

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, with public comment via Zoom. Mayor Lindsay Bean called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman (via Zoom at the Mayo Clinic), Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Absent: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). 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 Firby 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 Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (December 9th and closed session December 9th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm 2021 Publishing Source – The Mining Journal
- d. Confirm 2021 Depositories - mBank/Flagstar/TruNorth/First Bank/Comerica/Charles Schwab/Edward D. Jones
- e. Confirm Payments to Commission on Aging \$9,000 and UPSET \$10,000 for 2021
- f. Reappoint Matt Cody and Bob Marietti (as the alternate) to 3-year terms on the Housing Appeals Board

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

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

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

Mayor Bean reviewed a matrix she created for special event applications received by the City and the reasons for approval or denial and how decisions were made; making the decision to authorize a special event or not has been difficult.

a. Northern Michigan University Ski Races: January 30-31, 2021 - Councilmember Chapman felt NMU's plan was an acceptable plan, was very thorough, and would make it a safe outdoor event. Mayor Bean was concerned over the potential of spectators which was the largest risk.

Sten Fjeldheim explained who was on the COVID Committee for NMU. NMU planned to discourage spectators for the event. There would be a staff member present to keep the spectators distanced. Each team would have their own porta-potty and the waxing areas would be set up for each team, there would be no intermingling between teams. COVID testing would be done on each athlete.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve the special event application from NMU for the Ski Races to be held on January 30-31, 2021.

b. Noquemanon Ski Marathon, January 23-24, 2021: Withdrew the special event application.

c. 906 Adventure Team – The Crusher: July 17-18, 2021- Todd Poquette 906 Adventure Team, would like to secure the date for the event, so if it could be held, the location would be secured.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Mayor Bean, and carried unanimously to secure the dates for the Crusher for July 17 and 18, 2021 and the Marji Gesick for September 17 and 18, 2021, and if the event could proceed, the City supported the event.

b. 8th Annual Iron Range Roll: June 5, 2021 – Daniel Croney, Iron Range Roll, was also looking to secure the dates for the Iron Range Roll on June 5th.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to secure the dates for the Iron Range Roll and, if the event could proceed, the City supported the event.

GEI CONSULTANTS – DAVIS STREET STORM SEWER PROPOSAL

Manager Cugini explained the situation at the residence on Davis Street to improve the heaving of the storm sewer in the driveway at 206 Davis Street.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the proposal from GEI in the not-to-exceed amount of \$7,000 to repair the storm sewer line at the residence on Davis Street.

DECLARE FOUR DPW VEHICLES AS SURPLUS

Manager Cugini advised the Chief Mechanic and Mechanic had looked at the vehicles in the DPW Department and determined the four vehicles as listed should be declared surplus. The sidewalk plow would possibility be worth selling on bids.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Bean and carried unanimously to approve the list of vehicles as presented and declare as surplus: #112: 1982 Ford Dump Truck; #222: 2010 MV Sidewalk Plow; #110: 2000 Chevy Dump Truck; and #80: 2000 Ford Van.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE 2020 CHEVY SILVERADO 4500HD 1WT C450 WITH TRADE-IN

Manager Cugini noted this issue was discussed at a previous meeting with a recommendation to look into purchasing a gasoline engine for the Cemetery and dispose of the diesel. After researching, it was felt the purchase of another diesel was the best option. The proposed vehicle offers increased load capacity, increased plowing width, improved emissions (clean diesel certified), locking front hubs, and auto idle shutoff. Fox of Negaunee has offered to take the existing vehicle on trade, using a lease option for the purchase. Manager Cugini recommended the purchase of the 2020 Chevy with the trade of the existing GMC Sierra diesel vehicle.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager to move forward with this purchase by lease of the 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 4500 HD in the amount of \$53,750 and declare the existing GMC Sierra diesel as surplus and to be traded-in.

As part of the purchase, Fox of Negaunee would also take three of our vehicles already declared surplus for \$2,500.

There was some discussion related to the purchasing vehicles on a lease versus an outright purchase in the future.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE TOUGHBOOKS IN SUPPORT OF PUBWORKS SOFTWARE

Manager Cugini explained the need for the purchase of Panasonic Toughbooks for the PubWorks software. Toughbooks would be necessary for the mechanics in the shop. The third was for the DPW Foreman. The cost would be charged to the Motorpool Fund as part of fleet management in the amount of \$10,567.29 from 906 Technologies.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to move forward the 906 Technologies quote in the amount of \$10,567.29 for the purchase of the three Toughbooks for DPW.

Chief Steve Snowaert advised the Police Department had training scheduled next week for the Toughbooks in the police cars.

ADDITION TO THE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS PER THE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CODE: NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER: HEMATITE DRIVE AND LAKE STREET

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the addition of the traffic control order for the no parking here to corner sign at Hematite Drive and Lake Street.

NORTH COUNTRY DISPOSAL

Manager Cugini reviewed the proposed contract extension and advised that North Country Disposal has been very helpful and responsive to issues that arise in the City.

Councilmember Chapman felt the City should seek bids for garbage disposal service. He did not have an issue with services provided by North Country, but expressed concerned over not going out for bids in attempt to reduce cost.

Ken, from North Country Disposal, explained they had three employees from the City of Ishpeming, have continued to collect garbage through the COVID pandemic, enjoy working with the City and the citizens of the City, and they always try to rectify any issues as soon as possible. North Country would like to continue to work with the City of Ishpeming and hoped option one, a five-year renewal, would be approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the proposed 5-year contract extension with North Country Disposal with the pricing in Option 1 as noted in the letter.

PROPOSED 2021 CITY OF ISHPEMING FEE SCHEDULE

Councilmember Chapman would like to explore the possibility of waiving the fee increases for 2021. Finance Director James Lampman explained the ordinances stated a 5% increase to the water and sewer fees and the other fee increases were in relation to the Rural Development Water Project increases and the Deficit Elimination Plan for the Water Fund.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to direct the Mayor to set up a work session and include Brian Fabbri, from GEI Consultants, Manager Cugini, and Jim Lampman, Finance Director.

Finance Director Lampman advised in 2013-2014 GEI Consultants did a rate study for the City in determining where the City water rates fell as compared to surrounding communities.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Bean and carried unanimously to accept the 2021 Fee Schedule as presented.

ADDITIONAL RENOVATION COSTS FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS- CARPETING AND LIGHTING

Manager Cugini explained the lighting work was a change order from the current contractor J&N Electric in the amount of \$4,870.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Bean to approve the additional \$4,870 for the additional lighting in the Emergency Operations Center from the savings of the vacancy of the DPW Director position. Ayes: Mayor Bean, Councilmember Scanlon, and Firby (3). Nays: Councilmember Chapman (1). Motion passed 3-1.

Manager Cugini explained a bid was received from Carpet Specialists for carpeting in the Emergency Operations Center. He further explained why the carpeting had to be removed during construction. He recommended approval of the carpet tiles bid in the amount of \$5,875.86.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the carpet tile installation bid in the amount of \$5,875.86.

MERS PLAN ADOPTION AGREEMENT ADDENDUMS

Finance Manager Lampman advised MERS was requesting municipalities verifying all information in their MERS plans. He explained the two plans currently being offered by the City were the Defined Contribution Plan and the Defined Benefit Plan.

a. Defined Contribution Plan – All Full-Time employees hired after 1/1/2020

b. Defined Benefit Plan-3 Divisions: Clerical and Public Works/Union Supervisors/Supervisory excl Manager

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the MERS Plan Adoption Agreement Addendums for the three Defined Benefit Plans and the Defined Contribution Plan.

DISCUSSION OF REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE MICHIGAN REGULATION AND TAXATION OF MARIHUANA ACT

Mayor Bean summarized what had transpired on this issue at prior Council and Planning Commission meetings. There was discussion on rescinding the current ordinance and creating a new ordinance; directing the Planning Commission to prepare a plan to move forward with rescinding the current ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to direct the Planning Commission to develop a plan for allowing the sale of marijuana within the City to be brought back to the Council at the March meeting.

REPORTING PROCESS FROM CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO COUNCIL

There was discussion related to how reports should be presented to Council from the various City Boards and Commissions. It was felt a workshop with members of the boards and commissions should be held. Manager Cugini would present an agenda for the workshop at the February.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Chapman advised he has received complaints from several citizen on the lack of sanding and salting on the City roads. There was further discussion on complaints received from citizens, the guidelines for plowing, sanding, and salting City streets, and ability for emergency services to travel on streets.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Chapman would like to see a one-time COVID bonus to City employees.

Mayor Bean reported she received a complaint from a citizen regarding a high water bill explained the citizen was struggling particularly with COVID, and was looking for relief.

There was discussion related to the BS&A software for the code enforcement operation. A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager to get the code enforcement module from BS&A in the not to exceed amount of \$4,000.

Hydro-Corp Contract Renewal – Manager Cugini advised the contract was extended one-year last February and would expire this February. Table this item until the February Council meeting.

Road Improvement and Prioritization Plan -A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the Road Improvement and Prioritization Plan from UPEA in the amount of \$4,950 as presented.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Scanlon thanked staff for all their efforts and felt the organization was moving and forward and would continue to move forward.

Councilmember Firby wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Chapman reported Santa was well received when he came to town on the fire truck, thanked the Fire Department for bring Santa around, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Bean was very happy with how things were moving forward in the City and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini reported the ice rink liner was delivered and would be installed soon; and discussed the MME fellowship opportunity that he was checking into;

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10: 40 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager