

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, with Councilmembers attending via Zoom and public comment via Zoom. Mayor Mike Tonkin advised he would not be staying for the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Skauge requested Councilmember Scanlon conduct the meeting due to his weakened voice. Councilmember Scanlon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Mike Tonkin (left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.), Council Members Lindsay Bean, Jason Chapman, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (5). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered through Zoom. There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

AGENDA COMMENT

Timothy Kinney advised he was present to discuss or answer any questions related to his request to purchase City property adjacent to his property located at 400 E. New York Street.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (September 10th and 22nd)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm Mayor's appointment of Michael Kinnunen to a vacancy on the Planning Commission with the term expiring November 2022.
- d. Confirm Manager's appointment of Robert Taylor to a vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority with term expiring July of 2024.
- e. Declare 28 library books as surplus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the monthly budget report for the period ending September 30, 2020 which included the General Fund, Garbage Fund, Public Improvement Fund, Major and Local Street Funds, and Water and Sewer Funds.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

REQUEST FROM TIMOTHY KINNEY TO PURCHASE CITY PROPERTY ADJACENT TO EXISTING PROPERTY AT 400 E. NEW YORK STREET

Manager Cugini explained the proposed parcel requested to be purchased was in the same location that was being discussed to construct a campground. Discussion followed as to the possibility of being able to sell a portion of the land and to use the remainder for the campground.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to meet with Mr. Kinney to discuss an agreement where both options would be possible and if a proposal is agreed upon it should be sent to the Planning Commission for review.

RESOLUTION #11-2020, DESIGNATION OF STREET ADMINISTRATOR

Manager Cugini advised with the retirement of the DPW Director, a new street administrator must be named with MDOT.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #11-2020 designating Craig Cugini as Street Administrator with MDOT.

RESOLUTION #12-2020, TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING TO VACATE PROPERTY LOCATED ON PARK STREET

Manager Cugini advised this was the parcel of land that was being proposed for a land swap with regards to the Park Street Lift Station.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #12-2020 to set the public hearing to vacate the property located on Park Street for the next regular meeting.

ADDITION TO THE TRAFFIC CONTROLS ORDER PER THE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CODE

Police Chief Steve Snowaert advised a stop sign would be placed at the intersection of Wildwood Drive and Highland Drive with traffic stopping on Wildwood Drive.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the traffic control order for the intersection of Wildwood Drive and Highland Drive as presented.

SUBSTITUTE CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Caroline Bridges advised that she had been looking for a substitute attorney as required by the City Charter; however, with the number of retirements she has not been successful in finding a substitute attorney.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to accept the letter from Attorney Bridges and allow her to not have a substitute attorney at this time and she would make herself available as much as possible when she was out of the area.

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE GRANT-PLANNING AND OPERATIONALIZING SAFE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Manager Cugini advised City Clerk Cathy Smith was successful in obtaining the above grant in the amount of \$5,000 to planning and operating safe election administration.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to accept the funds from the grant and amend the budget accordingly.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Property Tax and Utility Bill Confidentiality

There was some discussion as to the confidentiality of the utility bill and property tax bill lookup that was available on the City website. Councilmember Skauge felt this was public information and should be provided. Finance Manager James Lampman advised the look up for utility bills could be changed to use the account number versus the name and address.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman ~~and carried unanimously~~ to change the look up for utility bills to be the account number versus name and address. Ayes: Councilmembers Pat Scanlon, Jason Chapman, and Lindsay Bean (3). Nays: Councilmember Skauge (1). Motion passed 3-1.

Councilmember Bean suggested the recent letter of agreement with the AFSCME union be discussed again. Council briefly talked about the approved letter of agreement authorizing a \$2.00/hour wage increase to the DPW Foreman until the DPW Director position was decided. Council granted Councilmember Scanlon and Bean permission to go back to the AFSCME Union for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Chapman felt the Council should support the effort to request Governor Whitmer not reappoint Victoria Enyart to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Scanlon briefly explained why the meeting tonight was being held via Zoom for Councilmembers. He did not feel this was a violation of the Open Meetings Act. The City was trying to accommodate and keep the city residents, staff, and councilmembers safe. He thanked the Fire Department for all their work at the recent house fire in Ishpeming; and felt we had a great staff at the City.

Councilmember Bean felt the City was adapting to the pandemic and was sorry the Mayor did not remain in attendance for the meeting. With the increased number of COVID cases, keeping the public and staff safe was very important.

Councilmember Chapman felt the meeting went very well on Zoom and, in addition, it was being live streamed on YouTube. It is important to have flexibility at this time. He talked to many people that have said how professional and helpful City staff has been. He thanked all the staff for all their worked through COVID including the Fire and Police Department and the City Clerk staff with the General Election coming up.

Councilmember Skauge advised the 911 Central Dispatch Policy Board has not been meeting regularly due to COVID; however, their next meeting will be on December 17th.

MANAGER'S REPORT

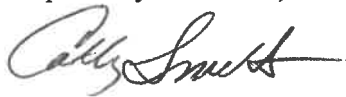
Manager Cugini noted there was a great staff at the City and he was glad to hear from residents that they know city staff was there to help and serve them.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no attorney report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager