

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Monday, July 26, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, July 26 2021 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by David Aeh at 4:00 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, Dave Aro, Carrie Meyer (left at 5:04 p.m.), Rob Taylor, Tracy Magnuson, Jason Chapman, and Craig Cugini, (7). Absent: Jay Clancey, Sandy Arsenault, John Carlson, and Eric Laksonen (4). Also present was Linda Andriacchi.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was held via Zoom. There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, supported by Member Taylor, and carried unanimously to approve the May 24, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the financial report for period ending June 30, 2021. A motion was made by Member Cugini, supported by Member Aro, and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Linda Andriacchi gave a brief review of the issues with the size of the planters and liners. Spencer Giroux has been watering the baskets and was doing a great job. She would like to offer a higher wage for the Beautification Caretaker. Spencer would be returning to college so the DDA would need to find someone else to do the watering or the plants would have to be removed. She also noted she starting putting mulch on the large bed at Lake Bancroft. She expressed her concern over having volunteers working on both roundabouts due to the danger. She felt there would need to be several inches of mulch put on the roundabouts to stop the weeds from growing.

Member Aro suggested finding a company to sponsor the roundabouts and include a sign, which would perhaps help with advertising, and then the location could be maintained.

Member Aeh advised the Garden Tour took place on Sunday. Some of the donations would be allocated to the City's beautification program.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT – There was no report.

2022 BUDGET GUIDANCE

There was discussion related to the amount budgeted for beautification in 2022. Linda Andriacchi would like to see the wage increased for the Caretaker and an overall increase for the flowers as the cost keeps increasing; she asked for the budget to be increase to \$9,000 for supplies for 2022 and increase labor costs by \$3,000 to cover the increase in pay which totals and additional \$5,500.

A motion was made by Member Chapman, supported by Member Taylor and carried unanimously to increase the supply line in beautification for 2022 from \$6,500 to \$9,000 and to increase the salary line by \$3,000 for a total of \$5,500.

Manager Cugini reported on the 2021 Façade Grant. There was discussion as to what should be budgeted for 2022. Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the funds available and what had been committed to date. There was a review and discussion of the first design plan for the skate board park. Member Taylor advised he would like to see the park done right so that kids would continue to use the park and not get bored with it. The

DDA commitment would be \$25,000 for the skate park so the remainder of the funds for 2022 would be \$10,500 to be allocated to other projects.

Member Aeh expressed his concern with the Anderson Building not moving forward and the lack of the maintenance to the Butler Theater. I-Build Construction has offered to do some repairs to the Butler to make it look nice in the downtown. Manager Cugini advised the owner of the property also had other blighted properties in the City.

A motion was made by Member Chapman supported by Member Taylor and carried unanimously accept the spreadsheet as presented with the \$10,500 left unallocated at this time.

2022 CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Manager Cugini questioned if there would be any other capital investment strategies for 2022 and beyond. There was discussion related to painting new murals versus freshening up existing murals on the overpasses, increase in façade grants offered per year, and allocating dollars for directional and/or way finding signage along with dollars for repairs to existing signage. Members would email their ideas for capital investment to Manager Cugini.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS REPORT

Member Magnuson provided an updated on the community events that have recently taken place including Gus Macker and Festival of Treasures. She felt the Gus Macker should be on Main Street versus on Hematite Drive which would look much better on news clips. Buzz the Gut was scheduled for August 14th.

OLD BUSINESS

The signs on the AT&T building were discussed and staff would follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini talked about additional Christmas decorations to be purchased. He would like to continue to add rope lights for the downtown and bows to do more of Third Street and Lakeshore Drive. Members felt the decorations should be kept uniform in the downtown and beyond.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:55 p.m., a motion was made by Member Taylor, supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith

City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager