

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Lindsay Bean called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby (left at 7:45), Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skaug (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, Ishpeming, felt there was some unacceptable behavior of the City Manager.

Tim Hares, 1040 Wabash Street, Ishpeming, discussed the Ishpeming Playgrounds right center field light pole. The mice have gotten in and chewed the wires and it was not working. He reviewed what the League has done at the playgrounds for the fields and noted the League had been working hand in hand with City for 40 years. He would like the City to work with the baseball league to fix the right center field light pole. He further talked about the snow plowing procedures last year.

Denise Hegar, Third Street, addressed RV's parking and camping. She was concerned over an RV blocking access to her home; she has a health condition and needed health providers to have access to her home. She felt the issues of RV's parking and being utilized on City Street needed to be addressed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented incorporating moving item 17 into closed session with a union position to be discussed.

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 (August 4th Regular and Closed)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm 2021 Form L-4029
- d. Appoint Jacqueline Healey to fill vacancy on Housing Commission term expiring 10/23

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 Firby and carried unanimously to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

Mayor Bean and Council offered Jim Lampman best of luck in his future endeavors; he would be greatly missed.

MAYORAL ADDRESS -COMMUNITY NEGATIVITY

Mayor Bean spoke on the negativity being discussed and spread in the town; she explained this was completely different from concerns that citizen's have which should continue to be provided to Council and addressed at Council meetings. There are items that are always brought forward that brings the City down and it is embarrassing. There is forward movement in town and Council wants to see the City flourish; people are moving to the area, businesses are moving to town; this should be noticed and talked about versus the negativity.

Councilmember Scanlon expressed concern over people continuing to be negative; the changes are positive; including the new Senior Center. The negativity needs to stop it serves no purpose and only wastes time.

Councilmember Chapman advised he brings many issues to the City Manager every week; the City Manager takes the issues brought to his attention seriously; we owe it to our community to be the best that everyone can be, and rumors do not help or benefit the community in any way. He would like to see the negativity stop.

INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANT AND EASEMENT FOR MAGNUSON HOTEL

Manager Cugini explained this was a proposal to install a fire hydrant for the Magnuson Hotel for safety concerns. The total estimate which included a fee for an easement, A. Lindberg and Sons for the hydrant installation, and the materials needed for the project totaled \$17,097.75. Staff recommended payment be made from the Water Fund.

There was some further discussion regarding emergency response to the hotel.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Firby to move forward with the installation of the fire hydrant for the Magnuson Hotel for a total cost of \$17,097.75. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmember Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1) Motion passed 4-1.

REQUEST TO STORE FIREWOOD LOGS IN PINE STREET VARIABLE WIDTH RIGHT-OF-WAY

Manager Cugini reviewed the proposal from the owners and the letter from Zoning Administrator Al Pierce. The homeowners would like to use the right of way to store logs for firewood. The firewood would be cut and cleared by June 2022.

A motion as made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman to permit this request with the property being put back to its previous condition. The motion was withdrawn by Member Scanlon and supported by Member Chapman pending further investigation of the site.

There was discussion regarding this request which included the request, the size of the owner's parcel and the number of items that are currently located on the parcel, particularly behind the garage, which needs to be cleaned up. Council was very concerned over the debris on the site which is taking up room where the logs could go and it would then be on the owner's property versus City property. As nice as it is, firewood does not look nice and adds to blight.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE 2021 FEE SCHEDULE

Mayor Bean advised there was a lot of discussion at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting regarding the fees for the tube slide and park rentals. There was discussion pertaining to what was talked about at the Parks meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the recommendation for fee increases as presented by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (LSCP) DECISION BRIEF

Sara Lucas, Executive Director of the Lake Superior Community Partnership, talked about how LSCP could be most useful to the City. LSCP could bring contractual support to the City, particularly with the small staff at City Hall. There is so much potential for the City; it would need to be determined as to what the priorities for the City would be.

Councilmember Scanlon would like to have a special meeting of Council to discuss and have the LSCP come in for the second half of the meeting to work on a potential agreement with LSCP.

Councilmember Chapman would like to continue with the City becoming a Redevelopment Ready Community and continue to work on blight mitigation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to schedule a special Council meeting on September 29th at 6:00 p.m. with LSCP joining the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

LICENSE WITH NEGAUNEE ISHPEMING WATER AUTHORITY TO DRILL TEST WELL FOR WATER IN AL QUAAL RECREATION AREA

Manager Cugini explained the proposal for the license to drill a test well by Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority. A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the License to Drill a Test Well for Water in Al Quaal Recreation Area as presented and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign.

EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIRS BY A. LINDBERG AND SONS: SECOND STREET AND ALLEY BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND STREET

Manager Cugini summarized the emergency repair that took place and advised this would be charged to the Sewer Fund.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the emergency repairs with funds taken from the Sewer Fund.

ADDITION TO THE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS PER THE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL CODE: REMOVE YIELD SIGNS-ADD STOP SIGNS

Chief Snowaert advised the signs were changed for safety reasons.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the Traffic Control Orders to remove the yield signs and replace them with stop signs as presented.

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES ECONOMIC PROPOSALS – A union position portion of this item would be discussed in closed session and the remainder when returning to open session.

OLD BUSINESS

Manager Cugini provided an update on the Corner of Oak Street and Empire Street that was torn up due to work done by the School. The School was working with UPEA to prepare the section for winter and next year would be done with the City project. There was further discussion on the timeline of the school project and how the project proceeded.

Mayor Bean provided an update on the employee survey that would be sent out to all City staff. The survey consisted of 12 questions that addressed some specifics and some general questions. The survey would remain anonymous, surveys would be mailed to all employees with a postage paid envelope included; the City would provide an early release on a Friday in October for completion of the survey.

Manager Cugini addressed the light pole repairs at the ballfield and the history of this discussion. The City would be happy to figure out a solution together with the Little League; and would check on the ability to take the pole down for repairs. There was further discussion related to the maintenance of the playgrounds.

NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

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

Lisa Thompson, Second Street, was affected by the sewer line repaired, and thanked the City for getting the project done. She felt when the City does a project, it motivates residents in that area to also make their property look nicer.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman wished Councilmember Skauge a happy birthday; the Labor Day Festivities went very well; the Bellamy Brothers will be at the Peterson Auditorium as a fund raiser for improvements for the Auditorium; there was a meeting regarding the round-about project; and he thanked Jim Lampman for his services to the City.

Councilmember Scanlon concurred with the Councilmember Chapman and thanked Jim Lampman for all his service to the City of Ishpeming; and felt the round-about meeting went very well with MDOT and looked forward to the round-about coming in 2023.

Mayor Bean reported the Cliff's Shaft Museum had record attendance this year; the Cemetery Tours were well attended along with the Main Street Tours; Partridge Creek Farms continues to grow; thanked Manager Cugini for giving coins to the Partridge Creek Farm interns and for his community involvement; and thanked Jim Lampman for his service to the City of Ishpeming.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Manager Cugini advised he would be attending the MML Conference in two weeks; the U.P. Manager's Conference will be held in October in the City with all the dollars spent in the City; the Marquette County Manager's meeting was held in the Council Chambers and they all liked the new facility; and Partridge Creek Farms has received a couple of grants.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Attorney Bridges thanked Jim Lampman for all his hard work and years of service to the City of Ishpeming and wished him all the best in his next endeavor.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(a) TO CONSIDER A PERIODIC PERSONNEL EVALUATION REQUESTED BY THE CITY MANAGER

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) to consider a periodic personnel evaluation requested by the City Manager at 8:16 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 4-0.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268© 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 agreement at 8:16 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 4-0.

Returned to open session at 9:24 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to file the City Manager's Review in the personnel file.

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES ECONOMIC PROPOSALS

Manager Cugini reviewed the proposals for non-union staff (Chief of Police; City Treasurer; City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager; Finance Director; and Regular Part-Time Employees). He further reviewed the changes to the Policy which included the vacation time accrual, comp time, overtime, and personal time. He proposed a \$1500 COVID bonus for the Chief of Police, City Treasurer, and City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager; and a \$500 COVID bonus to the regular part-time employees.

There was discussion related to the wages for the part-time employees being increase to 5% versus 3%. Also discussed was the increase to the City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager salary of \$15,000 versus \$20,000 per year.

After discussion, Council felt the increase for part-time employees should be 5% and the increase in salary for the City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager should be \$20,000 per year.

The Chief of Police would move to the top of the vacation schedule for a total of 40 vacation days per year; a 5% salary increase, and a 2% increase to the 457B plan. The City Treasurer would receive a 6.5% salary increase.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to accept the non-union employee's (Chief of Police, City Treasurer, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager, Finance Director and regular part-time employees) economic proposals as discussed.

Council would like a thank you letter to all employees for all the work that has been done, particularly during COVID.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:48 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk