

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Lindsay 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 and in person.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, addressed her concerns with the high water bills in the City of Ishpeming. The water rates increased due to the deficit elimination plan along with an annual increase of 5% per the water ordinance. She felt the 5% was too high and should be reduced with an ordinance amendment. Residents would like something done with the water rates.

Jon Becker, Ore to Shore, advised he was present for any questions related to their special event application.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented with item #11 Special Event Applications being considered as one action item.

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom and in person.

Craig Etalamaki was present for questions related to the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Certificate application submitted for 1064 Highland Drive. He advised his submittal of the application did not comply with the timelines in the Act, however, he was working through the legislative process to change the language in the Act or to receive an exemption and has contacted Representative Cambensy and Senator McBroom. He would like the application forwarded to the State Tax Commission by Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Revised May 5th, June 9th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Appoint Stevie Parks to vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission, term expiring May 2024
- d. Reappoint Carrie Meyer to a four-year term on the Downtown Development Authority
- e. Reappoint Jay Clancy to a four-year term on the Downtown Development Authority
- f. Declare 166 Library books as surplus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the monthly budget report for the period ending June 30, 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.

PRESENTATION: SARAH LUCAS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Sarah Lucas, new Chief Executive Officer for the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP), briefly summarized her work background. She further reviewed the various services provided by the LSCP, the strategic planning partnership, and local government relationships particularly with the City. She was very excited to work with the City and connect staff with resources available through the LSCP.

Council advised in the past there was concern on the service Ishpeming was receiving. With new leadership, Council would like to see the membership fee be considered again.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SALE OF LOT 48 – SOUTHWEST CORNER OF FIRST STREET AND PEARL STREET

At 7:28 p.m., Mayor Bean opened the public hearing. There being no public comment, Mayor Bean closed the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

- a. Special Event Application: Buzz the Gut Car Show – 8/14/2021
- b. Special Event Application: Ore to Shore Mountain Bike Race – 8/14/2021
- c. Special Event Application: Historical Society 2021 Garden Tour – 7/25/2021
- d. Special Event Application: Historical Society Main Street Tour – Tuesdays in August & last Thursday
- e. Special Event Application: Historical Society Cemetery Tour – Tuesdays in August & Last Thursday
- f. Special Event Application: Swim Teal Lake Benefit for Diabetes – 7/31/21

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the special event applications listed above as presented.

APPLICATION FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE CERTIFICATE-1064 HIGHLAND DRIVE

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Chapman to send a cover letter to the State Tax Commission with no resolution of support included; and noting the application did not meet the Public Act requirements; however, indicating Council supported the residents desire to receive a NEZ Certificate and supported his working through the legislative process, however, Council's hands were tied. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #11-200, TIME AND PLACE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Attorney Bridges felt the ordinance should be rescinded versus amended.

Mayor Bean summarized what took place at the last meeting regarding revising number of meetings per month and the times for the Council meetings. The pros and cons were discussed to holding a second regular monthly meeting and if the ordinance should be rescinded or amended.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Skauge, and carried unanimously to rescind Ordinance #11-200, Time and Place of Council Meetings.

A new regular meeting schedule with a 6:00 p.m. start time would be provided for the August meeting and the new time would begin on September 8th.

RESOLUTION #8-2021 AUTHORIZING LIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2021

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #8-2021, Authorizing Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021 as presented.

FIRE TOWER ASSESSMENT FROM TUNNEL VISION

Manager Cugini reviewed the assessment from Tunnel Vision. Tunnel Vision did not feel they would be able to warranty the work on the tower and he further reviewed the reasons for their decision. There was discussion related to the repairs that need to be completed. Manager Cugini advised there would be ongoing analysis.

QUOTE FROM ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTORS FOR CORRECTING DRAINAGE AT THE NEW SENIOR CENTER

Manager Cugini reviewed the drainage issue at the new senior center. After discussions with the engineer, the issue may be resolved so there was no need for further discussion at this time.

CITY LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Manager Cugini advised the changes were highlighted in yellow and the language to be deleted was struck out. Attorney Bridges suggested the contract start date be July 1, 2021.

There was discussion on the attorney's attendance at special Council meetings. The language in the contract should be amended to indicated attendance at Special Council meetings would be at the request of the City Manager or Councilmembers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the legal services agreement as amended.

POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN 2021 UNION CONTRACT APPROVAL PER LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Manager Cugini advised most of the language with the POAM contract was finalized; however, there was still some language to be included in the Union Agreement that relates to active duty officers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the 2021 POAM Union Contract pending the addition of the language and meeting the requirements of the Letter of Agreement.

CITY MANAGER REQUEST TO TRAVEL TO GRAND RAPIDS FOR THE MML CONVENTION

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the City Manager's request to travel to Grand Rapids for the MML 2021 Convention in the fall.

SET SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FOR 2020 AUDIT PRESENTATION

It was the consensus to schedule the special meeting for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 29, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

Permission to apply for a reforestation grant for campground on Malton Road

The Superior Watershed Partnership would submit a grant on behalf of three communities with no match dollars needed for grant submission. The City of Ishpeming would only need to provide a letter of support.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize a letter of support signed by the City Manager to be forwarded to the Superior Watershed Partnership.

Manager Cugini advised no dates have been set for the paving projects to date. Staff would provide a timeline at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon questioned if Council meetings would continue to offer zoom public comment. Manager Cugini recommended hybrid meetings continue to be offered and should continue to be publicized. Council would like to see Channel 189 connected and used again.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered through Zoom and in person.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, would like to see Channel 189 provided to residents again.

Mayor Bean advised a water and sewer rate study would be budgeted for 2022.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman thanked everyone involved in preparing for the Fourth of July Festivities and for providing such a great event.

Councilmember Skauge thanked everyone for wonderful Fourth of July.

Councilmember Firby thanked all involved in the big events that have taken place over the last couple weeks, particularly the Fourth of July and the Gus Maker.

Mayor Bean also thanked everyone for their efforts and contributions to the Fourth of July and the other big events in our community.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini advised Associated Contractors was awarded the demolition of the building in Brownstone that was damaged during the windstorm in 2017; the truck hoist did not pass certification so quotes would be presented to Council soon for repairs or replacement; a couple of leases with Cliff's would need to be terminated; and the City of Ishpeming will be hosting the MML Manager's meeting to be held in the fall.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to terminate the leases with Cliff's for the Mather A location and the Brownstone.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to allow the manager to hand out City coins at the MML's Manager Meeting in the fall.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was none.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(c) TO CONSIDER STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATIONS CONNECTED WITH A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT


A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to consider strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining at 9:06 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 9:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:43 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cathy Smith
City Clerk