

The Special Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 in the Ishpeming City Hall Conference Room. Mayor Karl Lehmann called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Karl Lehmann, Councilmembers Lindsay Bean, Stuart Skauge, Pat Scanlon, and Mike Tonkin (5). Also present was City Manager Mark Slown and City Attorney Bonnie Hoff.

AGENDA COMMENT

Mayor Lehmann asked that item 5, MERS Corrective Action Plan be moved up and discussed after item 3, City Hall copier.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the amendment to the agenda as requested.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, would like to reserve comment under Budget/Sustainability.

REQUEST FROM 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE TO USE HEMATITE DRIVE FOR THE PARADE

Mayor Lehmann provided background on the reasoning why the parade route for the Fourth of July was changed many years ago from using Cleveland Avenue to using Hematite Drive.

Paul Bonetti, a member of the Fourth of July Committee, asked that the parade route be changed back to Hematite Drive.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tonkin, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to rescind the motion from the March 6th Council meeting which was to amend the parade route on the parade permit for the 4th of July.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tonkin, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to allow the DPW Director to make any changes to the parade route for the 4th of July, due to construction or for other reasons as requested by the Fourth of July Committee.

ENGINEERING AMENDMENT #2 – ISHPERING SAW GRANT

Brian Fabbri, GEI Consultants, explained the televising would be complete with the addition of televising of PVC sanitary sewer within the system and the remaining funds would be reallocated to continue the flow metering efforts. The engineering amendment would reallocate grant funds to cover the additional televising and the flow metering.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Mayor Lehmann and carried unanimously to approve GEI Consultants Engineering Amendment #2 for the Ishpeming SAW Grant.

PURCHASE OF NEW COPIER FOR CITY HALL

Cathy Smith, Assistant to the City Manager, explained the copier in the City Manager's office is broke down. It was purchased and serviced by Northern Stationers but they have recently went out of business. There is no one in the area that services Toshiba but she would continue to try to find a company that could make the repair. She received a proposal from Cooper Office Equipment, through MiDeal with the State of Michigan, for a Konica Bizhub C308 for \$3,846.37. There would also be a maintenance agreement with Cooper Office Equipment for the machine, which would include maintenance, toner, staples, and waste toner containers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Lehmann and carried unanimously to purchase the Konica Bizhub C308 in the amount of \$3,846.37 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund and approve the maintenance agreement with Cooper Office Equipment as presented.

PUBLIC ACT 202 MERS CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Council thanked Finance Director Jim Lampman for all his work on development of the MERS Corrective Action Plan.

There was discussion regarding MERS unfunded liability, the content of the Plan, exploring the possibility of pension obligation bonds, millage increases, and timelines for the Department of Treasury to respond to the Plan.

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the MERS Corrective Action Plan to be submitted to the Department of Treasury as presented.

BUDGET/SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, expressed her concerns with the budget; the recent resignations of four police officers; and staff reductions.

Councilmember Tonkin questioned the staff administrative allocations to various funds.

Councilmember Bean felt sustainability was a moving target. Emphasis should be on finding a long term solution for the budget such as looking for opportunities to increase revenues and the tax base; promoting the City to make it desirable for people want to move here; and try to limit the amount of staff turnover, because turnover is expensive.

Mayor Lehmann would like to evaluate the assessing contract with the County of Marquette and consider consolidating zoning and assessing into one position; discussed the continued increase in the MERS payments; and questioned some line items in Major Streets budget.

Councilmember Scanlon discussed the possibility of removing some equipment from the MMRMA insurance policy to reduce the cost of insurance. The equipment could be added back to the policy at any time if needed. He also felt the charge for placing door hangers for delinquent utilities should be reinstated.

Councilmember Skauge felt opportunities to increase revenues needed to explore and expenditure need to be reduced; surrounding Townships or the School District should be approached to see if they would be willing to do a millage for the use of the Library.

There was discussion regarding mutual aid for fire and police; continuing to look into reducing electrical charges for street lights; to consider other options for garbage collection; and

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:40 p.m., a motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Smith
Recording Secretary