

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 2, 2024
7:00 PM**

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

Present were Mayor Brett Baublitz, Councilpersons James Andrew, Rob Endter, Clark Hubbard, Rick Koppleberger and Kristyn Roethlisberger. Staff present was City Manager Jamey Conn and City Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent were Councilperson Alison Jerome and City Clerk Cathy Cameron.

Audience in attendance was Spencer Barrett, Jeff Glynn, Jim Wheeler, Kasey Zehner and Jim Hirschman.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to excuse Councilperson Alison Jerome due to illness. Motion carried.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hubbard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 19, 2023. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. There were none so he called for approval of the agenda, including the consent agenda.

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

Public Comment

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comment. There was none.

Consent Agenda

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

- **City Manager’s written report, which included updates and information on the cemetery signs, Planning Commission upcoming agenda item, Good Morning Gratiot event, Code Enforcement Officer position, water sampling and Gratiot County Landbank Authority.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #49524-49539 and Payroll Checks #16849-16857, DD #2729-2751, EFT #1739-1748 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received was the city’s 2023 Pension and OPEB Report and Thompson Home Public Library meeting minutes.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Jerome

Committee/Department Reports

There were none.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported the hiring of a new Code Enforcement Officer was in process and should be completed by next week, with a start date soon to follow.

Special Orders

Industrial Facilities Property Tax Exemptions as applied for by Trident Manufacturing (IFE Application).

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to open a public hearing to take comment on an IFE Application by Trident Manufacturing for 301 Industrial Parkway, Avenue B. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz opened the public hearing at 7:04pm.

Ms. Kasey Zehner of Greater Gratiot Development Inc. spoke on behalf of Trident Manufacturing. The project consists of the construction of a new 8,400 sq. ft. facility with an investment of \$885,200. The project is expected to create at least six (6) new FTE positions. The project construction incurred a delay due to an accident of key personnel, but still falls within the six-month requirement and a statement to that effect has been included.

Mayor Baublitz asked for additional comments. There were none.

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

Mayor Baublitz closed the public hearing at 7:06pm.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to open a public hearing to take comment on an IFE Application by Trident Manufacturing for 1102 Industrial Parkway, Avenue A. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz opened the public hearing at 7:07pm.

Ms. Kasey Zehner of Greater Gratiot Development Inc. spoke on behalf of Trident Manufacturing. The project is an 8,000 sq. ft. building expansion to increase storage space with an investment of \$170,500. The project is expected to create at least three (3) new FTE positions. This expansion will be on the south red building which incurred damage due to fire.

Ms. Zehner noted that Trident Manufacturing is Ithaca's second largest private employer, the first being Hutchinson Aerospace.

Mayor Baublitz expressed gratitude to Jim Hirschman for his investment in the community.

Mayor Baublitz asked for additional comments. There were none.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Roethlisberger to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz closed the public hearing at 7:09pm.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2024-02 Approving an IFT Application for Trident Manufacturing.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Jerome

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2024-03 Approving an IFT Application for Trident Manufacturing.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Jerome

Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Zehner and Mr. Hirschman left the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Manager Conn explained the AFSCME Union representatives were in attendance to discuss the contract. Manager Conn and President Jeff Glynn requested a closed session to discuss the contract negotiations.

Mayor Baublitz presented the request to the City Council.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to enter closed session for AFSCME Union contract negotiations. Motion unanimously carried. Closed session entered at 7:10pm.

Returned from closed session at 7:21pm.

Mayor Baublitz reported that negotiations were completed and instructed City Manager Conn to present the new contract at the next regular meeting for action.

New Business

City Treasurer Fandell presented Resolution 2024-01 Public Act 152 Compliance for approval. She reviewed the resolution and explained the analysis of the health insurance rates and steps taken by the city to remain in compliance.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to adopt Resolution 2024-01 Public Act 152 Compliance.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote:

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

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (1) Jerome

City Treasurer Fandell presented and reviewed the proposal for new water meter reading software and equipment. Notification was received from Neptune Technology Group that the current equipment and software will become obsolete June 30, 2024. The original software was purchased in 2002 and the new proposal is for subscription-based software. The transition will take two to three months to complete. This purchase was not budgeted in the current year, however replacement and upgrades are in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2027 at an estimated \$28,000, so it has been built into the rates for four of the planned seven years.

Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to approve the purchase of AMR Reading equipment, software, and training from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$12,263.14 and to amend the 23-24 fiscal year water and sewer budget for the purchase. Motion carried.

City Manager Conn presented the meeting schedule for the Downtown Development Authority as changed by the DDA board at its December 12, 2023, meeting. The new schedule sets the meetings for the second Tuesday of March, May, August, and November at 10:30am for better attendance.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to approve the meeting schedule as presented by the Downtown Development Authority Board. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comments.

City Manager Conn requested approval to provide the non-union full-time employees with the new benefits offered to the AFSCME union once the contract is approved.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Roethlisberger to authorize the same wage percentage increases (4% per year for 3 years), defined contribution retirement schedule and product changes, additional personal and holiday days as offered to the AFSCME union effective July 1, 2024. Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor Baublitz asked for any other business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Barbara Fandell, Recorder

Approved 1-16-2024

Cathy Cameron

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk