

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, August 4, 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.

Robin Baird, Mather Inn, 107 E. Canda Street, read through a written statement regarding her water invoicing at the Mather Inn, her concerns with the charges for water at the property, and the lack of charges to Cognition Brewing Company.

Jackie Koski, resident at the Mather Inn, continued with the written statement from Robin Baird, which included summarizing ordinance language and future readings of the water meters.

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 and in person. 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 (July 7th, July 29th and Closed Session July 7th and 29th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Declare 148 Library books and miscellaneous furnishings as surplus
- d. Appoint Brooke Routhier to fill alternate vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals expiring 11/24

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the monthly budget report for the period ending July 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 Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE LOT 48 – SOUTHWEST CORNER OF FIRST STREET AND PEARL STREET

Councilmember Skauge felt the property should be sold for more than the offer of \$500. There was discussion on the size of the lot versus the sale price of the property.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman to move forward with the sale of the property with a counter-offer of \$1,000. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

- a. Special Event Application: 2021 Upper Great Lakes Health Center Employee Picnic: August 6, 2021
- b. Special Event Application: Labor Day Festivities: September 6, 2021
- c. Special Event Application: Marquette Marathon: September 4, 2021
- d. Special Event Application: Paradise Bar Anniversary Party: September 4, 2021
- e. Special Event Application: Marji Gesick: September 18, 2021

Todd Poquette reviewed the plans for the Marji Gesick event.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve all the special events as a group as presented.

RESCIND ORDINANCE #11-200, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to rescind Ordinance #11-200 as presented.

REVISED 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE WITH MEETINGS BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. AS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the change in time for regular Council meetings to begin at 6:00 p.m. as of September 8, 2021.

RESOLUTION #9-2021 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES TO MDOT CONTRACT #21-5283

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #9-2021, Approving and authorizing signatures to MDOT contract #21-5283 as presented.

DESIGNATION OF CRAIG CUGINI AS VOTING DELEGATE AT THE MML ANNUAL MEETING

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to designate Craig Cugini as a voting delegate at the MML annual meeting.

DESIGNATION OF JAMES LAMPMAN AS THE OFFICER DELEGATE FOR MERS

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to designate James Lampman as the officer delegate for MERS.

AMENDMENTS TO 2021 FEE SCHEDULE

There was discussion pertaining to the proposed increases in fees. Councilmember Skauge expressed concern over the fees being too high.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman to approve the amendments to the 2021 Fee Schedule as presented. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

ADDITION TO THE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS PER THE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL CODE

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the addition to the Traffic Control Orders for the additional of yield signs located at High Excelsior Street yielding to Middle Street and Low Excelsior Street yielding to Lower Excelsior Street.

OLD BUSINESS

Paving project timeline

Manager Cugini gave a brief summary of the paving projects, including the mill and overlay, for this year.

Structural Quote from GEI Consultants

Richard Price, Structural Engineer with GEI Consultants, reviewed various city properties. He discussed the Fire Tower and the findings of the inspection performed on the tower last year. In addition, he looked at the Fire Station floor, DPW maintenance shop floor, and the Library columns. He would need to do some further research before he could provide an assessment and report. He briefly reviewed the proposal document.

Councilmember Skauge felt only the Fire Tower should be looked into.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman to approve the proposal from GEI Consultants in the amount of \$8,500 pending review of the agreement by legal counsel. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

Councilmember Scanlon would like the bi-weekly reports from the Manager provided to Council.

Mayor Bean advised Council still owed the City Manager a mid-year evaluation and advised she would be sending the evaluation forms Council and would collect comments back before the next meeting. In addition, there was previous discussion regarding the employee survey to be conducted by Council and with results compiled by Council. The survey results would then be provided to the Manager by Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon noted the dedication of the new Senior Center went very well and was attended by many. He also reminded everyone that Channel 189 would hopefully be back soon, equipment has been ordered.

Manage Cugini advised Northern Michigan University has an undergraduate student interest in an internship with the City of Ishpeming. He would be providing more information on this to Council.

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

Jackie Koski, resident of the Mather Inn, noted there were issues between businesses in town and would appreciate Council members not taking sides on those issues. She would like to have contact information for Council members. The lot adjacent from the Mather Inn is owned and maintained by the Baird family that is utilized by the Library and she felt the Baird's should be thanked by the City. She questioned why the ordinance was rescinded and not just amended. She felt there was important information in the ordinance.

Robin Baird, Mather Inn, also expressed concerns with rescinding Ordinance #11-200 instead of just amending the ordinance.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman attended the new Senior Center opening and noted the U.S. Flag and Michigan Flag were purchased by Representative Cambensy.

Mayor Bean thanked everyone that attended the Senior Center grand opening; she was glad to see the parking space markings in the downtown, it looked good.

MANAGER'S REPORT - There was none.

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 Councilmember 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 agreement and invite Finance Director James Lampman at 8:17 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 8:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to ratify the three proposals received from the AFSCME Chapters: DPW, Clerical and Supervisory.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Smith
City Clerk