

The Special Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 in the Ishpeming City Hall Conference Room. Mayor Lehmann called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Mayor Karl Lehmann, Councilmembers Lindsay Bean, Pat Scanlon, and Mike Tonkin (4). Absent: Councilmember Skaug (1). Also present was City Manager Mark Slown and City Attorney Bonnie Hoff.

AGENDA COMMENT – There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING FOR CITY BUDGET/SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE FUTURE

There was discussion on what process to use when discussing sustainability; the shortfall in the General Fund; and what Council would like staff to provide for the meetings. It was suggested one department be selected and focus on that specific budget. Council and staff talked about staffing levels, MERS pension plan, health care costs, and how costs could be reduced.

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to set the next meeting for sustainability for February 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. which would be immediately before the regular Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS TO COST RECOVERY AND OPEN BURN ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEES

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to appoint Councilmember Scanlon to the Open Burn Ordinance Review Committee and Councilmember Bean to the Cost Recovery Ordinance Review Committee.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL SECTION 15.268(e) TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING SETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CONNECTION WITH A SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION: LESAGE v CITY OF ISHPEMING CASE #18-718-SC

Attorney Hoff advised four votes were need to go into closed session regarding settlement strategy; and, since Councilmember Scanlon has a conflict of interest with this case he would have to abstain; therefore, since Councilmember Skaug was not in attendance, there were not enough votes to go into closed session.

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann and supported by Councilmember Bean to table this item until the next Council meeting. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmember Bean and Tonkin (3). Nays: None (0). Abstained: Councilmember Scanlon (1).

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL SECTION 15.268 (c) FOR STRATEGY CONNECTED WITH A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann and supported by Councilmember Scanlon to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) for strategy connected with a collective bargaining agreement at 9:17 a.m. and include Finance Director Jim Lampman and MERS Regional Director Terra Langham. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Council Members Bean, Scanlon, and Tonkin (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Bean to return to open session at 10:35 a.m. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmember Bean and Tonkin (3). Nays: Councilmember Scanlon (1). Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Bean to respond to the AFSCME unions offer and remain firm with the position to close the MERS Defined Benefit Plan and offer the MERS Defined Contribution Plan with an employer contribution of 7% plus allowable employee contribution for all new hires. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmember Bean and Tonkin (3). Nays: Councilmember Scanlon (1). Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL SECTION 15.268(h) TO CONSIDER MATERIAL EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE STATUTE

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann and supported by Councilmember Scanlon to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State statute at 10:47 a.m. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Council Members Bean, Scanlon, and Tonkin (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Lehmann to return to open session at 10:57 a.m. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmember Bean, Scanlon, and Tonkin (4). Motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Lehmann and carried unanimously to accept the ordinance amendment with the second reading to be held at the February regular Council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL SECTION 15.268(e) TO CONSULT WITH ITS ATTORNEY REGARDING SETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CONNECTION WITH A SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION: SJOHOLM v CITY OF ISHPEMING AND MARK SLOWN CASE #18-642-SC

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann and supported by Councilmember Scanlon to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorney regarding settlement strategy in connection with a specific pending litigation at 11:00 a.m. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Council Members Bean, Scanlon, and Tonkin (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Tonkin and carried unanimously to return to open session at 11:37 a.m. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Bean, Scanlon, and Tonkin (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Lehmann and carried unanimously to give direction to the City Attorney to proceed as directed in closed session for this case.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40 a.m., a motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Smith

Recording Secretary