

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

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

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

Absent was Councilperson Alison Jerome.

Audience in attendance was Shannon McKnight.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hubbard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 4, 2025. Motion carried.**

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

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

**Moved by Hubard, second by Koppleberger to approve the Agenda (as amended by adding item 10g. Ellens Property) including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comment. There was none.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- **City Manager’s written report, which included updates and information on MML Loss Control Meeting, Michigan Tax Tribunal, Meters and Readers, Mini Excavator and Speed Radar Signs.**
- **Ithaca Unit Report for January 2025.**
- **Financial Reports for January 2025.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #50462-50496); and Payroll Checks #17045-17049, DD #3169-3183, EFT #1950-1954 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received was none.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Jerome**

**Committee/Department Reports**

Mayor Bublitz reported on the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss Strategic Planning for 2025. The committee recommended the following: Consider replacement of the exhibit barn roof; Replace roadway on Pine River for SRF; Purchase Mini Excavator and New Water Meters; and Engineer storm

drain in 200 block of North Elm. The committee further recommended that there be no change in city elections being held on odd years.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Roethlisberger to accept the Committee of the Whole report and recommendations to Council. Motion carried.**

**City Manager Comments**

Manager Conn provided an update on the Michigan Tax Tribunal filed by Gemini Capital, which has since been withdrawn.

**Unfinished Business**

There was none.

**New Business**

Manager Conn presented the quote from Ferguson Waterworks for purchase of new water meters and radio frequencies in the amount of \$57,423.90. The cost will come from the ARPA funds.

**Moved by Endter, second by Andrew to approve the purchase of water meter supplies from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$57,423.90 using ARPA funding. Motion carried.**

Manager Conn presented the quote from Ellens Equipment for purchase of a mini excavator in the amount of \$50,000. This is the same mini excavator the DPW crew has been using for the past year, which was acquired using a lease program that will soon be discontinued. The cost will come from the ARPA funds.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hubbard to approve the purchase of the mini excavator from Ellens Equipment in the amount of \$50,000 using ARPA funding. Motion carried.**

Manager Conn presented the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act Policy, which is set to go into effect on February 21, 2025. At this time, both the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate have proposed amendments that could significantly revise the Act. Governor Whitmer has urged both House and Senate leaders to reach a compromise on the proposed changes prior to the effective date. She has called for a delay in the Act's implementation date until July 1, 2025, to give the legislature time to work out a compromise and allow Michigan businesses time to comply. Discussion was held. Councilperson Hubbard suggested that the city policy be approved as presented, however it would be void if the Act is altered at the state level.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to approve the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act Policy as presented with condition that it be void should the Act be altered at the state level. Motion carried.**

Clerk Cameron presented the following policies/guidelines as submitted by the City Assessor, which are required to be approved and/or adopted annually.

- Res 2025-04: STC Partial Poverty Exemption Guidelines
- Res 2025-05: Poverty Income & Assets 2025
- Res 2025-06: Adopt Alternate Dates for Board of Review

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Roethlisberger to adopt Resolution 2025-04: State Tax Commission Partial Poverty Exemption Guidelines.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Jerome**

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Andrew to adopt Resolution 2025-05: Poverty Income & Assets 2025.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Jerome**

**Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to adopt Resolution 2025-06: Adopt Alternate Dates for Board of Review.**

**Motion carried by Roll Call vote:**

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

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Jerome**

Manager Conn provided an update on the vacant property negotiations with Ellens Equipment. The owners of Ellens have stated their final offer of \$15,000 for the parcel or they would move their equipment off the property. Discussion was held. Council directed Manager Conn to stand firm with the city offer of \$20,000, or to include the mini excavator quote within the negotiations.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Baublitz asked for public comments. There was none.

**Announcements**

Councilperson Hubbard commended the DPW crew on their snow removal process. Manager Conn expressed his gratitude to the Council for allowing him to miss recent meetings as he was attending his son's basketball games as a senior at the high school.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Roethlisberger to adjourn. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

*Approved 3-4-2025*

*Cathy Cameron*

Cathy Cameron, City Clerk