

Ishpeming Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for August 03, 2020
(Agenda items are in bold text)
6:30 P.M. @ Ishpeming City Hall

- A. Call to order** – for the Ishpeming Planning Commission was by Chairperson Gabe Seelen at 6:33 P.M.
- B. Roll Call**
Present: Brooke Routhier, Gabe Seelen, Angelo Bosio, Mike Tonkin, Larry Bussone, John Carlson, Harry Weikel, and Bruce Houghton. Harry Weikel arrived at 6:40 P.M.
Absent: Jim Bertucci.
Public present: Craig Cugini, Ryan Soucy (CUPPAD) and Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator.
- C. Public Comment:** None – Closed at 6:34 P.M.
- D. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved unanimously as presented on a motion by Angelo Bosio supported by John Carlson.
- E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – The meeting minutes of July 06, 2020 were unanimously approved upon a motion by Bruce Houghton supported by John Carlson.
- F. Presentations – none.**
- G. Public Hearings – none.**
- H. New Business**

1. CIP 2021-2026 Recommendations to Ishpeming City Council

Craig apologized for the delay in furnishing this CIP as it should have been presented much sooner, but his date of hire made the timing very compressed. Due to the circumstances, the State of Michigan RRC has extended the submission date to September 30, 2020. Some of the goals expressed by Craig included standardizing copiers, police vehicle rotation, fire trucks too heavy for the floor - eventually a new fire station. He has produced a detailed impressive spread sheet to prioritize must fund, discretionary, and educated guesses. Overtime is a major unknown. The spreadsheet process being used is new for Ishpeming and is a Word document. Gabe asked “Where do the dollars come from as Lansing is delaying their budget due to COVID-19 issues”, a question to which there is no definite answer at this time. The City has small projects (library kids’ playroom) to big projects (Lake Bancroft). City funds will stretch farther with matching funds where available. The consensus of all involved parties is to take a long-term approach. John mentioned his experience with the City of Marquette’s 15-year road plan which always changes every year. Brooke stated that the key to a long-term approach is to improve every year. Craig indicated that this is a work in progress that is just starting. This CIP is a vision, not a budget.

A motion by Brooke Routhier supported by Bruce Houghton that the CIP 2021-2026 be recommended to the City Council for adoption as presented passed unanimously.

2. & 3. Service Support Agreement #'s 2020-0001 (Partridge Creek Farms) & 2020-0002 (St. John the Evangelist & St. Joseph Parishes)

These concept organizations need service support agreements, which are a new idea for Ishpeming and encourage partnerships for community benefit. Partridge Creek Farms is

educational for children and shares vegetables with the community. In return the City provides water at their garden sites at a lower rate as it does not go into the sanitary sewer and the tap is only for the summer months. St. John's and St. Joseph's parish members will help seniors and low-income individuals with trash collection on Saturdays. Church members will collect trash and bring it to the City dump site for free disposal with no tipping fees on Saturdays. These community partnerships are new, forward-looking, and provide community benefits for all parties. Gabe commented that the concept is good and encouraged the City to continue to develop these support agreements. Planning Commissioners also encouraged City Commissioners to develop these draft partnerships with mutual benefits and increased civic involvement for the community at large as good and innovative concepts.

4. Ryan Soucy AICP, Master Plan continuation / homework

Ryan presented seven different assets for comments and evaluation based upon positive and negative aspects as well as a summary of Aspirations and Results for each Asset. This is the Commissioners "homework" for next month to complete and hand in for compilation. He commented that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was organized well and thoughtfully assembled. The Master Plan under development will address the following issues: water, sewer, transportation, non-motorized pathways, safety, access, mobility, maintenance, management and development priorities. The DDA will also be providing information and priorities to Ryan for inclusion.

John requested a copy of the Empire study to be emailed to him. Brooke was not in favor of a race track on top of the capped old landfill. There was back and forth discussions on several issues as well as furnished background information. An open area at Al Quall recreation area and Lake Bancroft Rehabilitation were also discussed.

I. Old Business - none

J. Correspondence – none.

K. Meeting Adjournment was unanimous upon a motion by Bruce Houghton supported by Angelo Bosio at 7:53 P.M.

Prepared By:



Alan K. Pierce, Planning Commission Assistant Secretary

Reviewed By:



Bruce Houghton, Planning Commission Secretary