

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, with Councilmembers present 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, Jason Chapman, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (5). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

Mike Tonkin presented the gavel to Mayor Bean and wished the Council good luck in the future. Mayor Bean presented Mike Tonkin with a plaque for his service and Manager Cugini presented him with the City of Ishpeming Coin of Excellence.

Mike Tonkin thanked everyone for all their service and enjoyed working with staff and council over the years.

Present: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, 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 Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman 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 Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (November 11th, 18th, and 30th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Declare 33 Library Items (books and DVD's) as surplus property

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the monthly budget report for the period ending November 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 Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

2020 BUDGET AMENDMENT: KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY 2% DISTRIBUTION TO FIRE DEPARTMENT

A motion was made Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the budget amendment and accept the \$5,000 2% funding from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the Fire Department.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR BEAN

Mayor Bean appointed Councilmember Firby to Liaison to the School Board and to the Library Board; Councilmember Skauge to the Housing Commission and the Central Dispatch Policy Board; Councilmember Scanlon as liaison to the Cemetery Board and the Commission on Aging; Councilmember Chapman to the DDA; and would be on the the Parks and Recreation Commission and on the Planning Commission.

Reports from the various boards and commissions would be discussed at a future meeting.

VACATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON PARK STREET

Manager Cugini advised this was the final step in the process to vacate the property at Park Street and pursue the land swap. Attorney Bridges advised once the property was officially vacated, she would prepare a purchase agreement for the swap of land.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Mayor Bean and carried unanimously to vacate Lot 585 on Park Street.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to enter into the proposed purchase agreement for the swap with the Loup's and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

- a. Northern Michigan University Ski Races: December 12th or 13th and January 30th and 31st – A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Bean to approve the grant application. Ayes: None (0). Nays: Mayor Bean, Councilmembers Firby, Chapman, Scanlon, and Skaug (5). Motion failed.

Manager Cugini advised the entire University had a plan for COVID and NMU events would be required to follow the plan. The event was outside and all individuals would use their own equipment. Councilmember Chapman was concerned over the number of COVID cases and was not in support of events being held in the City.

It was the consensus of Council to deny the application and request Northern Michigan University present a COVID plan for their proposed event at the January Council meeting.

- b. Noquemanon Ski Marathon: January 23rd and 24th – A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to deny the application as presented and request additional information on their COVID plan for the event and brought back to the January meeting.

2021 CITY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Manager Cugini explained the health insurance options for renewal. After the Health Insurance Committee meeting, two options for health care would like to be offered to employees: the current plan and the second option of a Blue Care Network HMO.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to offer both plan options to employees for 2021 Health Care coverage.

Councilmember Chapman asked that other agencies be contacted for quotes for the 2022 renewal.

TEXTMYGOV COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Manager Cugini reviewed the software capabilities available with TextMyGov which would aide in communications to residents. The cost would be \$2,900 for the first year and then \$2,400 annually. These costs could possible be reduced due to end of the year offers.

Mayor Bean felt being able to push messages out to the community would be a huge benefit. The speed in getting information out to the residents, who sign up to receive the texts, would be a very valuable service. It was an efficient and effective method of communications.

Councilmember Chapman and Scanlon noted there were other companies offering these service and costs should be compared; Manager Cugini reviewed the companies he compared costs to.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Mayor Bean and carried unanimously to move forward with the two-year trial and review the service every six months pending review of the budget dollars available to purchase.

FLEET MANAGEMENT AND WORK ORDER SOFTWARE

Manager Cugini reviewed the current process for fleet management and work orders in the Public Works Department and then summarized the two asset management systems available: PubWorks and IWORQ. PubWorks was a data base and was able to coordinate with the BS&A software. He recommended Council approve PubWorks and pay the additional cost to use the Cloud versus the cost of a new server.

There was discussion on the cost of the software, the benefits of the software versus the current process, and reports that could be generated. The cost of the software was \$9,875 plus travel costs for training. Annual maintenance would be \$1,975 and \$400 annually for the Cloud option.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to support the recommendation of the City Manager and move forward with the PubWorks software for fleet management and work order software.

POTENTIAL SHORT-TERM CONTRACT SERVICES (ENGINEERING/PLANNER)

Manager Cugini summarized the offer from Tim Kinney to assist in the design and planning roles at the City. This would be an opportunity for the City to utilize the services of a Planner for approximately three months with no fringe benefit costs.

There was discussion regarding the union agreement language and the temporary position of a short-term engineer/planner.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Mayor Bean to grant the request for engineering/planning services and move forward with the short-term contract with Tim Kinney at the rate of pay and time frame noted in his offer. Ayes: Mayor Bean, Councilmembers Chapman, Firby, Scanlon, and Skauge (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed.

ASSESSING SERVICES

Marquette County Inter-Local Agreement for County Designated Assessor - Manager Cugini explained the designated assessor was appointment by the County Board of Commissioners with the concurrence of the majority of the municipalities within the County through an interlocal agreement. Final approval would be required by the State Tax Commission. This agreement was zero cost to the City, a term of 10 years; and the modifications could only be made with the majority of the assessing districts and the county agreeing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously approve the Inter-Local Agreement for the County Designated Assessor and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement. Ayes: Mayor Bean, Councilmembers Firby, and Councilmember Skauge (3). Nays: Councilmembers Chapman and Skauge (2). Motion passed 3-2.

Agreement with Marquette County for providing assessing services - Manager Cugini advised the contract for assessing services with the County would be expiring December 31, 2020. The existing agreement was for three years for a cost of \$50,000 annually. The County would agree to renew the agreement at the same rate and time frame.

There was discussion regarding services provided by the County Equalization Department.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the assessing services agreement for \$50,000 annually for three years and authorize the Mayor to sign.

COVID DISCUSSION

COVID Employee Policy Review – Manager Cugini reviewed the existing COVID policy and the status of employees including telework, child care, close contacts, and testing positive with COVID.

There was discussion among Council and staff regarding COVID and the existing policy. Councilmember Chapman felt with the rise in COVID cases in the UP, he did not feel it was the time to change the City's COVID policy. Council agreed to not make any changes to the existing policy; and continue to allow Manager Cugini to make the necessary decisions pertaining.

Tube Slide Operations for Winter of 2020-2021 – Manager Cugini reported the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the tube slide be closed for the 2020-2021 season.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to close the tube slide for the 2020-2021 season.

RESCHEDULE JANUARY 2021 COUNCIL MEETING FROM JANUARY 6TH TO JANUARY 13TH

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to change the January meeting date from January 6th to January 13th.

Councilmember Chapman advise he may be out of town but would Zoom in for the meeting if still permitted to do so.

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m.

Councilmember Chapman suggested the City arrange with the Fire Department to have Santa ride on the fire truck around the neighborhoods similar to the Easter Bunny.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to check with Santa and the Fire Department to try and make this event possible.

Councilmember Chapman asked if the sidewalk could be plowed from the High Rise to the downtown. Manager Cugini was checking if it was possible to have the Pine Street sidewalk maintained in the winter.

Manager Cugini informed the Council the Fat-ish Fat Bike Race would be held on January 9th but without a mass start and would only be utilizing the trail system. A permit was not required since no City assistance was needed. Council thanked the Fat-ish Fat Bike event for informing the City of the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman wished everyone a very Happy New Year and Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Firby thanked everyone for their votes, thanked Clerk Cathy Smith for welcoming her and providing information, and wished everyone a Happy New Year and Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Scanlon congratulated Mayor Bean and Councilmember Firby on being elected and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Bean thanked everyone that voted; welcomed Councilmember Firby and congratulated Councilmembers Chapman and Skauge on being re-elected; thanked Mike Tonkin for his service on Council; and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini welcomed Councilmember Firby, congratulated Councilmember Chapman and Skauge on being re-elected, thanked Mike Tonkin for all his service, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Congratulated everyone on being elected and looked forward to working with Council and staff in 2021.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) at 10:05 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Bean, Council Members Chapman, Firby, Scanlon, and Skauge (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 11:03 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon to direct the City Manager to prepare a letter of agreement for a one-year extension for the AFSCME and POAM unions at no cost increases to either party. Ayes: Mayor Bean, Councilmembers Chapman, Firby, and Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

A motion was made by Mayor Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon to direct the City Manager to notify the AFSCME Supervisory Union that the DPW Director position would not be filled and another full-time position would be created.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:05 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager