

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Lindsay Bean called the meeting to order at 6:10 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, stated Mayor Bean, as mayor, should read and follow the Charter and she reviewed and expressed her concerns with the City Manager's new contract.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom and in person. There was none.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as corrected to add "January" before the 12th and 24th for Closed Session and to add "as surplus" to item c.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (January 12th, 24th & Closed Session December 8th, January 12th, 24th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Declare 375 library books, 19 audiobooks, and 50 DVD's as surplus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

City Treasurer Kaitlyn Feldbauer advised she spoke with Plante Moran and they were still working on finalizing the year end financial reports and a final 2021 report would be presented when completed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

PRESENTATION/UPDATE FROM CHARTER REGARDING CHANNEL 189

Joan Movrich, Manager of Government Affairs for Charter Communications, provided an update on Channel 189 for the City of Ishpeming. She reviewed Charter's National Network and broadband adoption. The City's P.E.G (Public Education and Government) channel would now have an HD signal. The project was approximately 80% complete and would be completed when the equipment arrived. The Channel would then go live. She reported there were approximately 114 PEG channels in Michigan and the City of Ishpeming would be the first governmental HD channel on the Spectrum line up in Michigan.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

Michigan High School State XC Ski Race: February 11, 2022 - A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the special event application for the Michigan High School State XC Ski Race on February 11, 2022 as presented.

Gus Macker Basketball Tournament: June 24-26, 2022 - Jen Hendrickson, Gus Macker, advised discussion had taken place on moving the courts to Main Street but nothing has been decided to date.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the Gus Macker for June 24-26, 2022 as presented with final details to be worked out with the City Manager.

AMENDMENT TO CATEGORY B FUNDING APPLICATION TO INCLUDE NON-PARTICIPATING COSTS

Brian Fabbri, GEI Consultants, advised the local match of \$213,700 was already budgeted for. The non-participating costs of \$387,975 would repair the infrastructure underneath which assisted in receiving the grant which was in addition to the City's match. There was discussion related to the water and sewer fund and the need to repair infrastructure before paving was completed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman, and carried unanimously to authorize the amendment to Category B funding to include the expenditure of \$387,975 for non-participating costs to repair water and sewer infrastructure before the paving of the streets.

RESOLUTION #2-2022, CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY AFTER 12/31/2022

Carol Fulsher, Iron Ore Heritage Trail, advised the millage was a 6-year cycle and the Iron Ore Heritage was at the end of the six years. There would be no increase to the current millage rate.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to support Resolution #2-2022 to continue participation in the IOHT after 12/31/2022.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Purchase Of (2) 12" I-Pads And (2) 9" I-Pads

Manager Cugini advised the cost of the I-Pads were intended to be charged to the Drinking Water Asset Management Grant. General Foreman Bill Anderson summarized what the I-Pads would be used for by DPW staff. There was discussion related to the use of the I-pads, if they were covered with a protection plan, and how it would benefit staff.

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

Councilmember Scanlon would like to have a demo of the GIS system at some point in the future.

Purchase of Alarm Dialer for Water Booster Stations/Sewage Lift Stations

General Foreman Anderson reviewed the benefits of the installation of an alarm dialer which would generate texts/calls to staff to respond to the lift station alarms.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the alarm dialer for the water booster stations/sewage lift stations as presented.

REVISIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE 2022 CITY OF ISHPEMING FEE SCHEDULE

Mayor Bean advised this was the addition of the application fee for the Marijuana Retailer/Provisioning Center Permit.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the addition of the Marijuana Application annual permit fee of \$5,000 as presented.

ACCEPT PLANNING COMMISSION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Manager Cugini advised this was a report generated by the Planning Commission and was needed for the Redevelopment Ready Communities certification.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the 2021 Planning Commission Annual report as presented.

Council thanked Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator, for preparation of the report.

PROPOSED WAGE INCREASES FOR PART-TIME LIBRARY STAFF

Manager Cugini advised Library Clerk wages were compared with other municipalities. Jesse Shirtz, Library Director, advised there was a discrepancy between the City's wages and other comparable library wages for Library Clerks. She recommended an increase to \$13.30/hour which would be a more comparable wage.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to support the request from Library Director Jesse Shirtz to increase the wage for the part-time Library Clerk's and establish the wage to \$14.00/hour.

CONFIRM INTENT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING: CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND/STRATEGIC WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES FUND

Manager Cugini advised the Notice of Intent to apply was due on January 31st and was submitted on behalf of the City so there was an option to apply in the future if grant funds became available. A Notice of Intent was sent in for both water and sewer.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to affirm the submittal of the Notice of Intent as presented.

2021 COMPENSATION COMMISSION REPORT

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the 2021 Compensation Commission report as presented.

APPROVE EVALUATION PROCESS FOR THE CITY MANAGER

Mayor Bean reviewed the slight changes that were suggested from the special meeting to the documents for the evaluation process. There was further discussion related to the evaluation process.

Councilmember Firby felt the recent survey would determine goals but felt another survey should be done to determine if scoring increased.

Manager Cugini noted he was not hired to win a popularity contest, but rather to do the best for the City.

Council felt the evaluation process should be reviewed each year and be amended as necessary.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to use the evaluation process as presented for the next evaluation of the City Manager.

Mayor Bean would send the evaluations to Council, with the due date which would be prior to the next meeting. The mid-year evaluation would be sent out at the same time.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon felt our local contractors should be asked for quotes first and suggested Council adopt some guidelines allowing local contractors to have a 10% margin and hire local contractors first.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon requested General Foreman Anderson text the five (5) Councilmembers so Council was aware of the DPW schedule to manage a snow event. There was discussion on snow removal, salting, and sanding.

Manager Cugini provided a brief update on the Malton Road Campground; staff would be working on setting up a joint meeting with the Planning Commission; and bids were due tomorrow for the Empire Street project.

Mayor Bean questioned the need for office hours for City Attorney Bridges.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Scanlon advised he received a call from a resident that wished to use the ice rink but there were hockey players utilizing the rink so they could not. There was some discussion related to the use of the ice rink. Councilmember Firby and Councilmember Skaug had no report.

Councilmember Chapman advised he brought information to the City Manager as he felt was necessary.

Mayor Bean advised the Lake Superior Community Partnership was at the Planning Commission meeting and she was very excited to beginning working on the tasks assigned; she briefly discussed the proposed dog park and advised there was a dog park committee that was forming and would be further discussed at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Manager Cugini had a meeting scheduled with Lake Superior Community Partnership; and was discussing a grant opportunity through MEDC that may be available.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(e) TO CONSULT WITH ITS ATTORNEY REGARDING TRIAL OR SETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation at 7:52 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.

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 Firby to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to consider strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining agreement at 7:52 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 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:06 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk