

**CITY OF ITHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 7, 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, Alison Jerome and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present was City Manager Jamey Conn and Deputy City Clerk Shelly Moffit.

Additional staff present was Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilpersons Clark Hubbard and Kristyn Roethlisberger.

Audience in attendance was Shannon McKnight and Andy Campbell of Baker-Tilly.

Moved by Koppleberger, second by Jerome to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 16, 2024 and the special meeting minutes of April 23, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Andrew, second by Endter to excuse Councilpersons Hubbard and Roethlisberger. Motion carried.

Mayor Baublitz asked for approval of the agenda and for any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

- **City Manager’s written report, which included updates and information on Hydrant Flushing, Westwind Estates, Downtown LCR Project, Woodland Park Road, Gwinner Street Project, Summer Hours, Playscape, CPR and First Aid Staff Training, Waste Management and Chamber Community Celebration.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #49760-49796, Grant Fund #1251-1252 and Payroll Checks #16900-16910, DD #2850-2874, EFT #1798-1810 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received was upcoming events flyers.**

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Endter, Jerome, Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (2) Hubbard, Roethlisberger

Committee/Department Reports

There was none.

City Manager Comments

Manager Conn reported that hydrant flushing will begin Monday, May 13th. He stated a Westwind resident inquired about purchasing lot #1. This lot is listed as city owned and not for sale. The council agreed for Manager Conn to do some research and investigate the history of the lot and evaluate the intended use of the lot. He reported that Dr Freestone reached out and offered to form a committee and help raise money to save the playscape. Manager Conn explained that for safety reasons the decision had been made to remove it but appreciated him reaching out. He also stated that summer hours began Monday, May 6th.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

New Business

Manager Conn presented the Annual 2023 Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals Report as required under the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The report was reviewed by the Planning Commission with authorization to send on to Council for approval.

Moved by Andrew, second by Endter to receive the Annual 2023 Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals Report as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported that the IPC has requested an alcoholic liquor permit for the upcoming Rock the Block Downtown Party on Saturday, May 18th.

Moved by Kopplesberger, second by Jerome to approve the alcoholic liquor permit for the Rock the Block Downtown Party on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Motion carried.

Manager Conn reported on the progress of the Gwinner Street project. He requested to move \$4200 from the Parking Lot Department to the Sidewalk Department to complete the project prior to the new fiscal year.

Moved by Endter, second by Andrew to amend the General Fund budget by decreasing Department 450 Alleys/Parking lots and increasing Department 444 Sidewalks by \$4200. Motion carried.

Andy Campbell of Baker-Tilly presented a cash flow analysis and reviewed the effect each term (20 year and 30 year) would have on the 2024 DWSRF bonding issue. He further discussed the effect the 2025 DWSRF and CWSRF projects could have on the system. The rates will incur an increase of 15% - 20% for the 2024-25 fiscal year. He shared that a determination of the desired term should be decided after the public hearing at the May 21st council meeting.

The Downtown Development Authority has requested an increase in the amount that the city transfers to the DDA Fund. Since the TIF was dissolved in 2018 the city has contributed \$10,000. The DDA has asked for a \$5,000 increase. After discussion Councilperson Endter asked to table the decision and would like to attend the next DDA meeting.

Treasurer Fandell presented the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget. A public hearing will be held on May 21, 2024. *(At the previous regular meeting held on April 16th; Moved by Hubbard, second by Jerome to set the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget public hearing for May 21, 2024 at 7:00pm or soon thereafter as the agenda allows. Motion carried.)*

Moved by Andrew, second by Endter to authorize the introduction of the 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget.

Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Jerome, Kopplesberger, Andrew, Endter Baublitz

Nos: (0) None

Absent: (2) Clark Hubbard, Kristyn Roethlisberger

Treasurer Fandell requested a committee meeting be held to review the budget prior to the public hearing. Mayor Baublitz scheduled a Committee of the Whole meeting for May 21, 2024 at 6pm.

Public Comment

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comments. There was none.

Announcements

Councilperson Endter inquired about the status of the Code Position. Discussion was held regarding code related issues and the Resident Concern Form.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Approved 5-21-2024

Shelly Moffit, Deputy City Clerk