

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, March 9, 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.

Andy Griffin, 442 Silver Creek Road, announced his candidacy for Circuit Court Judge. He noted this was an open election so there was no seated judge. He reviewed his background and work history for the Council and handed out a flyer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (February 9th and Closed Session February 9th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm payment to the Ishpeming Senior Center: \$9,000
- d. Declare 606 Library books as surplus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Deputy Treasurer Sarah Trumbley advised the December 2021, January and February 2022 were presented to Council with the caveat, per Plante Moran, that there were some unposted entries not accounted for in the reports. Plante Moran further noted the monthly report to actual reflected accuracy and timeliness of bill payment. They recommended in the future, the monthly reports be placed on the consent agenda and only address any questions by Council.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

Fourth of July Festivities and Parade: July 2, 2022 – Councilmember Skauge questioned why the Fourth of July was being celebrated on July 2nd.

Andrea Jackson, Fourth of July Committee, advised the Committee was attempting to move toward celebrating the Fourth on the Saturday before the Fourth of July in a hope to increase attendance at the picnic and to not have so much conflict with other municipalities with getting vendors and activities scheduled.

There was further discussion pertaining to the celebration being held on the Saturday before the Fourth.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon to approve the Fourth of July Celebration special event application as presented. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmember Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

APPROVE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH RAMBA FOR THE HOWARD OIL BUILDING

Manager Cugini reviewed the lease proposal with RAMBA for the Howard Oil Building to be used primarily for their trail maintenance. The City Attorney and RAMBA's attorney have reviewed the lease agreement. There was some discussion related to the property boundaries that were covered in the lease agreement.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the lease agreement with RAMBA with the inclusion of identifying boundaries covered by the lease to be determined by the City Manager and the General Foreman.

RESOLUTION #3-2022, ACCEPT DRINKING WATER ASSET MANAGEMENT GRANT AGREEMENT AND DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL TO SIGN ALL GRANT DOCUMENTS

Manager Cugini advised Ishpeming was awarded the Drinking Water Asset Management Grant in the amount of \$663,000 with no match required from the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #3-2022 to accept the Drinking Water Asset Management Grant Agreement and the designation of authorized officials as presented.

STRATEGIC REVOLVING FUND

Manager Cugini advised the Notice of Intent was submitted to the State Revolving Fund (SRF); however, the City would be required to submit project plans for the SRF as part of the process to determine if funds would be awarded. The Revolving Fund was partial grant and partial loan.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Water Project Planning – Matt Treado, UPEA, congratulated the City on the Drinking Water Asset Management Grant award. The State Revolving Fund would need to have a project plan for water to meet the submittal requirement, however, the project plan would not be started until the preliminary scoring was done. Project Plans are good for five years and can be resubmitted.

Manager Cugini suggested the City continue with UPEA in pursuing the DWSRF.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the proposal from UPEA for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund water project planning in the amount not to exceed \$5,000 and pending the City Attorney review.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Sewer Project Planning – Matt Treado, UPEA, advised the project plan was required for the sewer project in order to obtain a preliminary score, and, in addition, this required a public hearing at a Council meeting. He further reviewed UPEA's proposal for professional services for the sewer project plan.

Brian Fabbri, GEI Consultants, reviewed their proposal for the development of a project plan and the timelines for a public hearing. Ryan Morgan, GEI Consultants, further reviewed some of the requirements for the sewer project plan and what the proposal encompassed.

Manager Cugini asked Council to review the two proposals from UPEA and GEI Consultants as there was a cost disparity between the two firms.

Councilmember Skauge felt the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (Water) project should be awarded to UPEA and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Sewer) should be awarded to GEI Consultants.

There was discussion and some concerns expressed over the difference in cost, particularly if the City was not awarded the grant/loan from the State Revolving Fund.

A motion was made by Mayor Bean and supported by Councilmember Scanlon to approve the proposal from UP Engineers and Architects for the CWSRF for the development of a project plans for sewer for the not to exceed amount of \$5,000, pending approval of the agreement by the City Attorney. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmember Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

Council thanked both firms for their proposals.

AWARD OF BID TO A. LINDBERG AND SONS FOR THE EMPIRE STREET WATER PROJECT FROM OAK STREET TO THIRD STREET

Manager Cugini advised this bid was for the water line replacement from Oak Street to Third Street. Three bids were received for the project. He advised funds were available in the Water Fund. The low bid was A. Lindberg and Sons in the amount of \$607,574.50.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to award the bid to A. Lindberg and Sons in the amount of \$607,574.50 for the water project from Oak Street to Third Street as presented.

AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF THREE BUNKER COATS AND THREE BUNKER PANTS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of three bunker coats and three bunker pants for the Fire Department as presented.

ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 443 MARQUETTE STREET FROM THE MARQUETTE COUNTY LAND BANK

Councilmember Scanlon explained the problems with site and suggested the property be accepted from the Marquette County Landbank. There was discussion regarding the possibility of re-routing the road at the location at some point in the future.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to accept the property at 443 Marquette Street from the Marquette County Landbank as presented.

DISCUSS OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY AT 52-51-573-028-00 (PUMPHOUSE PROPERTY)

Manager Cugini suggested a policy or process be developed for requests to purchase property from the City. There was discussion related to development of a policy/process.

Liisa Petersen, 130 Mitchell Road, Negaunee Township, explained they were interested in restoring the building, cleaning up the lot, landscaping the site, and possibly using the site for short-term rentals or a wood working/metal working shop. They have been looking for properties of this type to restore and noted some of the highlights and details of the existing waterworks building on the site.

Manager Cugini and Attorney Bridges would begin to develop a process for the sale of property.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby to declare this property as surplus. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skaug (1). Motion passed 4-1.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to hold the public hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION FROM PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO INCREASE PART-TIME LABORER WAGE

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to support the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission and increase the part-time laborer wage to \$12.00 per hour.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS GIS IMPROVEMENTS

General Foreman Bill Anderson reviewed the work that would be performed by Tri-Media. He advised GIS is currently on the desktops, however, with the Drinking Water Asset Management Grant, the City purchased two I-pads to utilize GIS which would also be a huge help with Miss Digs.

Approve Tri-Media Proposal 2021-7041a: Annual GIS Maintenance –

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to approve the proposal as presented pending contract review by the City Attorney.

Approve Tri-Media Proposal 2021-7042a: Import hard-copy sanitary sewer data into GIS -

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to approve the proposal as presented pending contract review by the City Attorney.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH DPW CHAPTER OF AFSCME LOCAL 1282

Manager Cugini reviewed the details of the Letter of Agreement with the Department of Public Works Chapter of AFSCME.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Bean and carried unanimously to approve the letter of agreement with the DPW Chapter of AFSCME as presented.

SET SPECIAL MEETING ON MARCH 30, 2022 FOR WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS ATTAINABLE HOUSING AND BROWNFIELD

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to schedule the special meeting for March 30th at 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Manager Cugini reported the Kiwanis was still working on getting funding for a playground at the Lake Bancroft Pavilion location and explained crowd funding through MEDC would match the contributions received.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Chapman had a conversation with an employee about looking into getting a smaller plow for the neighborhoods and would like to see some research done on this piece of equipment. General Foreman Anderson advised this had been discussed and he explained this type of truck would not work well in the City. It would be very difficult to get around.

Councilmember Cugini suggested a committee be established to determine the goals of the City. Councilmember Chapman and Councilmember Firby would serve on the committee.

A motion was made by Mayor Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to establish a committee of Councilmember Chapman and Councilmember Firby to meet with Manager Cugini to discuss priorities and forward thinking and how to present to Council.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, was glad to see the Finance Director was on the MML website, however, she noted “Ishpeming” was spelled incorrectly.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Scanlon thanked two DPW employees Joseph Belpedio and Glenn Grigg for a job well done on water thaw over the past weekend. He also thanked DPW for cleaning up town.

Councilmember Firby thanked DPW for getting everything cleaned up and plowed/sanded during the last snow event.

Councilmember Chapman thanked DPW for all their work.

Mayor Bean thanked DPW for their work; attended the Campground meeting which was moving forward; and reviewed the positive things happening in the City.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Manager Cugini reviewed the various projects that would be taking place this spring.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(a) TO CONSIDER A PERIODIC PERSONNEL EVALUATION

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Firby to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) to consider a periodic personnel evaluation per the employee request at 8:09 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.

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 8:09 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 9:01 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman to move forward with the litigation settlement that was presented. Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:03 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk