

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, October 6, 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 (via Zoom), Elizabeth Firby, 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, spoke on freedom of speech and noted the Cemetery staff and Parks and Recreation staff had everything looking good, the fire department did an awesome job, and DPW deals with the hand they have been dealt. She expressed her disagreement with the increases provided to non-union staff.

Penny Garris 1472 Warner Street, Marquette, expressed her concerns over the use of the Ishpeming Township Pound to house lost animals. She felt it was cruel and unsafe for dogs and cats to be placed there; with no windows and no light, and the animals were checked on only once a day. She questioned why Ishpeming Township and Ishpeming City were the only two municipalities that did not participate with UPAWS. UPAWS exists through donations of animal supporters. UPAWS has trained personal to help the animals be as comfortable as possible until the owners arrive.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended including the new business item Vehicle Replacement as item 10a.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, pertaining to item 11 she questioned why the City was looking at a downstate firm for finance duties.

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom and in person. There was no agenda comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (September 8th, 29th, Closed Session 8th and 29th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Reappoint Carol Gaboury to the Ishpeming Commission on Aging term expiring 9/2024
- d. Reappoint George Legessa to the Ishpeming Housing Commission term expiring 10/2026
- e. Appoint Brian Buchanan to vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority term expiring 7/2022
- f. Appoint Kari Getschow to vacancy on the Planning Commission term expiring 11/2022
- g. Declare Library items as surplus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY PRESENTATION

Carol Fulsher, Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT), along with Larry Bussone, the City representative on the Authority, and Don Britton an Authority member, reviewed what the IOHT has brought to the City, including infrastructure, along with the other benefits of the Trail in Ishpeming. She also reviewed the trail use by ORV's and extending the trail into Negaunee Township. They were attempting to work out an agreement with Dan Perkins Roofing for an ORV trail through his property.

GEI CONSULTANTS – VARIOUS ROADS CONTRACT 2021 TIMELINE

Brian Fabbri, GEI Consultants, advised Old Farm Road leading to the hospital was in much need of repairs and was a number one priority. A portion of Marquette Street near Summit Street and Dawson Street in Salisbury with recycled asphalt was also discussed. He suggested considering the paving an emergency if the desire was to get some paving done this year.

There was discussion on the right-of-way of Old Farm Road and ownership of property. Councilmember Chapman recused himself from further discussion with regards to Marquette Street.

Motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to direct GEI get the cost for mill and pave on all three roads, obtain three separate bids, and waive competitive bidding on the City Manager's recommendation.

PURCHASE OF INTERNATIONAL, MF10 USED DUMP TRUCK AND DECLARE #162 DUMP TRUCK AS SURPLUSE

Derrick Magnuson, DPW Chief Mechanic, explained he had located a used International MF10 Dump Truck to replace Dump Truck #162 which would be declared surplus. The Motor Pool fund would go into a small deficit this year with this purchase.

There was discussion pertaining to the number of vehicles that have been purchased this year. Council would like to see a year end report for 2021 and have a plan for the next three years.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to purchase the International MF10 Dump Truck.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to declare vehicle #162 as surplus vehicle and be parted out and salvaged.

FINANCE DIRECTOR VACANCY

a. Engagement Letter from Plante Moran for Financial Services

There was discussion related to the Letter of Engagement for financial services. They would be able to support the City until the Financial Director position was filled. Jim Lampman was still helping with the preparation of the 2022 budget and the Cities Villages Townships Revenue Sharing.

Kari Shea and Brian Camiller of Plante Moran spoke on the Engagement Letter. Mr. Camiller advised they would work on an hourly basis and if the City was able to fill the position or find a firm closer they would terminate the letter of engagement.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to execute the document with Plante Moran for financial services for the City of Ishpeming in the interim.

RESOLUTION #10-2021, OUTDOOR RECREATION INNOVATION DISTRICT AND BUILD BACK BETTER APPLICATION

Manager Cugini reviewed Resolution #10-2021 which would help to expand and improve the trail network in Marquette County. This could be pared with dollars to expand broad band along the trail network. This was a resolution of support for the application process.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to authorize the City Clerk to sign and execute Resolution #10-2021, Outdoor Recreation Innovation District and Build Back Better Application.

RESOLUTION #11-2021, INTERGOVERNMENTAL HOUSING TASK FORCE

Manager Cugini advised this resolution was for the City to participate in the Intergovernmental Housing Task Force and assigned Manager Cugini as the City Representative.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby, and carried unanimously to authorize the City Clerk to execute and sign Resolution #11-2021, Intergovernmental Housing Task Force.

RESOLUTION #12-2021 DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIALS FOR THE ISHPEMING SENIOR CENTER PROJECT

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to authorize the City Clerk to execute and sign Resolution #12-2021 designation of authorized officials for the Ishpeming Senior Center project.

APPROVAL OF WAGE RANGE FOR THE DPW FOREMAN POSITION

AFSCME agreed to the wage range as proposed by the City Council of \$56,000 to \$60,000.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon questioned the lighting at the B-Shaft by the Cliff's Shaft Museum. He would like to see the Shaft lit up and asked the Manager to reach out to the Museum about the lighting even if the cost was shared.

Councilmember Chapman talked about the Ishpeming Township Pound and the City should start to use UPAWS instead of the Township Pound. Further investigation would be done but staff.

Councilmember Chapman moved and Councilmember Scanlon supported for discussion to terminate the agreement with the Township and go to UPAWS. Motion withdrawn.

Councilmember Scanlon expressed concern about the travel distance to UPAWS and an officer being out of the area if there was an incident that occurred in the City. He suggested the Chief provide additional information to Council.

Chief Snowaert advised that the pound was licensed and was not a shelter and only for temporary use. The number of times they use the pound varies. In the last few days officers have been dealing with the same two dogs. There was a temporary agreement with UPAWS when the Township pound was down and there were some concerns over the contract with UPAWS. He would bring further information to Council and he expressed his concerns if an officer had to go to UPAWS and the City was then left unprotected.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to table this discussion until the next regular meeting and obtain a report from staff.

Council requested Jessica Flores, from Preservation Forward, be asked to attend the next Council meeting to provide an update regarding the National Register of Historic Places. Councilmember Firby thanked Karen Kasper for all her help with getting Ishpeming registered and for providing the Cemetery and Downtown Tours.

Councilmember Chapman would like to review and revisit the wages for the part-time employees at the next regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon would like a recap of the blighted property for the November/December Council meeting.

Manager Cugini advised that Pension Bond process was continuing and nearing completion.

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

Taylor Ruotsala, 711 E. Ridge Street, was very concerned with activities going on in that area including used needles on the sidewalk, people living in a shed that were removed, and would like to see something done to take care of the problems.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman attended the ceremony for the new Judge, attending the open house for the John Kivela House in Marquette for Great Lakes Recovery Center; and thanked the Fire Department for all the work they do.

Councilmember Skauga advised the ladder truck was a huge benefit for the City; and thanked DPW for placing the ore cars back around town, particularly at the new pavilion; and advised volunteers would be filling the ore cars back up.

Mayor Bean reported the large topic of discussion at the Planning Commission meetings involved the property on Malton Road and the RAMBA trails located on the property; and the person appointed to fill the vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority was a citizen that was very interested in helping downtown business during events.

MANAGER'S REPORT


Manager Cugini reported the City would be hosting the U.P. Manager's Fall Conference on October 14th and 15th and invited Council to attend.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Attorney Bridges had no report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:09 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk