

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, with Councilmembers present and 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, 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.

Brice Sturmer, Velodrome Coffee Company, 267 County Road in Negaunee, introduced himself to Council and announced the proposed coffee shop to be located in the old “Merrick” location. He informed Council City staff has been awesome to work with; their timeline would be announced soon; they would begin crowd funding; and have applied for the Façade Grant with the DDA. They would be creating some new jobs and would also like to bring art to the area. They were very excited about coming to Ishpeming.

Robin Baird, Mather Inn, encouraged the Council to look at the information she forwarded to them and felt the City Manager should stop by and discuss this issue versus sending letters; she was disappointed that Council did not respond to her letter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (March 4th, 9th, 10th, and 24th, Closed Session March 4th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Reappoint Brooke Routhier to a 5-year term on the Library Board term expiring May 2026
- d. Appoint Stacie Nardi to fill vacancy on the Library Board term expiring May 2024

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the monthly budget report for the period ending March 31, 2021, 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.

UPDATE FROM SENATOR ED MCBROOM

State Senator Ed McBroom, advised the legislature would be back in Lansing next week and would be concentrating on budgeting. He had been working on the open meeting and freedom of information act reforms with the legislative and executive branches and was continuing to work on speed limit reforms. He advised the County Clerk would be setting up an Election Reform meeting and the City Clerk would be invited.

There was discussion regarding COVID funding and how the funding would help, in particular, small communities.

PRESENTATION FROM PFM FINANCIAL ADVISORS – BOND REFUNDING (REFINANCING) OPTIONS

Kari Blanchett, PFM Financial Advisors, advised this resolution would authorize the refunding bonds, primarily the City’s 2011 bonds, which are eligible to be refinanced with an estimated savings of approximately \$200,000. Two

Building Authority Bonds 2000 and 2002 may also be refunded. Adopting the bond resolution was the first step in the process.

Tom Colis, Miller Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., reviewed the language in the resolution and advised the first step would be to adopt this resolution as presented.

There was further discussion on the potential savings from refunding the bonds, the timing for awarding the bonds, and the process to be followed.

a. Resolution #5-2021, Authorizing 2021 Limited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds - A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #5-2021, authorizing 2021 limited tax general obligation refunding bonds as presented.

PROPOSED SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LAKE STREET AND DIVISION STREET

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to move forward with the sale of the property on the northwest corner of Lake and Division Street to Dr. Rose Andriacchi and Michael Swofford in the amount of \$10,000.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SALE OF PROPERTY ADJACENT EAST OF EXISTING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 400 E. NEW YORK STREET

Mayor Bean opened the public hearing at 7:54 p.m. There being no public comment, Mayor Bean closed the public hearing at 7:55 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SALE OF PROPERTY ADJACENT EAST OF EXISTING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 428 E. NEW YORK STREET

Mayor Bean opened the public hearing at 7:55 p.m. There being no public comment, Mayor Bean closed the public hearing at 7:56 p.m.

REQUEST TO REVISE THE UTILITY TRAILER PURCHASE FOR THE PARKS

Manager Cugini advised the need for the trailer was already addressed, however, the trailer that was selected was no longer available. The proposed trailer was \$3,899 and was a 2021 Aluma 7814ST Single Axle Utility Trailer.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to move forward with the purchase of the 2021 Aluma trailer from Meyer Yamaha.

RECOMMENDATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUSTAINABLE SHELVES PROGRAM FOR LIBRARY SURPLUS BOOKS

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to participate in the sustainable shelves program for library surplus books for a one-year period and then re-evaluated.

DECLARE AS SURPLUS FROM THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY 36 BOOKS AND MISCELLANEOUS FURNISHINGS

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to declare the 36 books and miscellaneous furnishings as surplus as requested.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

a. Care Clinic Life Walk –Greg Gostomski would like to highlight the Ishpeming Care Clinic Center which opened in 2019. The walk would go from St. John's to Lake Bancroft Park for a picnic. They would watch the mandates for COVID, would follow social distancing requirements, volunteers will wear masks and gloves, and there would be hand sanitizer. They anticipate 250 people at the event which would be under the 300-limit.

Mayor Bean reviewed the ranking of the Care Clinic Life Walk and the event at Lake Bancroft. She also felt Council should provide some guidance on what a COVID plan should entail when presented to Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to allow the Care Clinic Life Walk with a more thorough COVID plan and brought back to the May Council meeting.

b. St. Rocco/St. Anthony Italian Fest and Parade Permit- James Bertucci advised they were planning on moving forward with Italian Fest; food would be pre-packaged, social distancing, wearing masks, eliminating the bounce house, but would still like to have the bands. The festival would be spread out more, but hoping the situation would change. A COVID plan would be provided at the June Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the event and the parade pending a final submission of a COVID plan by the June meeting.

c. Confirm Gus Macker – Jen Crimmins advised they have using the National Gus Macker COVID plan. They were looking at doing registrations online, hoping to space the spectators out, social distancing, they have port-a-potties secured, and would have hand sanitizing stations available. Would work with the Health Department as the event gets closer. She advised every player would be masked.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to tentatively approve the Gus Macker for June 25, 26, and 27 of 2021 with a more detailed COVID plan provided at the May meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENTAL OF BALLFIELDS FOR THE 2021 SEASON

Any league wishing to begin their league for the 2021 season will be required to submit a COVID plan similar to the plan submitted by Men's 30 and Over League.

a. Request from Men's 30 and over softball league to use Mather A and Playground Fields – Shawn Helsten would like to start on May 10th. The COVID plan used last year in Negaunee worked well and they would be using the same plan.

Mayor Bean suggested masks be required for spectators and when players were not playing and add to the COVID plan temperature checks and health analysis.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the request with the addition of the above items to their COVID plan and be presented to the City Manager's office.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR NATIONWIDE 457 PLANS UNDER THE SECURE AND CARES ACT

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the change to the Nationwide 457 Plan to comply with the changes under the SECURE and CARES Act.

RENEWAL WITH LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP FOR LIFE INSURANCE 2021-2022

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to renew with Lincoln Life Insurance for 2021-2022 for employees and retirees.

PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2018, 2019, AND 2020

Manager Cugini advised these reports were a requirement for Redevelopment Ready Communities.

It was the consensus of Council to accept the Planning Commission Annual Reports for 2018, 2019, and 2020.

REVISED POLICY #414 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

It was the consensus of Council to accept the revisions to Policy #414 – Public Participation Plan.

RESOLUTION #4-2021: ADOPT THE 2021 MARQUETTE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve resolution #4-2021 to adopt the 2021 Marquette County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

CONFIRM GRANT AGREEMENT FOR MALTON ROAD CAMPGROUND WITH MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Manager Cugini advised the change in the grant agreement was to the budget. There was discussion on the project budget, matching dollars, and scope of the project.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman, and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to sign the grant agreement and move forward with the grant.

Mayor Bean would like to see the Planning Commission involved in the Forest Management Plan and the Campground project.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO THE LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There was discussion on who would be on the Committee and what issues or concerns would be brought to the Committee. Councilmember Firby felt this would be a communication tool.

Mayor Bean and Councilmember Firby were appointed to the Committee.

SCHEDULE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

a. MERS PENSION BOND DISCUSSION ON EITHER APRIL 13TH OR 14TH

It was the consensus of Council to schedule for Tuesday, April 14th at 6:00 p.m.

b. CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

It was the consensus of Council to schedule for Thursday, April 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Hall Tower Repairs

There was discussion regarding the issues with the failing brick on the fire tower and hiring an engineer to evaluate the tower. Chief Snowaert noted GEI Consultants and OHM Advisors looked at the tower and provide an evaluation. These would be provided to Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to continuing the Council meeting past 10:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini advised there were potential funds from the CARES Act that the City would be receiving. Discussion should begin on how to use these funds once received.

Mayor Bean talked about the public comment from Bryce Sturmer indicating they would like to start a cannabis business. The Planning Commission sent the draft ordinance to staff and to City Attorney Bridges.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman was happy to see new businesses coming into town.

Councilmember Skauge attended the 9-1-1 Central Dispatch Committee and they are going to build a new 9-1-1 Dispatch Center.

Mayor Bean advised she had done some research on water bill comparisons with Ishpeming, Negaunee, L'Anse, Marquette, and Republic; and, Ishpeming was not the most expensive, the City's base bill was in the ballpark with other municipalities.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini advised he would begin to clean out the City Hall garden.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was none.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(e) IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to return to open session at 10:42 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268 (a) TO CONSIDER EMPLOYEE EVALUATION REQUESTED BY EMPLOYEE

A motion was made by Councilman Chapman and supported by Councilmember Scanlon to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) to consider employee evaluation with closed session being requested by Manager Cugini at 10:44 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Bean, Councilmembers Chapman, Firby, Scanlon, and Skauge (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to return to open session at 12:01 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:02 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk