; Article 31 Board of Appeals. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the hearing at 7:21pm.

City Manager Yonker presented the proposed amendment; stating that as it is set up currently, the Planning Commission serves as the Board of Appeals which isn't proper as they are reviewing their own decisions. The amendment brings the Ordinance in line with State law and will set up a Zoning Board of Appeals, along with member selection and alternates. The appeal basis did not change if someone wants to appeal the ZBA decision.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:26pm.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to adopt the Amendment to Ordinance Chapter 40; Article 31 Board of Appeals. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (7) Baublitz, Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Schafer, Timmons, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Abstain: (0) None

Mayor Palmer stated it was time for the Public Hearing on Ordinance amendment Chapter 12 Community Development; Article II Downtown Development Authority; Section 12-33 Downtown Development Authority Board.

Moved by Henderson, second by Koppleberger to open the public hearing to take comment on an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 12 Community Development; Article II Downtown Development Authority; Section 12-33 Downtown Development Authority Board. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer opened the hearing at 7:27pm.

City Manager Yonker presented the proposed amendment; stating that this amendment was approved by the DDA to reduce the number of the Board from Mayor +10 to Mayor +8. The statute allows between 8 and 12 members. It also allows other appointees to have interest in the DDA and not be residents of the City. They can have interest in the District, and not just the core downtown. The bylaws will also be revised to match the Ordinance and have already been introduced. Therefore, if adopted, once enacted, the bylaw changes will then need to be approved.

City Manager Yonker stated there are currently four vacancies on the board so the elimination of two positions will leave two positions to fill. The new filled positions will have a term ending 6/30/2021 as recommended by the DDA Board.

Councilperson Schafer commented that the reduction in numbers is due to difficulty in filling the positions currently. Councilperson Timmons asked for confirmation that outside interest is allowed to join the DDA Board. City Manager Yonker stated they must have direct interest in the DDA district.

Diane Godley asked how someone would apply for the board. Mayor Palmer informed her that a letter of interest should be sent to the City Clerk.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Timmons to close the public hearing. Motion carried.
Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:34pm.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adopt the Amendment to Ordinance Chapter 12 Community Development; Article II Downtown Development Authority; Section 12-33 Downtown Development Authority Board. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

**Ayes: (7) Gruesbeck, Henderson, Koppleberger, Schafer, Timmons, Baublitz, Palmer
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Abstain: (0) None**

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS Development, Drain #106-1, brush truck, Well #7 property, Planning Commission, and ZBA Membership changes, County Master Plan, Building Inspector replacement progress, US-127 Connector Sidewalk project bid, Zone 2 Sidewalk project, the refuse contract, McNabb Park playground equipment, Storm Sewer Condition Assessment for the SAW Grant, home demolitions and other vacant properties, trainings and other community events.

Manager Yonker deferred to Attorney Arnold on the property sale for Well #7. Attorney Arnold informed the Council that the closing of the Vanderbeek property happened that morning and the City can now proceed with completion of the well construction.

City Manager Yonker reported that hydrant flushing had begun and as directed from the last review, it is being done from 10:00pm to 6:00am. The department is trying the new times in response to the complaints of people doing laundry, rusty water, low pressure while bathing, traffic concerns, etc. that happen during the daytime. The City will have to pay shift premium but it will be a minimal amount. There will be two DPW staff on duty and as a reminder, the flushing is done two times per year to get the sediment out of the lines. He reported that Zone II sidewalk is underway and the contractor is making good progress. Everything west of N. Pine River and Arcada is finished. The map is on the website and was also printed on the back of the property tax bills that were mailed at the end of July.

Manager Yonker further reported that he would be attending the last of the required Redevelopment Ready Community Program trainings. Completion of the trainings will bring the City in compliance with the State and we will get more points on grants by having completed the program. He reported the Community Strong Group event had a nice turnout for its first activity. The group plans to continue working with the IPC and DDA on events. Ms. Godley asked for permission to speak; it was granted. Ms. Godley said the community is dedicated to this group and she is honored and proud that they are listening to the ideas and made something happen downtown within six weeks. They worked very hard with no funds and the community believed in us. Her guess was that 300 were in attendance at the event.

Manager Yonker reported that Saturday would be the first attempt for IPC holding the Ithaca Fun Fest in the Fall and in conjunction with homecoming activities. It is a good combination with a lot of events going on in town, downtown, Tractor Supply, McNabb Park – which has AYSO soccer, Ithaca RC Raceway and the Gratiot Area Chamber's Agri-Fit Challenge. There is hope for high attendance. He further reported that the disc golf course baskets would be ordered and passed out information on them for review. He is working with the gentleman who designed the County courses on design and basket recommendations as well as other players, including his son. There is \$5,000 budgeted for their purchase and installation. The course will be built to go from a recreational aspect to a competition aspect without too much trouble, starting with nine holes.

Councilperson Schafer commented that removal of the Center Street trees by MDOT was done efficiently and safely and at no cost to the City. She thanked the City staff for their work on this matter. Councilperson Timmons added that she has heard a lot of positive comments on the removals.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the MML Liability & Property Pool Board of Directors nominated candidates for Council review. There were four incumbents for four positions.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to cast votes for the candidates presented by the nominating committee for the MML Liability & Property Pool Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Mayor Palmer asked for any old business. None was offered.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Baublitz, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #4416-44200, and Payroll Checks #14533-14559, DD1063-DD1070, EFT #695-702 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.

Jack Martin asked when GAS would know if it would be able to have a fair or not. Mayor Palmer stated without further action, the decision had been made. Mr. Martin asked what would be done with the buildings and the loan on the buildings. Mayor Palmer stated the City did not have any loans on the buildings. Mr. Martin stated it was a bad decision and would hurt the kids. He has been attending the fair for thirty-four years and volunteers each year. How many Council members voted against it? Mayor Palmer stated it was a unanimous decision to have the City Manager draft the letter.

Jill Rose stated she had just raised \$3,000 to improve the barns and worked hard to do it. The businesses are going to think GAS are scam artists. Mr. Martin asked if anyone had come down to see how much stuff people are doing and that people are supporting the community by attending the fair and doesn't that mean anything?

Diane Godley stated she hoped there was a way to compromise and let it go another year so their efforts are not wasted and to give GAS a chance to try and accomplish what they are working toward.

Jill Gilbert stated that the group in attendance was feeling down, but want to work with Cathy and the City if given another chance. She stated she knows they have laced in communication through IPC and really need one more opportunity to prove themselves. They realize the City has put its foot down and also known for years this has been a problem. She asked for one more opportunity.

Kim Cross stated she has been coming for years and the agricultural community needs to be recognized.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 17, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppkeberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppkeberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris Yonker, City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell, Fire Chief Dave Nelson and Lt. Roy McCollum.

Audience in attendance was Scott Gray, Seth Wolfe, Jill Gilbert, Jack Martin, Clark Hubbard, Doreen Slavik, Angie Bailey, Nelda Akers, Jill Rose, Kim Cross, Wendell Smith, Chance Boettchar, Dick Davis, Rick Wymer, Cindy Whitford, Sandy Allen, Jennifer Efaw, Julie Wolfe, Mike Stack, Brian Wolfe, Carrie Jolliff, Heather Skinner-Seeley, Brian Adkins, Kurt Marvel, Cedric Patmon, Megan Falor, Laurie Gager, Nicole Whitmore, Sherry Ryder and Jenifer Taylor.

Moved by Koppkeberger, second by Baublitz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 3, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Doreen Slavik of Ashley and GAS Scramble committee member stated the fair gives the youth the advantage of getting an animal without paying for it. When they sell the animal, they repay the fair at that time. The fair needs the scramble and vice versus. There are only nine members and parents that help during the event and they had 48 participants this year which brought in hundreds of people that day. Over 50 buyers came to the sale. We help put improvements into the barns and house the animals. The opportunity provides youth the responsibility, a small savings for them, etc. She asked that the Council allow the fair so the committee can continue.

Mayor Palmer informed the audience that the Parks and Cemetery Committee met with a small group from GAS prior to this meeting and one solution is that GAS can rent the park grounds like others do for holding the fair. Angie Bailey of Ithaca commented that renting does not have as much security as a lease does.

Kurt Marvel of Farwell stated his son participates in the fair as well as several kids from Clinton County. This is an open fair so younger kids can participate. These kids will become the future that takes care of us. This isn't just a fair, it is an important part of Gratiot County, the City and Clinton County.

Sherry Ryder of Middleton and manager of Tractor Supply commented she is very involved in GAS and did the scramble as a kid and adult. This last year was the best in a long time. Tractor Supply made it the best and it is important to the businesses. It needs some changes and they know that.

Guy McKellar, resident stated this is an agricultural community. They made a nice park and now we can't hit the park because Flint is taking away the land. This isn't a free for all for the State, it is our community.

Carly Whitmore commented kids have made a bunch of memories and how to make friends. Her little sister is five and is really pumped to get to show her horse this year. She knows people from Kalamazoo who come to the fair.

Jill Gilbert of GAS said her son Gavin who is 10 has raised money for breast cancer awareness and juvenile diabetes. His next big project is to go to the Capitol to get a prayer room. He sees her going to meetings, raising money for the fair and volunteering. This is him wanting to make a difference and being raised right.

Dr. Stack, resident, commented he is a product of the fair and attributes a lot of upbringing to the Ithaca fair. Lessons of winning and losing, putting into the care of the animals, etc. The fair has waxed through the years and we need to keep pushing forward through this time.

Nicole Whitmore of Ithaca, invited each member to the fair to see what the kids go through and the excitement they have. This is so important to all of us, just come and give it another year. It doesn't take the rides and glam and glory. It is different and better for the younger kids. They get to go back to the fair after catching and raising an animal. They don't need the hype and rides like Alma fair because there isn't the stress that comes with it.

Landon Marvel, Farwell, said he liked the Ithaca fair more than ours in Clinton County because its smaller and younger kids can do it and win or lose.

Megan Falor, owner Cupcake Creations, commented it crushes her that someone who has never been to the fair says "it's just a fair". To see you close one more chapter of Ithaca breaks our heart. You can put in disc golf without closing the fair. The kids need something to do.

Penny McCormick, address not stated, has been doing this fair for years. It's for kids and family and spending a week doing family things. What else do you have in this town for families to do?

Carrie Jolliff of Breckenridge commented they lived in town. Her daughter wanted a rabbit and was told to go to the Ithaca fair. They did and they showed her how to raise and care for it. She is now the rabbit superintendent. The first year they had 18 rabbits and six years later they do not have enough cages. It has been stated that there hasn't been a lot of people there but there are. Any time or questions, just ask.

Lynn Munger of Elwell commented she has four kids that have been involved for many years. There is no doubt that her kids are who they are because of the start at the fair, Ithaca starts at a younger age. Her daughter was the youngest to catch a pig at age six. She ask that the groups come together to come up with some reasonable solution.

Mayor Palmer was asked to share information from the earlier meeting. He stated there was good dialogue and comments. One of the solutions was that GAS reserve the park grounds instead of a lease agreement. Councilperson Schafer added when the reservation form is submitted it would be reviewed and approved. Sandy Allen, address not stated, asked why not a lease and is the Council open to one. Mayor Palmer said the lease was turned down, so the rental option is the best solution. The non-renewal of the lease was due to items in the lease that GAS was to do and did not.

Megan Falor stated from a business perspective, renting and leasing are the same thing. If something needs to be repaired, they fix it. Her question was when Dr. McNabb gave property to the City, the City would own it and extend the property to them to use. Why is there no obligation to GAS? If the lease was sent and not received back, why didn't the City back itself up? Mayor Palmer stated at the earlier meeting it was determined that the lease was sent to GAS four times by email, confirmed the email address and sent by postal mail but never was responded to. Megan requested the City be more transparent and honest and it hurt when it was stated there were no plans for the park. City Manager Yonker stated the newspaper was inaccurate and the comment was that there are not any immediate plans for McNabb Park. Mayor Palmer added the the City Council approved the disc golf two years ago in the budget.

Jill Gilbert stated that GAS needs a lease over a rental for assurance to GAS and its supporters. Today they are in a bind and need to put in the rental form for the next fair.

Attorney Arnold addressed the audience and stated McNabb Park is much greater now than what was donated by Dr. McNabb. In fact, Dr. McNabb had one condition in the property he donated and that it would never be used for the fair. The City has honored that (which is the racetrack end) and there are three other parcels now that make up McNabb Park. There is a connector parcel and the McCaw farm 100 acres and an additional parcel that was purchased from the Johnson family for the soccer portion. The fair has used portions south of the racetrack and the restrictions have not been violated. Dr. McNabb was a horse racer and veterinarian and had world record holding horses. A portion of Woodland Park was traded for a little half acre where his house was so he could build there. The reason he placed the restriction on the property was because the fair went bankrupt twice and the first time he bailed them out and the second time he added the stipulation in the will.

Brianna Chaffin, address not stated, has showed at the fair since she was two years old and is now 23. She asked if the open shows could still be put on without the lease agreement. Councilperson Schafer answered yes if the grounds are rented for those events. Brianna wants to take her kids to the fair but can't if you take it away.

Angie Bailey asked why the City could put \$5,000 into disc golf but not help the fair. Councilperson Henderson stated the City had a study done by Rowe Professional Services for repurposing the park and this was one idea that was requested and within the budget. It would bring more people to the parks and this is the goal.

Kim Cross of Wheeler commented she did not know why they were there. Everyone needs to think about the youth and stuff to do and the more activities you bring to the park is wonderful. Let's make room for all. If we can rent the fairgrounds, then we are good.

Carrie Jolliff said GAS is upset because the City made decisions based on misinformation and it wants a new communication. You cancelled our lease because of miscommunication and we want to see something change here for the better. Why can't we have a new lease with all the information that has been shared?

Nicole Whitmore asked why can't a contract be written and the City gives one more chance and if they blow it then there you have it. It is our fault and you have it in black and white. Give another chance and more people want to be involved and be part of the fair.

Jack Martin, GAS Scramble Committee, asked why they would want to build up the barns if they don't have a lease and if they rent, would the City keep them up to par to their standards.

Sue Whitford, address not stated, stated it cost kids \$20 to join the 4H Fair and here it doesn't cost anything. Think of the kids.

Laurie Gager of Elwell said this is an open fair and she grew up on a fair. It is a struggle to keep Ag going and she was showing alongside 80-year-old men. It is not just younger than nine, but the good old boys who are teaching the younger ones.

Councilperson Henderson commented that some of the comments in the public are petty, especially those comparing the football stadium to the fair. He has heard the City is supporting Ithaca football, that is the school, not the City.

Mayor Palmer set a Parks and Cemetery Committee meeting for Tuesday, October 24th at 5:30pm. He asked for additional comments. There were none.

Committee Reports

Mayor Palmer reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the ZFS water/sewer agreement and the consensus was to have Mike Engel of Michigan Rural Water help with the rate study for an additional tier for rates and go from there. The committee also discussed personnel issues and is recommending advertising a full time position for an Accounting/Receptionist Clerk with social media/website skills.

Moved by Kopplesberger, second by Henderson to advertise the full time Receptionist/Accounting Clerk position with preference in social media and website experience. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Lt. Roy McCollum reported on the activity of the Ithaca Unit. He reported Officer Bussell attended TEAM training which is similar to DARE but also includes bullying, social media, etc. It is a 40-hour training for K through 12 and allows him to teach lessons to each grade. He further reported that officers worked with the school on a MIP charge which turned out to be four MIP's. They also answered a self-inflicted gunshot injury. A resident was cleaning his gun and it went off. Officer Bussell responded excellently, secured the scene and had the bleeding stopped when Rescue arrived. Lastly, the crossing guards received training from the Under Sheriff.

Moved by Schafer, second by Kopplesberger to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the quarterly activity of the Fire and Rescue Departments. He and Manager Yonker have discussed issues going forward and staffing will be the main one the department will face. We may have to look at doing something with other departments to fill the needs for all around. He reported the brush truck would be going to Grayling on Thursday for the skid installation and will be done early next week. In addition, Engine 421 developed a shaft seal leak and we are hoping it can be repaired, if not, then it will be a full pump removal and the cost will be between \$12,000-\$15,000. It is eighteen years old and is not scheduled for replacement for another ten years. Chief Nelson reported that a grant was received for the Scott air packs and they are now in service. The department also received a grant for the UTV skid unit for a water tank and stokes basket for the unit. When completed, we will have \$3,000 into the trailer and \$300-\$500 in parts for the \$18,000 unit.

Mayor Palmer thanked him for the report and for the field trip for the German Exchange students that day.

Moved by Henderson, second by Baublitz to receive the Fire Chief's report. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS Development, brush truck and UTV skid unit, Well #7 property, reminder of Board vacancies, Library basement, ICMA Conference attendance, Redevelopment Ready Community Training, Building Inspector replacement progress, US-127 Connector Sidewalk project, Disc Golf Course progress, Zone 2 Sidewalk project, the refuse contract, McNabb Park soccer field improvements, home demolition and other community events.

Manager Yonker reported that an MDOT grant was received by Greater Gratiot Development to study the impact of US-127 that is not the freeway. It covers Gratiot, Clare and Isabella counties. The City also received a grant for the Well Head Protection program for \$6,000 with a 50% match. With the models purchased with the last grant, we can now go to the schools to educate students on the programs and wells. He reported the Community Center carpets were cleaned and the Library would be done next week.

Manager Yonker further reported he received a request from Brooke Daniels, lessee of the horse barns, to board two cows. There was no objection.

He reported he met with Granger about the recycling contract and they will submit rates for a contract extension. He also asked for a companion quote for the cart recycling but they hesitated because by putting out the price, should the Council not like it and choose to go out for bid, their competitors will know their pricing. He asked for direction going forward. Councilperson Schafer said the system we have now has been

working and adding another cart is cumbersome and it has to cost more with two carts and two trucks. Councilperson Koppleberger said our system is going smooth. Councilperson Henderson said the town is clean when they are done, so why change. Manager Yonker said there was talk about allowing anyone to use the tag system and not just seniors. Councilperson Henderson reminded everyone of the issues we had with that system before and it was a mess. Council directed that pricing be received for they system as it is for a possible contract extension.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Schafer to receive the City Manager report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager Yonker received a request from Community Strong for a street closure request for Trunk-or-Treating in the downtown. Chief Nelson requested, if approved that the alleys be barricaded for fire and rescue access also.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Henderson to close Center Street from Main to Pine River on October 31, 2017 from 5:00-7:30pm for Community Strong's Trunk-Or-Treating. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer requested an update on the Wesleyan Church parking issue. They are parking over the sidewalk and it needs to be rectified as it is causing issues for drivers and pedestrians. Chief Nelson and Clerk Fandell have both received similar complaints from residents. City Manager Yonker will follow up on it.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Baublitz, second by Schafer to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44201-44245, and Payroll Checks #14560-14574, DD1071-DD1076, EFT #703-707 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 7, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was City Manager Chris Yonker.

Audience in attendance was Seth Wolfe, Graham Filler, Scott Gray, Nelda Akers, Angie Bailey and Clark Hubbard.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 17, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked to receive public comments.

Graham Filler, candidate for the 93rd District House Representative, introduced himself and shared his respect for local governments. He is running as a republican and is working on endorsements early to get his name out and meet people. Mayor Palmer thanked him for coming.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Timmons reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to discuss a potential lease agreement with Gratiot Agricultural Society (GAS) members. No action or business can be taken due to the former Council action. The Committee recommends consideration be given to bringing back the GAS lease to the agenda for consideration.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to allow the GAS Lease Agreement to be brought back on the Agenda for consideration. Councilperson Schafer commented the original denial was a good thing because it woke up the fair board that better communication needs to happen and would support talking about it again. Councilperson Henderson commented that GAS was a good group but the residents he has heard from support the Council's decision and they still have the option to rent the grounds and that is the best solution for now. **Mayor Palmer called for a vote by the raise of hands. Motion carried 5-2 hand vote.**

Councilperson Schafer reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the possible addition of a tier to the water and sewer rates as directed by City Council. The proposal is to create a tier for water at a 3% reduction from tier two and a 5% reduction from tier two for usage over 5 Million gallons. The Committee also discussed the legal fees for the completion of the ZFS project agreements.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to authorize an additional \$10,000 in legal fees for the ZFS project contracts and agreement work. Motion carried.

Councilperson Schafer reported the Library Board met and is still having a water issue in the basement and needs the City Manager to look at the drawings and contracts to see if a solution can be found. She reported the Library would be closed from November 22nd at 5:00pm through November 26, 2017 for the Thanksgiving holiday and closed December 23rd through December 26th and December 30th through January 1st for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Department Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell gave an update on the Building Inspector services and the search progress to fill the position. The County is still receiving RFP's from firms for the service, but is also exploring collaboration with Montcalm, Isabella and other neighboring counties.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reviewed the Financial reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2017.

Moved by Schafer, second by Henderson to receive the September ending Financial Statements and place on file for audit. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS development, brush truck, Well #7, Planning Commission, DDA and ZBA Board vacancies, salt shed progress, Building Inspector replacement progress, US-127 Connector Sidewalk project, Zone 2 Sidewalk project, the refuse contract, Woodland Park Improvements, ICMA Conference, trainings and other community events.

No motion to receive.

New/Old Business

Councilperson Baublitz said he received comments on burning leaves in town. Residents dislike the burning. If the DPW is vacuuming them up and we have a place to dump them, why is burning allowed. Mayor Palmer explained that burning is the number one complaint this time of year and it requires an Ordinance change to stop it. It would start at the Public Safety Committee level. Councilperson Gruesbeck stated that every year it gets brought up but has not been followed through to change. Councilperson Henderson added that residents do not want to get rid of recreational fires and fire pits.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell asked for the date to be set for the Ribbon Cutting for the Connector Sidewalk project. November 14th at 3:30pm was selected with November 20th at 3:30pm as the second choice.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the DDA By-Law changes for adoption. The changes allow for the By-Laws to match the recent change to the Ordinance and the number of Authority members allowed. The changes were introduced at the same time the Ordinance change was introduced.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to adopt the changes to the DDA By-Laws as introduced. Motion carried.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Schafer, second by Koppkeberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44247-44296, and Payroll Checks #14575-14608, DD1077-DD1085, EFT #708-713 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Palmer asked for additional business to come before the City Council.

Mayor Palmer expressed that serving the City Council as its Mayor is a humbling and honoring experience. He wished them all the best as we live in a great town. He would not be gone forever, but is gone for now. He thanked them all.

Mayor Palmer set a Parks and Cemetery meeting for November 16th at 5:30pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Tim Palmer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Palmer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Tim Palmer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Brian Henderson, Rick Koppleberger, Alice Schafer and Cathy Timmons. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Ali Carman, Amber Carman, Scot Gray, Brandon Gray, Clark Hubbard, Nelda Akers, Molly Gray, Jen Gray, George Bailey, Seth Wolfe and Brian Wolfe.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Baublitz to amend the Agenda to add Item 10C – Resignation of Councilperson Cathy Timmons. Motion carried.

Moved by Timmons, second by Henderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 7, 2017. Motion carried.

City Council Organization

Mayor Palmer excused Councilpersons Brian Henderson, Brett Baublitz and himself and asked the newly elected to come forward.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office for Mayor to Alice Schafer.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oaths of Office for City Councilperson to Scott Gray, Clark Hubbard and Rick Koppleberger. The Councilpersons were seated.

Mayor Schafer stated one Letter of Interest was received for the vacant Councilperson seat which has two years remaining on the term. Brett Baublitz submitted the letter.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Timmons to appoint Brett Baublitz to the Councilperson seat with term ending in November 2019. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office for Councilperson to Brett Baublitz. Councilperson Baublitz was seated.

Mayor Schafer asked for nominations or interest for Mayor Pro-Tempore. Councilperson Koppleberger and Baublitz were interested.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to appoint Rick Koppleberger as Mayor Pro-Tempore. Mayor Schafer asked for other nominees and discussion. None were offered. **Motion carried.**

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro-Tempore to Rick Koppleberger.

Mayor Schafer presented the Committee Appointments for the 2017-2018 year with preface that Committees would be reviewed at the Council goal session in December. **Moved by Timmons, second by Gray to approve the committee appointments recommended by Mayor Schafer as listed, with the first name designated as the Chair:**

- **Building and Grounds:** Koppleberger, Hubbard, Baublitz
- **Cemetery and Parks:** Timmons, Gray, Hubbard
- **Equipment:** Baublitz, Hubbard, Timmons
- **Personnel:** Koppleberger, Gruesbeck, Gray
- **Public Safety:** Gruesbeck, Timmons, Baublitz
- **Streets and Parking:** Timmons, Hubbard, Gray
- **Technology:** Hubbard, Timmons, Gruesbeck
- **Water and Sewer:** Gray, Koppleberger, Hubbard
- **Ways and Means:** Gruesbeck, Koppleberger, Gray
- **911 Board:** Gruesbeck
- **Senior Activity Board:** Gruesbeck
- **Fair Board:** Timmons
- **Library Board:** Schafer

Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer asked for consideration of Resolution 2017-15 honoring Brian Henderson for his service to the City. **Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2017-15: Recognition of Service of Brian Henderson. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer read and presented the Resolution to former Councilperson Henderson.

Mayor Schafer asked for consideration of Resolution 2017-16 honoring Tim Palmer for his service to the City. **Moved by Gray, second by Timmons to adopt Resolution 2017-16: Recognition of Service of Tim Palmer. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer read and presented the Resolution to former Mayor Palmer.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Mayor Schafer reported the Committee of the Whole met to review the 2016-17 Fiscal Year Audit with auditors Roslund, Prestage and Company. The audit showed the City books to be in compliance and received the highest rating it can receive. She shared appreciation for the MD&A portion of the audit written by the city Manager and City Clerk-Treasurer. The Committee recommends its approval and filing with the State.

Moved by Timmons, second by Baublitz to approve, receive and place on file with the State of Michigan the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year annual audit. Motion carried.

Councilperson Timmons reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to work on the GAS lease agreement. Board members from GAS were present and made comment. The Committee will continue to work on the agreement and bring it to the December 5th meeting for Council consideration.

Mayor Schafer reported the Committee of the Whole met to review a personnel matter and there are no recommendations for action.

Department Reports

A written report was provided by Lt. Roy McCollum on the monthly activity for the Ithaca Unit.

Moved by Timmons, second by Hubbard to received the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS development, brush truck, Well #7, Planning Commission, DDA and ZBA Board vacancies, salt shed progress, US-127 Connector Sidewalk project, Library basement floor, new hire interviews, SAW Contract, refuse/recycle contract, McNabb park soccer fields and horse racetrack fence, S. Pine River/Newark St island upgrades, DDA Billboard, trainings and other community events.

City Manager Yonker further reported that a progress meeting was held for the ZFS project earlier that day and was attended by Bob Studt. All of the underground and in ground work that can be done is completed so the contractor will be doing a seasonal shutdown until spring. There were issues with ZFS getting the necessary easements to Consumers Energy prior to winter cost, in addition, ZFS construction is behind schedule and there will be no fall/winter flow as expected. The City was able to get the warranties on the pumps delayed until installation in the spring is completed.

City Manager Yonker reported on the Ribbon Cutting for the connector sidewalk to the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway. Ceo Bauer gave a nice presentation on Bill Caldwell's friendship and the use of the funds for the project. The "coffee club" was pleased and felt Mr. Caldwell would be very happy with this project. The event was well attended and guest included Senator Emmons and Representative Rick Outman.

Manager Yonker updated Council on the Receptionist Clerk interviews, the pre-project meeting with Redzone Robotics, Downtown Christmas event, and congratulated the new Councilpersons.

Mayor Schafer asked when the new well would be up and running. Manager Yonker said the roof on the well house was to be finished the next week, then heat would be installed and it should be operational shortly thereafter. Councilperson Koppleberger asked how long Redzone Robotics would be working. Manager Yonker said the estimate time for field work would be 4-5 months. Councilperson Gray asked about Redzone Robotics and Manager Yonker gave an overview of the SAW grant and work they would be performing and product the City would receive as a result of the grant with 10% match. Councilperson Timmons asked when Bagley Road would become a dead-end. Manager Yonker said no official word to dead end the road had been received from MDOT as of yet.

Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Manager Yonker addressed the Water/Sewer Rate Agreement with ZFS Ithaca LLC. The draft agreement has been sent and is still under review by ZFS and the attorneys. No response has been received yet.

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the meeting schedules for the City Council, Planning Commission and Downtown Development Authority for the calendar year 2018 for approval.

Moved by Timmons, second by Gray to approve the 2018 meeting schedules for the City Council, Planning Commission and Downtown Development Authority as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer presented the resignation letter submitted by Councilperson Timmons. Councilperson Timmons expressed regret for the resignation, however family health challenges must become her priority and she would not be able to attend the meetings.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Koppberger to accept the resignation of Councilperson Cathy Timmons effective December 1, 2017 with regret. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer stated the vacancy created would need to be filled and Clerk Fandell confirmed the term expiration at November 2019.

Councilperson Timmons reminded members of the IPC Christmas event and shared all of the activities and new locations for each this year. New decorations and a street banner were purchased for the event. The City tree is up and decorated and they purchased more lights for it this year. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reminded members that funds were set aside to help with decorations and photo backdrops in lieu of repairing the Santa House.

Councilperson Timmons also asked the street light be replaced on North Pine River as it still was not done and is very dark when walking.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Hubbard to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44297-44343, and Payroll Checks #14609-14624, DD1086-DD1090, EFT #714-718 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Schafer set a Parks & Cemetery Committee meeting for November 30, 2017 with time to be determined.

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

Mayor Schafer expressed that she was honored to serve as the Mayor of Ithaca.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Alice M. Schafer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, Scott Gray, James Gruesbeck, Clark Hubbard and Rick Koppleberger. One Councilperson seat is vacant. Officers and staff present were City Manager Chris Yonker and City Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance was Nelda Akers, George Bailey, Sandy Allen, Devin Cody, Brandy Carman and Vicki Parling.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 21, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked to receive public comments. None were offered.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Hubbard reported the Parks and Cemetery Committee met to work on the GAS lease agreement. He reviewed the lease terms and changes recommended by the committee. They included that the term of the lease for a period of one-year and a \$500 lease fee plus any additional expenses incurred by the City for issues directly related to the fair during the lease term. The fee will help cover the cost for the use of the park and the utilities used during the fair. The Committee also recommends that all future leases be on an annual basis. In addition, the horse track was taken out and the fair office was added to the map.

Mayor Schafer asked Ms. Akers if she had contacted the State of Michigan regarding the fence around the horse track. Ms. Akers had not. Ms. Allen inquired how events outside of the lease dates would be handled. Mayor Schafer stated those events would be handled like all other events and would require the reservation form and rental payments for their use of the park.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to approve the Lease Agreement with the Gratiot Agricultural Society as presented. Ms. Nelda Akers requested permission to comment. Mayor Schafer granted. Ms. Akers asked that Item 6 regarding the splitting of the campground fees be removed. Manager Yonker said the Committee had discussed fees versus lot fees so it could be an error. Councilpersons Clark and Gray confirmed.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to amend the motion to add the removal of the sharing of the campground fees from Item 6. Motion carried.
Motion carried.

Councilperson Hubbard further reported the Committee reviewed the eight campsites the City maintains in McNabb Park as requested by staff. The Committee recommends to close those sites as they are not being utilized and to not renew the Campground licenses. Councilperson Koppleberger asked who the license fees go to. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell stated to the State of Michigan and the local Health Department.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to close the campsites in McNabb Park and not renew the licenses or pay the fees associated with those sites due to not being utilized. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS development, Well #7, Planning Commission, DDA and ZBA Board vacancies, GAS Lease, hiring of new personnel to fill vacant positions, US-127 Connector Sidewalk project, SAW Grant project, the refuse contract and community events.

In addition, he reported the DDA would meet December 11th and the Planning Commission would be meeting December 12th. The DDA meets quarterly and they will be discussing and setting forth the steps and schedule for renewing the TIF And Development plans. The current TIF plan captures 20% of the available taxes and there has been discussion of increasing that percentage. Once a decision is made, it will be brought before the City Council. The Planning Commission did not have a quorum for the November meeting, so the variance request scheduled for that meeting will be on this agenda as may a building extension site plan for the current Monosem building.

Manager Yonker reported the Christmas event in the downtown put on by the Ithaca Promotional Committee was a very big success and the members reported they went through over 200 gift bags for the children from Santa. The Community Center location was very popular and a good move for the children and families for warmth, photo ops and other activities. The chili cook-off had five entries and the winner was Gary Smith.

Manager Yonker further reported that he met with the DPW Union representatives and has received their written request for contract changes. He informed Council of his plan to bring the request to the Personnel Committee after he and Treasurer Fandell cost out the items. He asked for direction on how the Council wanted negotiations handled as this was his first one in Ithaca, and there are several ways to handle them. Councilpersons discussed and all request are to go through the Personnel Committee first, before any negotiations are made and then agreed that the labor attorney will be brought in when appropriate.

Manager Yonker shared a request from Clerk-Treasurer Fandell on direction of what to do with the old computers that were just replaced. C-T Fandell explained the options as presented from IT Right, the City's contracted service provider. One is that they would take the PCs and wipe the hard drives, reload windows and then could be sold for a price as recommended by IT Right to the employees. The work is included in our contract price so there would be no additional charges. Councilperson Hubbard added that the hard drives could also be pulled, saved, and the computers could be sold without them. Councilpersons agreed to have IT Right wipe and reload them and sell for a price as recommended by them.

Manager Yonker finally reported that Jeremy Gallagher was hired as the newest firefighter and comes with firefighter experience and was formerly the Chief in Perrinton and is also a qualified trainer for some in-house trainings. Also, Shelly Moffit was hired for the Receptionist/Accounting Clerk position and comes with local government experience as well as knows the software. Shelly will start December 11th and Jeremy will start January 1st.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Hubbard to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell presented the 2018 Poverty Exemption Application and income levels for adoption as requested by Assessor Hunter. The income levels within the application are the Federal Poverty Income Levels. C-T Fandell explained that the City is required to adopt the guidelines annually and may adopt higher levels, but not lower levels.

Moved by Gray, second by Koppkeberger to adopt the 2018 Poverty Income Levels and Poverty Exemption Application as presented. Motion carried.

City Manager Yonker informed Council that the Water/Sewer agreement with ZFS was still being reviewed by ZFS officials and attorneys and they requested another week to complete their review. There are likely going to be some requested changes to what we proposed to assure there is no creations of a private rate.

Councilperson Koppkeberger asked about the house construction next to the motel as there is work being done on it again. Manager Yonker said the owner has returned to town and is working on it again.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Gray, second by Koppkeberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended same for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44344-44380, and Payroll Checks #14625-14643, DD1091-DD1095, EFT #719-724 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Mrs. Vicki Parling expressed how proud they were of the City DPW for getting the leaves and keeping them cleaned up with the late falling of them. She also expressed grief for teacher Patty Edgard who passed away earlier that day.

Devon Cody introduced himself as a student of Mr. Lambrecht's class. Mayor Schafer thanked him for coming and Councilperson Hubbard shared that he too had to attend a meeting for his class when in high school and is now serving the community. He wished Mr. Cody well.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

Alice M. Schafer, Mayor

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 19, 2017
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, James Gruesbeck, Rick Koppleberger, Scott Gray and Clark Hubbard. One Councilperson seat is vacant. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Audience in attendance was Greg Nelson and James & Deb Andrew.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Hubbard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 5, 2017. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked to receive public comments. Mayor Schafer read a brief letter from resident Mary Bowen. Mrs. Bowen expressed her appreciation to City Manager Chris Yonker, DPW Director Bob Studt along with DPW crew Joel Zuker and Rick Wymer for providing assistance with resolution of an ongoing water issue at 129 East Emerson Street.

Committee Reports

Mayor Schafer asked for Committee Reports. No meetings were held to report on.

Department Reports

A written report was provided by Lt. Roy McCollum on the monthly activity for the Ithaca Unit.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to receive the Ithaca Unit report. Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the ZFS development, Well #7, SAW Contract, refuse/recycle contract, brush truck, new staff hire, lease revisions with G.A.S., brush/yard waste removal, Planning Commission, DDA and ZBA Board vacancies and other community events.

City Manager reported that a meeting with Granger has been scheduled for January 5, 2018 to discuss the refuse/recycle contract. After which a proposed contract will be submitted to the Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee for review, prior to Council.

City Manager Yonker shared with Council that he received a nice thank you note from Ceo Bauer stating his appreciation for the City using the Bill Caldwell Funds to enhance the safe routes for bicycling.

City Manager Yonker reported that he and Jerry Timmons met with representatives from Flint's Back to the Bricks Car Show. They were impressed with our community and experience hosting car shows. They will be making a positive recommendation to their committee to have the City of Ithaca on their promotional tour on June 8, 2018. This tour is expected to bring over 250 cars to our community that day.

City Manager Yonker reported that he had met with Jim Wheeler of Greater Gratiot Development along with an interested individual about setting up a marijuana grow operation with a distribution center in one of the Industrial Parks. This is the second interested individual to have contacted him on this subject. Manager Yonker

informed both parties that the City has not taken action regarding these types of operations within the City limits and suggested that a written request detailing the operations be submitted to Council for review and discussion. Manger Yonker informed Council that medical marijuana is an opt-n process with the State of Michigan, applications and ordinances would be required. Otherwise the City can deny these operations by Council majority with no further action to be taken.

City Manager Yonker further reported on the progress with the G.A.S lease following a discussion with Seth Wolfe from the GAS Board. Council directed City Manager Yonker to proceed with the lease agreement negotiations.

Manager Yonker informed Council that the Receptionist Clerk position has been filled, welcoming Shelly Moffit to our staff.

Moved by Gray, second by Koppleberger to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.

New/Old Business

City Manager Yonker discussed with the Council on the Board & Commission vacancies that exists. Discussion was held on how to fill these vacancies including using social media to notify our residents of these opportunities to serve their community.

City Manager Yonker presented the resignation letter submitted by Councilperson Jim Gruesbeck from Planning Commission, where he served as a resident for many years.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to accept the resignation of James Gruesbeck from the Planning Commission, effective December 13, 2017 with regret and thanked him for serving on the board. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer stated that two Letters of Interest were received to fill the vacancy of City Councilperson with term ending November 2019. Submitted letters were from James Andrew and Greg Nelson. Mayor Schafer ask for any questions or comments. Councilperson Baublitz nominated James Andrew to fill the vacant seat on Council for the remaining term.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to appoint James Andrew to the City Council for the remaining term ending November 2019. Motion carried.

Mayor Schafer congratulated Mr. Andrew, welcoming him to City Council advising that he would be sworn in and seated at the next Council meeting.

Manager Yonker informed Council that he is still waiting for a response from ZFS Ithaca LLC, on the Water/Sewer Rate Agreement.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #44381-44422, and Payroll Checks #14644-14658, DD1096-DD1100, EFT #725-728 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Schafer scheduled a Committee of the Whole for the Council goal setting for Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 5:30p.m.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Cathy Cameron, Deputy Clerk

Alice M. Schafer, Mayor