

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, April 6, 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 Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (4). Absent: Councilmember Jason Chapman (1). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

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

Debbie White, former resident of Ishpeming and now a Chocoy Township resident, represented a group of local volunteers called Voters not Politicians which was a non-partisan organization. They will be beginning to circulate a petition to place a proposal on the November ballot for an amendment to the constitution. She summarized the 10 key points in their proposal for Promote the Vote 2022. She encouraged the City of Ishpeming to supported the petition.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Claudia Demarest and Mike Tonkin reserved time under Item #9 the Public Hearing.

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 (March 9th and March 9th closed session and March 30th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Declare library computers, a non-folding table, and 438 Library books as surplus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Office Manager/Deputy Treasurer Sarah Trumbley briefly reviewed the financial statement report. She noted tax revenue was not included in this report as the City was waiting for tax settlement from the County.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SALE OF PROPERTY AT 52-51-573-028-000 (PUMPHOUSE PROPERTY)

Mayor Bean opened the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, questioned who the property was purchased from, if the playground equipment was still on the parcel, what the site was zoned, if there was any contamination on this property, and the amount the City purchased the property for.

Mike Tonkin, 612 Third Street, questioned the proposed sale of the property and advised he wanted to ensure the property steps were followed. He also questioned why the City is looking at selling the parcel.

Mayor Bean closed the public hearing 6:20 p.m.

UPDATE FROM THE LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Sarah Lucas, Lake Superior Community Partnership, advised she had accepted a new position with the State of Michigan, Office of Rural Development; however, she looked forward to continuing to work with the City of Ishpeming in her new capacity. The LSCP is currently looking for a successor and Elle Jensen would be working as the project manager for the City under the contract.

Elle Jensen, Project Manager for the Partnership, advised she has quite a bit of experience with the Redevelopment Ready Communities program in previous positions. She was working on scheduling a joint meeting with the City Council, DDA, and the Planning Commission to review the communication practice for the City and prioritizing the RRC best practices.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE POLICE OFFICER BALLISTIC VESTS AND EXTERNAL CARRIERS

Detective Chad Radabaugh reviewed the bids received and recommended the purchase be awarded to CMP Distributors. He further advised after approval and purchase, he would be applying for a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Program. This was a reimbursable grant so the purchase would have to be made first.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the bid from CMP Distributors in the amount of \$10,625.00 as presented.

RESOLUTION #4-2022, MDOT PERFORMANCE RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Manager Cugini explained this gives the City the ability to apply for construction permits, permits for maintenance of major streets, street closures, or special events through the MDOT portal.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby, and carried unanimously to adopted Resolution #4-2022, MDOT Performance Resolution for Municipalities as presented.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 8-400, SIGN ORDINANCE

Mayor Bean advised the amendments to the ordinance were due to a U.S. Supreme Court decision the local governments may not regulate signs according to their content, because this would violate the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. She further advised the Planning Commission did not make a recommendation to Council at their April meeting.

City Attorney Bridges reviewed some of the changes in the ordinance that were required due to the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. There was discussion related to the required changes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to table the first reading of amendment to Ordinance #8-400, Sign Ordinance until the Planning Commission has reviewed and makes a recommendation to the City Council.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 12-500, PERMITTING SEPARATE METERING FOR WATER CONSUMPTION NOT ENTERING THE PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson reviewed the proposed changes to Ordinance 12-500.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of amendment to Ordinance #12-500, permitting separate metering for water consumption not entering the public sanitary sewer system as presented.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 12-100, WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

Office Manager/Deputy Treasurer Sarah Trumbley reviewed the proposed changes to Ordinance 12-100 pertaining to rental units and tenants.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of the amendment to Ordinance 12-100, water and sewer utility as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon questioned how the audit was progressing; Manager Cugini advised Plante Moran was working on the audit and it should be scheduled sometime in May.

Manager Cugini congratulated Police Chief Steven Snowaert on his career at the City of Ishpeming and he advised Detective Chad Radabaugh would be interim Chief; the Cliff's Shaft lighting was progressing and UPPCO would be installing a new meter; and the contract for the Empire Street Project would be signed soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon suggested the City help the Mining Museum in applying for grants; Manager Cugini advised he would assist, someone from the Mining Museum should just reach out to him.

Mayor Bean advised Eagle Mine was working with LSCP on a non-motorized trail sustainability project. There would be a 2 1/2-day workshop in Bentonville, Arkansas pertaining to this project and to tour their trail system. It would cost approximately \$2,000-2,500 for travel and the workshop. She requested Council consider authorizing travel for Manager Cugini to attend this workshop.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to attend the workshop in Bentonville, Arkansas the end of April with travel expenses up to \$2,500.

Manager Cugini requested permission to attend the Master Citizen Planner one-day workshop downstate on June 9th.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize travel for the City Manager downstate to the Master Citizen Planner workshop.

Manager Cugini advised the DDA Façade Grant application was available for 2022 and due back to the Downtown Development Authority the beginning of May; and UPPCO met with staff to review rebates and return on investment on converting to LED lighting to improve energy efficiency in the City.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Skauge advised Gary Johnson 9-1-1 Manager was retiring the end of March; Jerry Hebert would be the new Manager, promoted from a Shift Supervisor; and Scott Mann would be the new Shift Supervisor. He advised the new dispatch center would be ready December 2022, and the next meeting would be held at NMU on May 19th.

Councilmembers Scanlon and Firby had no report.

Mayor Bean thought the Land Bank and Brownfield Housing workshop was very beneficial and helpful. At the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, the public hearings were held for the marijuana dispensaries and noted one would be located next to Velodrome Coffee and the other was at the Ralph's Italian Deli building. She further noted the tax revenue that would be collected from the dispensaries.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Manager Cugini was working with Attorney Bridges to finalize the Empire Street Project contract with Lindberg and Sons,

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 Firby to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to consider strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining agreement at 7:17 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Council Members Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 4-0.

Returned to open session at 7:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:43 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cathy Smith".

Cathy Smith
City Clerk