

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, advised at the November 3rd Council meeting a motion was made to adopt the proposed 2022 budget which was a Charter violation and the City Manager, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager, City Council and City Attorney should have known.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom and in person.

Darlene Alan and JoAnna Michell from the League of Women Voters (LWV), 805 N. Front Street, encourage the City Council to approve the Resolution supporting the cause of protecting democracy, promoting policies that protect access to the ballot for voters, and building on the progress of the 2020 elections. They reviewed the list of bullet points on the resolution and the benefits of the first four bullet points.

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 (November 3rd and 11th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Appoint Michael Elliott to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission Term Expiring 11/2022
- d. Appoint Ryan Pizziola to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission: Term Expiring 11/2024
- e. Reappoint Jim Bertucci to the Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority: Term Expiring 12/2024
- f. Reappoint David Johnson to the Housing Appeals Board: Term Expiring 12/2024
- g. Nominate Karen Kasper to the Marquette County Transit Authority: Term Expiring 12/31/2024

In addition, David Leverton was appointed to the vacancy on the Compensation Commission.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

City Treasurer Kaitlyn Feldbauer reviewed the monthly financial statement report for period ending November 30, 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 accept the monthly financial report as presented.

Manager Cugini introduced Bill Anderson, DPW General Foreman, and Sarah Trumbley Office Manager/Deputy Treasurer.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CCSA CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

Andrew Keller, NMU Ski Coach, requested the City sign the event form so the event could be a nationally sanctioned event.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, support by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Cross Country Event form and support the event to be an FIS Sanctioned event and authorize the Manager to sign.

LAKE BANCROFT UPDATE FROM U.P. ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

Matt Treado, U.P. Engineers and Architects, provided a report on the condition of Lake Bancroft including defining the issues, possible solutions, funding sources, and cost estimates for possible solutions. He advised one possible short-term solution would be to install a polymer system similar to the one installed a few years ago. There were some possible grant opportunities available in 2022.

Councilmember Scanlon suggested the fountains be reevaluated and possibly reinstalled to help with the situation.

2022 CITY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

City Manager Cugini summarized discussions from the Health Insurance Committee meeting. The new insurance company was the lowest rate increase, however, the Company was not selected as an option by the Committee because it was new.

Councilmember Skauge asked what other companies submitted an agent bid. Councilmember Chapman would like to solicit bids from other agents in 2022 and would like to see this completed early in the year.

Vince Babcock, 44 North, reviewed the insurance plan options and advised there was a difference between an insurance agent and insurance carrier. 44 North did go out to market for other carriers such as Radion to compare rates.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon to remain with the current plan and in 2022 go out for bids for insurance agents/carriers early in the year. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REZONING OF FORMER EPISCOPAL CHURCH PROPERTIES

Manager Cugini explained the reasons for the rezoning and advised Cognition Brewing would like to move the brewery into the former Episcopal Church. Jay Clancey, Cognition, advised the brewery would start in the small chapel versus in the larger church. There were some other options available that were still being worked on.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission for the rezoning of the formal Episcopal Church properties as of the first reading.

RESOLUTION #14-2021 REQUEST FROM KOGNISJON BRYGGERI, LLC (COGNITION) FOR ON-PREMISES TASTING ROOM PERMIT AT 310 N. FIRST STREET

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #14-2021 for an on-premise tasting room permit at 310 N. First Street, Ishpeming.

RESOLUTION #15-2021, RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CAUSE OF PROTECTING DEMOCRACY, PROMOTING POLICIES THAT PROTECT ACCESS TO THE BALLOT FOR VOTERS AND BUILDING ON THE PROGRESS OF THE 2020 ELECTION

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #15-2021, resolution supporting the cause of protecting democracy as presented.

Councilmember Chapman thanked County Clerk Linda Talsma, City Clerk Cathy Smith, and all the election workers for their dedication to elections.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE#8-100, ISHPEMING ZONING ORDINANCE
(MARIJUANA TEXT REVISIONS)

Mayor Bean reviewed the proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to cover the marijuana revisions.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of amendment to Ordinance #8-100 Ishpeming Zoning Ordinance – marijuana text revisions.

