

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 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.

Bob Clark, 1104 Cooper Lake Road, offered his complete support, along with Craig Illmonen, for Manager Cugini's contract renewal. The Manager sees the museum as an integral part of the community and would like to continue to work with him into the future with continued cooperation and growth.

Lisa Thompson, Second Street, complete support for City Manager Cugini's contract renewal.

Mark Hall, 141 Vine Street and also worked for Wilderness Sports, completely supported Manager Cugini's contract renewal; the City was starting to grow and there are many more positive attitudes in the City. He advised Sandee Sundquist from Wilderness Sports, was not able to attend but completely supported the City Manager.

David Lawler, 925 North Main Street, supported Manager Cugini's contract renewal and noted he was always engaged in the community which was very important for a City Manager.

Brice Sturmer, 367 Co. Rd. Negaunee, and owner of Velodrome Coffee, supported Manager Cugini and the five-year contract renewal; Manager Cugini is always out in the community and willing to assist. He further noted Velodrome Coffee would be opening in the next few weeks.

Sarah Lucas, Lake Superior Community Partnership, supported Manager Cugini and was very impressed with his vision and commitment to the City of Ishpeming and was excited about the new partnership with the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

Jay Clancey, 54 Blue Road, Champion, owner of Cognition Brewing, strongly encouraged the City Council to renew Manager Cugini's contract.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

May Tsupros, 925 N. Main Street and worked for Partridge Creek Farms, has had the pleasure of working with Manager Cugini's over the last couple of years and thanked him for all his help and efforts particularly with the Jasperlite site. Knowing the difficult job the City Manager has, she thanked him for his leadership.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, felt the Manager had not done anything good for the City, she summarized her concerns with staff, salary increase, water rates, and the agreement with the Lake Superior Partnership.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (December 8<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Declare 117 library books and 4 large beanbag chairs as surplus

- d. Confirm 2022 Publishing Source – The Mining Journal
- e. Confirm 2022 Depositories — Nicolet/Flagstar/TruNorth/First Bank/Comerica/Charles Schwab/Edward D. Jones
- f. Confirm Payment to UPSET for 2022 - \$10,000

#### MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

City Treasurer Kaitlyn Feldbauer reviewed the monthly financial statement preliminary report for period ending December 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 Chapman and carried unanimously to table this item until a final report could be presented at the next meeting.

#### AGREEMENT WITH PLANTE MORAN FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

Manager Cugini advised bank reconciliations have been completed through October. He further reviewed some of the tasks that would still be completed by the previous Finance Director Jim Lampman.

Brian Camiller advised Plante Moran would like to continue to assist the City in optimizing the use of BS&A which would include preparation for the audit.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to move forward with Plante Moran through the audit preparation phase.

#### SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

The Fat-ish Race: January 15, 2022 - Manager Cugini noted the Sunday event had been cancelled. With the lack of applications received from students to run the tube slide, DPW would staff this event. Matthew Boch thanked staff and Council for all their assistance.

Polar Roll Fat Bike Event: February 11 and 12, 2022

Iron Range Roll: June 4, 2022

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the three special event applications as proposed with events taking COVID precautions into account if necessary.

#### PURCHASE OF A 44" SNOWBLOWER ATTACHMENT FOR DPW

DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson reviewed the proposed purchase and briefly outlined the benefits of the attachment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a 44" snowblower attachment for DPW as presented at a cost of \$11,475.

#### PURCHASE OF 500 GALLON DOUBLE WALL FUEL TANKS FOR CEMETERY/PARKS

DPW General Foreman Anderson advised one of the tanks would be off-road and one would be unleaded. He advised there would be fuel cost saving with the installation of the tanks. The cost of the diesel tank was \$4,336.72 and cost of the unleaded fuel tank was \$4,447.15.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the two 500-gallon double wall fuel tanks for the Cemetery Parks as presented.

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

Manager Cugini and Sarah Lucas briefly reviewed the contract and deliverables for the LSCP contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to finalize the agreement with the Lake Superior Community Partnership and authorize signature on the agreement.

SECOND READING OF ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE THE FORMER EPISCOPAL CHURCH PROPERTIES

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to approve the zoning map amendment to rezone the former Episcopal Church properties as of the second reading.

MARIJUANA ORDINANCE AND ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Second reading of amendment to Ordinance #2-1600, Ordinance to Regulate Marijuana Facilities

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the second reading of amendment to Ordinance 2-1600, Regulate Marijuana Facilities as presented.

Second reading of amendment to Ordinance #8-100, Zoning Ordinance (Marijuana Text)

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the second reading of amendment to Ordinance 8-100 Zoning Ordinance (Marijuana Text) as presented.

2021 COMPENSATION COMMISSION REPORT

There was some discussion among Council related to the recommendations made by the Compensation Commission. Councilmember Scanlon requested copies of the minutes and would like to table this item for a decision at the next regular meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Bean and carried unanimously to table this item until the February regular meeting.

CITY MANAGER CONTRACT RENEWAL

Mayor Bean reviewed the proposed changes for the City Manager's contract renewal which including salary, bonus based on Annual Performance Evaluation, compensatory time for special Council meetings, increased vehicle allowance, vacation, and an increase from 13% to 20% to Nationwide retirement. This would be a five-year contract.

Councilmember Chapman suggested a special meeting be held to discuss the contract renewal proposal and felt there should have been more Council input; he expressed concern related to a petition that was circulated; as well as the employee survey; and the last performance evaluation. He would also like to have more time to review the contract. There could be increased value in certain areas and perhaps decreased in other areas. He was very frustrated with the process.

Councilmember Scanlon felt Manager Cugini was doing a very good job for the City. The petition that was brought up has never been presented to Council and in his opinion meant nothing at this point in time.

Councilmember Firby questioned if this was an all or nothing contract or if changes could be made; and, she would also like to have another meeting to further review and discuss this contract.

There was discussion and it was pointed out that this was the time to discuss the contract and/or suggest changes that any Councilmember would like to see.

Manager Cugini reviewed some of his accomplishments over the last couple of years with Council; he felt he has demonstrated his value; and he loved the community and the area and wanted to continue to move the City forward.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon to approve the contract as presented. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (3). Nays: Councilmember Elizabeth Firby and Councilmember Jason Chapman (2). Motion passed 3-2.

The performance evaluation process would be discussed at another meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon discussed the lighting at the Cliff's Shaft and the value of lighting that area.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to split the cost of the quote from Frailing Electric in the amount of \$10,361 with Cliffs Shaft and then the City would then resume paying the electric bill for the lighting at Cliff's Shaft.

There was discussion related to the Public Programming Update. Manager Cugini advised this was a first draft of the document.

Manager Cugini advised Charter Communications was planning on providing an update on the timeline for Channel 189 at the next meeting.

There was some brief discussion related to the tour of City Facilities.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon suggested the Office Manager begin to read the financial statements at some point; and he would like to see a list of all the positive projects and initiatives in Ishpeming be promoted. Discussion took place on establishing a communication process with the community through the contract with the LSCP.

Manager Cugini discussed the vacant Finance Director position and suggested the City begin to work with the Michigan Municipal League to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to move forward with the Michigan Municipal League in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to fill the Finance Director vacancy.

Manager Cugini suggested a wage range for the part-time office assistant be set with the top of range being \$16.00/hour.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to increase the top range for the part-time office assistant to \$16.00/hour.

Manager Cugini reported staff was unsuccessful in finding part-time labors to assist with tube slide operations and suggested after the upcoming special event the tube slide be closed for the remainder of the season.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman to honor the commitment to Gauthier Insurance for the special event and then close the tube slide due to the lack of finding part-time laborers to assist in operations. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

Clerk Smith advised there was an issue with the website in opening attachments and the problem should be fixed by 906 Technologies soon.

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

Lisa Thompson, Second Street, addressed earlier comments made by a member of Council regarding individuals who spoke being friends of the Mayor. She was very insulted and stated her comments were in favor of Manager Cugini and had no bearing on any member of Council. She pointed out, of the approximate 150 people who supposedly

signed the petition, not one of them were present to speak tonight. She felt energy was being given to the negativity, by some Councilmember's by just bringing it up.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, expressed her disagreement with Manager Cugini's comments regarding their first meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman apologized to everyone for his comments; he was more frustrated with the process. He did not know who signed the petition but he felt he should acknowledge it; the Annual Ski Jumps will be held on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>; and he had a ride along with DPW and would also be doing a ride along with the Police Department.

Councilmembers Skauge, Firby, and Scanlon had no report.

Mayor Bean thanked Manager Cugini for arranging the DPW ride along in the plows and the department tours.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Manager Cugini had nothing additional.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(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 8:26 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 8:48 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:49 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith  
City Clerk