

**Ishpeming, Michigan**

The Special Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Tuesday, May 14, 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 Karl Lehmann requested to switch item number six, Cody Utility Bill, with item number four, City Attorney Employment Agreement.

CODY UTILITY BILL

City Manager Mark Slown brought attention to House Bill No. 4431 which, if passed, would put stricter regulations on the City as to how a municipality would process and collect utility bills. Mayor Lehmann's recommendation was to table any further discussion on a Catastrophic Water Loss policy until we see what the outcome of House Bill No. 4431 will be. In consideration of the Cody's large water bill:

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Mayor Lehmann to do a reconciliation with the Cody's concerning their \$18,605.38 water bill that was the result of a large water leak. Reconciliation would be for the Cody's paying \$2,000 over a period of 12 months, interest free. Monthly payments of roughly \$166.66 would be made along with keeping their other City accounts current. The City will also cover the cost of installing a new radio read meter.

Councilman Skauge proposed an amendment to the motion that the City should at least re-coop the actual cost of the water, which would be \$2500.00. And also added that this would be a one-time deal. Mayor Lehmann and Councilmember Scanlon supported the amendment.

Councilmember Bean was reluctant to make a reconciliation due to the absence of an official water loss policy. Councilmember Tonkin was concerned with opening "Pandora's Box", foreseeing a number of residents with sizeable water bills to expect some kind of reconciliation also.

The motion passed 3-2. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Scanlon and Skauge (3). Nays: Councilmembers Bean and Tonkin (2).

CITY ATTORNEY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Discussion was led by Mayor Lehmann as to whether or not City Attorney Bonnie Hoff qualifies for health benefits. City Attorney Hoff currently works 24 hours a week plus 10 plus hours outside of the office, thus qualifying her for full time benefits. Mayor Lehmann accepts City Attorney Hoff to be a full time City Employee. Councilman Tonkin made argument that City Attorney Hoff's original retainer was for \$29,000 a year, which was previously amended to \$50,000 a year and that the employee freeze was never even lifted to take on a new full-time employee. Councilman Tonkin said that the City does not need another full-time employee.

A motion was made by Councilman Skauge, supported by Councilman Tonkin, to table the City Attorney Employment Agreement until the next meeting. Motion carried 4-1. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Skauge, Scanlon, and Tonkin (4). Nays: Councilmember Bean (1).

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CITY CLERK AND FRONT OFFICE POSITIONS

City Manager Mark Slown reports that Cathy Smith has agreed to accept the City Clerk position with compensation of a \$2,000 pay increase for 2019. Another \$2,000 increase to be paid once certifications are completed within a year. Cathy will also retain the position of Assistant to the City Manager.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Mayor Lehmann to table the raise for the City Clerk until a letter of agreement was given to Council by the City Manager Mark Slown. Motion failed 4-1. Ayes: Councilman Skauge (1). Nays: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Bean, Scanlon, and Tonkin (4).

A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Scanlon to approve a \$1.00/hour increase per year, this year and next year, to the compensation for the new City Clerk Cathy Smith. Motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Scanlon, Bean, Skauge and Tonkin (5). Nays: None (0).

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean to advertise for the position of Administrative Assistant for the front office at City Hall. Hourly wage shall be \$9.45 an hour with approximately 25 hours a week. Motion passed 4-1. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Scanlon, Bean, and Tonkin (4). Nays: Councilmember Skauge (1).

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268 € SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION: LESAGE V. CITY OF ISHPEMING

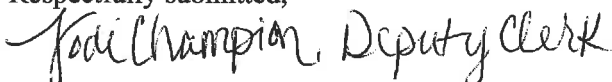
A motion was made by Mayor Lehmann, supported by Councilmember Bean to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State statute at 5:21 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Skauge, Bean, and Tonkin (4). Motion passed. Councilmember Scanlon abstained from voting and from being present for the closed session due to a conflict of interest.

A motion was made by Councilman Skauge, supported by Mayor Lehmann and carried unanimously to return to open session at 5:26 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lehmann, Councilmembers Skauge, Bean, and Tonkin (4). Nays: None (0).

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:30 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Mayor Lehmann and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi Champion

Deputy Clerk