Council clarified two (2) marijuana retailer/provisioning center may be located within the CBD (Central Business District); or two (2) marijuana retailer/provisioning center may be located within the GC (General Commercial) zoning district; or one (1) marijuana retailer/provisioning center may be in each zoning district for a total of two (2) marijuana retailer/provisioning centers in Ishpeming.

FIRST READING TO RESCIND ORDINANCE #2-1600, TO PROHIBIT RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA
ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF ISHPEMING

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the first reading to rescind ordinance #2-1600 to prohibit recreation marijuana establishment within the boundaries of the City of Ishpeming.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #2-1700, ORDINANCE TO REGULATE MARIJUANA FACILITIES

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2-1700, Ordinance to Regulate Marijuana Facilities as presented.

Council thanked the Planning Commission, Zoning Administer Al Pierce, and the City Attorney for all their work on this topic.

RESOLUTION #16-2021, RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES TO MDOT STATE
TRUNKLINE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #16-2021 approving and authorizing signatures to MDOT State Trunkline Maintenance Agreement.

COMMITMENT OF FUNDS FOR 2025 MDOT SMALL URBAN GRANT -- \$96,250

Manager Cugini reviewed the proposed Small Urban Program Road project application and the commitment of funds for the 2025 round which would be in the amount of \$96,250 from the Major or Local Streets fund.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to support the application and authorize the City Manager to commit the funds for 2025 in the amount of \$96,250.

RESCHEDULE JANUARY 2022 COUNCIL MEETING FROM JANUARY 5TH TO JANUARY 12TH

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the change.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon would like to see reports from the City Manager and the City Attorney; he expressed concern over the situation of businesses being charged if they plow snow on city property, would like to start discussions pertaining to snow removal in town; and would like Council to be notified before information hits Facebook. There was further discussion on communication.

Discussion took place pertaining the plowing of snow by businesses. Chief Snowaert indicated it is difficult to only partially enforce the ordinance, and if Council does not wish enforce the Ordinance then it should be rescinded.

General Foreman Bill Anderson explained his directive to cleaning the snow that was pushed back onto City sidewalks by businesses after plowing was completed by DPW.

Councilmember Firby requested a copy of the snow plan when it was completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Event Application: Go Get Outside Fatish Race and Ski Race: January 15-16, 2022 – Manager Cugini advised the Fatish event asked to utilize the Lodge and would also like to sponsor the tube slide for the day similar to previous years. There would also be a ski race on Sunday with each skiing purchasing a daily pass. In addition, they requested a reduction in the fee to sponsor the tube slide for the day. Go Get Outside would present a final plan at the January meeting for Council approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to allow a reduction in sponsoring the tube slide on January 15th and reduce the fee to \$1000 instead of the original fee of \$1200. This item would be brought back for final approval on January 12th.

Special Event Application: Noquemanon Ski Marathon: January 21-22, 2022

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

Decision Brief Equipment Purchase 10' Snow Pusher –

General Foreman Bill Anderson explained the proposal to purchase a 10' snow pusher for the DPW and he reviewed the pros and cons of the purchase. Staff recommended purchasing the 10' Snow Pusher at a cost of \$3,950 to be paid from the Winter Maintenance Budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the purchase as recommended.

Mayor Bean advised she went to all departments, with Manager Cugini, and reviewed the survey results with all employees. It was suggested by an employee that Council visit each department and meet with staff. She felt January would be a good time to do this and would like to get this scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered through Zoom and in person. There was no public comment.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman apologized to Councilmember Scanlon pertaining to communication.

Councilmember Firby wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilmember Scanlon welcomed Bill Anderson and Sarah Trumbley; also questioned was the vacancy of the Finance Director.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to allow for flexibility by the City Manager in the salary range with final Council approval for the Finance Director and the part-time office assistant.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini advised there has been many applications received for the various vacant positions in the City. The Christmas Party is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 15th.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Attorney Bridges wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.258(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 at 8:21 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skaug (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 9:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to accept the letter of agreement from POAM as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk