

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, with Councilmembers attending via Zoom and public comment via Zoom. Mayor Mike Tonkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Mike Tonkin, Council Members Lindsay Bean at home, Jason Chapman, Pat Scanlon at home, and Stuart Skauge (5). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered through Zoom.

Brooke Routhier, 752 Mather Avenue, asked to speak during the public hearing for the 2021 budget.

Marilyn Andrews, 424 Elliott, a charter member of the Carnegie Public Library, was very concerned over the proposed 2021 budget for the Library. The Library operates with books and periodicals and if nothing can be purchased that would be a problem. She urged City Council to adjust the 2021 budget for the Library to allow the purchase of books and periodicals.

Kathryn Geier, 604 N. Third Street, concurred with all comments made by Mrs. Andrews. She felt the library was very important and having new books and updated periodicals was extremely important. The Children's Library provided a wonderful service to children of the community. She urged Council to reevaluate the 2021 proposed budget.

Cindy Mack, Birkley Michigan, Director of the Brighton District Library and a former City resident and former Director of Carnegie Library was very concerned over the proposed budget for 2021. The Carnegie Library was widely used and provided wonderful services. Books and new materials should not be removed from the budget as it is one of the most vital assets to the Library. She asked the proposed budget be revised.

Janice Chittle, 600 D Street, expressed concerned with the proposed budget for 2021. She and her kids use the library a lot and especially with COVID and remote learning. The programing for the kids in particular is wonderful and she urged Council to reconsider the budget allocation to the library.

Kristen Carlson, 536 Jasper Street, and her whole family are library patrons, her children participate in the summer reading program and other programing. She has fond memories of the library, used it while growing up, and appreciates all the library offers the City. It is a place for discovery and learning. The entire community benefits from a good library. She asked Council to allocate funding for the purchase of new books and other circulating materials for 2021.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom. There was no agenda comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to remove item 7j Special Event Application from the consent agenda to be discussed under new business.

Councilmember Scanlon pointed out the minutes of October 7th had one minor error under old business. The motion for utility bill look-up was not unanimous, which was noted in the motion, and should be corrected.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda incorporating the requested change to the minutes and removing Item 7j for discussion.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (October 7th, October 26th, and October 30th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Reappoint Angelo Bosio to a five-year term on the Housing Commission
- d. Reappoint Elyse Bertucci and Gabe Seelen to three-year terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals
- e. Reappoint Bruce Houghton to a three-year term on the Planning Commission
- f. Reappoint Brad Waters and Joseph Pelkola to three-year terms on the Commission on Aging
- g. Reappoint Jim Bertucci to a three-year term on the Ishpeming Area Joint Wastewater Treatment Board
- h. Appoint Ty Hyatt to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission with the term expiring 11/2022
- i. Nominate Angelo Bosio to a three-year term on the Marq-tran Board
- j. Special Event Application: Ishpeming Community Events -- Christmas Festivities 2020
(moved to New Business)

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the monthly budget report for the period ending October 31, 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 Skaug and carried unanimously to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021 BUDGET AND MILLAGE RATE

Mayor Tonkin opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.

Manager Cugini advised the proposed budget was distributed on October 15th. He briefly reviewed the strategy for 2021 which included road funding and explained funding for Public Improvements was affected; in addition, funding was being sought for a campground. Tipping fees at the Landfill would be increased in 2021 which was an unanticipated increase to the budget.

Councilmember Scanlon suggested a meeting be set up with the Library Director and some members of the Library Board to review the process for preparing the budget. He expressed his concerns over the cost increases at the Landfill and Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority which the City had not control over. All departments were cut in the Public Improvement Fund.

Councilmember Bean also suggested a meeting be set up with Library staff and board members. She noted the budget process had changed and the process would be starting much earlier next year.

Councilmember Chapman felt the public and Council had not had ample time to review and analyze the budget. He would like to see the Carnegie Library get some funding for 2021. Councilmember Chapman and Mayor Tonkin felt a budget meeting should held for the 2021 budget and the entire Council should have a chance to discuss the budget and ask questions of staff.

Brooke Routhier, Library Board Member was not opposed to the working with the Council, but was not willing to forego the purchase books for the library; that is what the library is for. Budget cuts are reasonable and manageable. However, the cut to eliminate the purchase of books is not manageable.

John McNaughton, current resident of Grand Rapids and former Director of the Carnegie Library, worked directly with Ray Leverton on the fund-raising efforts for the Library. The efforts were substantial and sending a message of not purchasing books should not be done. There was only one library and the community relied on the Library

Kristen Carlson, wanted to make clear she was a member of the public and not a member of the Library Board. The Library was very important to her and her family and they utilized it often. She would like the budget to be adjusted.

Closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED VACATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON PARK STREET

Mayor Tonkin open the public hearing at 7:58 p.m. There being no public comment the public hearing was closed at 7:59 p.m.

DISCUSS TUBE SLIDE OPERATIONS FOR WINTER OF 2020-2021

Manager Cugini reviewed the various options available if the tube slide was to operate during the 2020-2021 season which included cleaning and sterilizing the tubes and how it would be accomplished. Also discussed was the use of the Teal Lake Lodge for restrooms and vending. One alternative was to use a tent for warming and vending.

Councilmember Bean asked if it was too late to decide this at the December Council meeting. Councilmember Scanlon expressed concern over the availability of restrooms.

Councilmember Chapman was not comfortable deciding at this point; he would like to have additional information and discuss this again at the December meeting.

It was the consensus of Council to place this item on the December agenda.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY TREASURER TO PLACE DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS ON TAX ROLL

City Treasurer Kaitlyn Feldbauer advised this list include accounts that were shutoff, accounts that had been final billed, and active delinquent accounts over \$1,000 and over 90 days old. Approximately 160 letters were issued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the City Treasurer to place the delinquent accounts on the tax roll.

REVISED MERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN ADOPTION AGREEMENT

Finance Director James Lampman advised this was an amendment to the Defined Contribution Plan Agreement to specify only full-time employees were covered.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to move forward with the amendment to the Plan Adoption agreement for the MERS Defined Contribution Plan to cover only full-time employees.

RESOLUTION #13-2020 HEALTH INSURANCE PER PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011

Manager Cugini recommended that the City continue with the opt out option of Public Act 152 of 2011 which is what the City has done in the past.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution #13-2020 with approving the Section 8 "Exemption" option of Public Act 152.

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Event Application: Ishpeming Community Events: Christmas Festivities 2020- Manager Cugini was not able to attend the Ishpeming Community Events (ICE) committee meeting. ICE submitted the special event application for a parade on the Friday after Thanksgiving. One concern was the visits with Santa. ICE would be checking with the high school to construct a plexiglass barricade in the Santa House.

Councilmember Chapman expressed concern with the visits with Santa, sleigh rides or large gatherings downtown around the Christmas tree. Councilmember Skauge was also concerned with offering sleigh rides. There was discussion related to the increase in COVID cases in the UP.

Councilmember Bean felt if the line to Santa's house was managed and everyone participating followed social distancing and safety precautions in addition to the proposed changes made to the event, it would be successful. However, she was also concerned with offering sleigh rides.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to allow the special event application for the Christmas festivities however would like the tree lighting ceremony to be at the beginning of the event, no sleigh rides offered, and the installation of a plexiglass in the Santa House with social distancing and safety precautions being followed.

Accept-Request tax foreclosed property from the County Treasurer –Manager Cugini advised none of the properties would be a good use for public purpose. He recommended the City not purchase any of the tax foreclosed properties.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to not purchase any of the tax foreclosed properties as listed by the County Treasurer and advised the County Treasurer of the decision.

Councilmember Scanlon thanked the Marquette County Land Bank for everything they do for the City of Ishpeming.

Council discussed holding a budget workshop for the 2021 Budget. A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to schedule a budget meeting for Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ashely Cody, 169 W. Superior Street, a teacher in the community, asked if the COVID numbers continued to grow, would the Christmas events be reconsidered.

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director, was happy that there was a budget meeting scheduled.

Jason Annala, Fire Chief, was very surprised with the 2021 budget and the public improvement fund. He showed up for two budget meetings and they were cancelled.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Skauge thanked all the veterans for their service.

Councilmember Chapman thanked all the veterans including Councilmember Skauge and Manager Cugini for their service; thanked City Clerk Cathy Smith for a successful election; and thanked Mayor Tonkin for his service on the City Council.

Councilmember Scanlon thanked all the Veteran's; thanked all the elections workers; and would like to set a meeting to discuss the budget on November 18th at 2:00 p.m. He would like to have Library staff and the Library Board President Paul Olson at the meeting. He was concerned over the spread of COVID in the U.P. and would like to discuss the City Policy.

Councilmember Bean thanked the Veteran's; thanked Mayor Tonkin for his service on the Council; thanked the elections workers and City Clerk Smith for a smooth election which had a very good turn out; and was concerned over the increase in COVID cases in the UP.

Mayor Tonkin congratulated all members that won their seats; thanked City Clerk Smith for running a smooth election; and thought the next Council would do a great job.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini thanked Mayor Tonkin for his help and support and thanked the Veteran's for their services.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no attorney report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:16 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith

City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager