

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, November 3, 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, 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.

Liz Nevela from the Salvation Army, provided an update on what the Salvation Army has been working on. She advised the Salvation Army will have 10 trees at the Westwood Mall to decorate as a fundraiser and all proceeds will go to families in need in Marquette/Alger County. They are continuing to aide with utility payments, providing the food pantry which is open four days per week, and the sign up for angle tree is currently opened for residents in need at [www.saangletree.org](http://www.saangletree.org). Marquette County Salvation Army is currently looking for bell ringers so anyone interested should contract the Salvation Army.

Mauren LaWent, 241 Douglas Street, talked about the condition of Lake Bancroft's water which she felt would affect the City's future. The climate change and the higher temperatures have had a significant effect on the water. She felt the situation could be reversed, however the City would have to spend dollars and allocate staff time to work on the quality of the water. She reviewed the processes that were used in the past to help with water quality. Carr Baldwin from U.P. Engineers and Architects assisted with development of the processes. She urged Council to discuss the issue at upcoming meetings.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, pointed out the Chief of Police does receive medical insurance through the City of Ishpeming and she felt the motion giving the non-union employees wage increases should be rescinded by Council.

Lisa Thompson, Second Street, noted this was the second meeting she has attended, and the same person speaks negatively about the Manager and City staff and she was very tired of listening to it. She thanked the Manager and staff for the work they do and also thanked Council. She would like the negativity from the same person at each meeting to stop.

Iver Mercer, 612 Second Street, questioned the residence at 310 North Street, he would like to see something done to the house as it was blighted and felt it was a dangerous building. He asked how to get involved in the City to help and to learn how the processes work.

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (October 6<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Special Event App: Ishpeming Community Events: Christmas Festivities 2021
- d. Special Event App: CCSA Conference Championship Ski Race hosted by NMU: 2/11-13, 2022
- e. Special Event App: Turkey Trot: 11/25/2021
- f. Declare 146 Library Books as surplus
- g. Appoint Daniel Harvala to a 3-year term on the Planning Commission: Term Expires 11/2024
- h. Reappoint David Lawler to a 3-year term on the Planning Commission: Term Expires 11/2024

- i. Reappoint Brooke Routhier to a 3-year term on the Planning Commission: Term Expires 11/2024
- j. Reappoint Dave Johnson to a 3-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals: Term Expires 11/2024
- k. Recommendation to reappoint Stuart Skauge to the Central Dispatch Policy Board

#### MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to table this item until the December meeting and have the City Treasurer and /or Plante Moran present to review and present the monthly budget reports.

#### PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022 BUDGET AND MILLAGE RATES

Mayor Bean opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, felt the budget incorporated too much spending including using approximately \$187,000 from the general fund. Council should not have given out raises to the non-union staff, continued spending needs to stop, and Council should consider the residents of the City and lower the millage rates. In addition, she felt the City should not enter into an agreement with the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP).

Councilmember Chapman advised there was a new Director at the LSCP from the last time a proposal was presented, and felt there were very positive changes made at the Partnership.

The public hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the 2022 proposed budget as presented.

#### PRESENTATION FROM JESSICA FLORES, PRESERVATION FORWARD

Jessica Flores, Preservation Forward, briefly reviewed the work done for the City of Ishpeming to obtain a National Register Historic District Main Street Designation. There was nothing regulatory with this designation, this designation only indicates the City has historical store fronts and building. She advised this was a very good way to promote the downtown area.

There was discussion regarding how the designation would work and how it would be beneficial to the business owners within that designation.

Councilmember Scanlon suggested a meeting with Jessica Flores and the business owner located in the district to discuss the designation.

#### LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (LSCP) PROPOSAL

Councilmember Scanlon reiterated that this was a new proposed relationship with the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) it would not only be a donation, the partnership would get much needed work completed for the City.

Sarah Lucas, Director LSCP, reviewed the proposed Partnership Services Agreement which covered: Communication and Marketing support including a public education day as suggested under public comment; economic development opportunity in the City which the Historic Designation would be a great benefit: Neighborhood Improvement Planning and Remediation; the Redevelopment Ready Communities Support; and, in addition, the City would be considered an LSCP member and would have all those benefits available.

There was discussion related to the various individual components of the proposal along with the Capacity-Building Partnership which included all components. Ms. Lucas advised the Capacity-Building Partnership would require additional staff services from the LSCP.

Mayor Bean felt the \$50,000 was high, however, each service would be extremely beneficial and would help the City to move forward and redevelop the City.

Councilmember Firby was concerned about the dollars not being budgeted in the 2022 and would like to specify where the dollars would be allocated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to move forward with the Capacity-Building Partnership Activities in the amount of \$50,000 from the General Fund which included all the components.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY TREASURER TO PLACE DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS ON THE TAX ROLLS

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to place the Delinquent Utilities on the tax roll as a special assessment as recommended by the City Treasurer.

RESOLUTION #13-2021 HEALTH INSURANCE PER PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to adopt the Section 8 Exemption Option for the medical benefit plan coverage year January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

EMPLOYEE SURVEY REPORT

Councilmember Scanlon summarized the background of the survey. Mayor Bean advised there was a 56% return rate. She reviewed the charts and explained she worked with Councilmember Scanlon to briefly summarize and group together the narrative questions.

Mayor Bean felt a lot of the comments related to lack of communication and if communication was increased trust would should increase as well. An action plan would be developed and goals and objectives established for the City Manager and for Council.

Councilmember Chapman expressed his concern over the responses to the question "I trust City Leadership (City Manager and City Council)".

PROPOSED ELECTION INSPECTOR WAGE INCREASE

City Clerk Smith advised she did a comparison of wages in Marquette and Negaunee City and Ishpeming and Negaunee Township. The City was in the same range, however, with the grant received by the Center of Tech and Civic Life inspector wages were increased by \$2.00/hour for the November 2020 election and she recommended Election Inspector wages remain at that amount.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the wages for election workers at \$12.00/hour for Precinct Inspectors and \$12.50/hour for Precinct Chairs.

DISCUSSION ON REGULAR PART-TIME EMPLOYEE WAGES

Mayor Bean advised the part-time employee wages were increased by 5% at a previous meeting and at this point there was no comparisons so she felt this should be looked into and discussed in the future. Councilmember Chapman would like the Part Time Library Clerks and City Hall Office Assistant wages increased

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby to increase the Library Clerk base wage to \$12.60/hour this year and revisit the rest of the part-time positions next year. Ayes: Councilmember Chapman (1). Nays: Mayor Bean, Councilmembers Firby, Scanlon, and Skauge (4). Motion failed 1-4.

2022 PROPOSED CITY OF ISHPEMING FEE SCHEDULE

There was discussion on the proposed changes for the 2022 Fee Schedule. Also discussed was the charge for live scan by the police department since there was a fee in the schedule, however, the police department does not have that

ability to date. Chief Snowaert advised in January there would be grants available for the purchase of a live scan and he would be applying.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adopt the 2022 Fee Schedule as presented.

UPDATE ON ROYAL BAR PROPERTY AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY TRANSFER

Council discussed the items in the contract that have not yet been completed, Items G, H, and I and further talked about providing a two-year extension to the owner to complete these items. Manager Cugini advised the owner was having difficulty finding an asphalt contractor.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to extend the contract for two years to allow for the completion of items G, H, and I in the existing contract.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on Ishpeming Police Department Procedure for stray animals – Chief Snowaert provided his report on the procedure for stray animals. After providing information to Council, he recommended no changes be made to the current policy being followed for strayed animals. The Ishpeming Township Pound was not being used as a long-term facility.

Councilmember Scanlon provided an update on the blighted structures in the City and gave some examples to answer Mr. Mercer's public comment. He further explained the assistance the County Landbank has provided over the years for blight in the community.

Manager Cugini advised the ditch work on the Bell Hospital Road would be done this year and the road would be completed next year and he has advised the Hospital Board about the status and timeline.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini reviewed the 2021 Application for Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant for planning assistance for recreational tourism which was due on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and advised he would be applying. There were no match dollars.

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

Iver Mercer, 612 Second Street, expressed his concern with property owners doing quit claim deeds to change ownership to get out of a court hearing for blighted properties.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman thanked Clerk Smith and all the election inspectors for a successful election on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.


MANAGER'S REPORT - No report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – No report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cathy Smith  
City Clerk