

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, September 7, 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 Marietti, North Street, expressed his concerns with short-term rentals in the City. He felt with family homes being purchased and used for short-term rentals it was affecting the community and along with the Ishpeming School system. He would like to see Ishpeming have regulations similar to Negaunee and Marquette City.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, expressed concern over the discussion of the sale of the pumphouse property. She felt the City should develop a policy pertaining the sale of property along with having the property appraised.

Manager Cugini advised the City had talked to realtors regarding the appraisal of the pumphouse property and the City did discuss this property with MMRMA during their appraisal process of other City facilities.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as amended including the term expiration for items d and e.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Special Event Application and Parade Permit: Ishpeming High School Homecoming: 10-14-22
- d. Appoint Dean Dompierre to a vacancy on the Wastewater Treatment Board: Term expiring 12/2022
- e. Appoint Benjamin Argall to vacancy on the Planning Commission: Term expiring 11/2024

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the monthly financial statements for the period ending August 2022. He further advised there were still some reimbursements to be received in several funds.

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

RESOLUTION #9-2022. MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the mid-year budget amendments which included amendments to the General Fund, Major and Local Streets, Public Improvement, Senior Center Construction Fund, Sewer Fund, Water Fund, and Motor Pool Fund.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #9-2022 mid-year budget amendments as presented.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS PER UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL CODE: MAIN STREET FROM EUCLID TO CANDA

General Foreman Bill Anderson advised there would be a yield sign placed at the top of Main Street hill going northbound. The traffic flow would change on October 3, 2022 with notices posted on the website and Facebook. Chief of Police Chad Radabaugh advised it was changed two other times and changed back to one-way. The traffic change will be monitored.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to accept the traffic control orders as presented to take effect on October 3, 2022.

REPAIR QUOTES FOR DPW SANDER #158

General Foreman Bill Anderson advised the rear axle on #158 were structurally compromised and new axles were needed before the 2022 winter season to utilize this vehicle.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to authorize the \$13,289 in repairs to sander #158 so it would be ready for operation for the winter season.

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

Bill Anderson, co-owner of Red Leaf Vine LLC and Anderson-Petersen Investments, were the new owners of the Mather Inn and also owned a The Depot rental property in Negaunee. The pumphouse has not been used by the City for several years and they were very interested in purchasing the property. They would like to revitalize the structure and turn it into a beautiful building that could be used and would provide a benefit to the community.

Councilmember Chapman would like an appraisal of the property so that Council had all the information to make an informed decision.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to table this item.

BRASSWIRE CAMPGROUND UPDATE

Manager Cugini provided an update on the status of the Brasswire Campground including the placement of the fire rings and picnic tables.

Councilmember Skauge noted there was not a street sign for Malton Road at M-28 intersection.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon requested that, in the future, the microphone at the podium be ready for public comment at the meetings.

Councilmember Firby questioned if staff had looked into repairs to the playground on Wabash Street, which was brought up by a resident at a past Council meeting. Councilmember Scanlon felt an inventory of all playgrounds should be done and the condition of the equipment be reviewed. She also asked if the Empire Street Construction project was on schedule; Manager Cugini advised the pouring of the sidewalks would take place first and then the paving, the project was very close to completion.

Mayor Bean asked if a preliminary inventory of all playground areas could be completed before winter and presented to the Parks and Recreation Board and to the City Council.

Councilmember Skauge suggested the City consider opening Wabash Street through to Malton Road by moving the boulders blocking that area. There was discussion related to the issues raised by residents in that area when this was suggested previously. Fire Chief Jason Annala advised having that road open would be much easier for emergency vehicles.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skauge, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to direct the Planning Commission to review opening Wabash Street through to Malton Road.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Chapman suggested a committee be established to discuss short-term rentals in the City including limiting the number of rentals and developing guidelines. Councilmember Scanlon suggested short-term rentals be included in the Blight/Rental Committee.

Councilmember Chapman would like to see a plan developed for selling land and buildings. There was further discussion on the process of selling property. Attorney Bridges would develop a policy for Council to review.

Manager Cugini advised the application for Disaster Funds was due to the State and a resolution was required authorizing the grant and authorizing Joe Erickson to execute it on behalf of the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #10-2022, State Disaster Contingency Fund Grant resolution as presented.

Mayor Bean advised Councilmembers were asked to complete the mid-year review of the City Manager but she was still waiting for one review to be completed. Council could either schedule a special meeting, have the review at the October meeting, or forward comments to Manager Cugini directly without a meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to have the mid-year review at the October regular meeting.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, suggested Old Ish be repainted and the base be sandblasted. She hoped this could be added to the 2023 budget.

Lisa Petersen, 130 Mitchell Road in Negaunee, partner in Read Leaf Vine LLC and Anderson-Petersen Investments thanked Council for their consideration of their offer to purchase the pumphouse property. She discussed the recent purchase of the Mather Inn. She noted by taking a blighted property and placing it back on the tax roll, the City would see benefits from a sale.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman thanked all the election workers, City Clerk, and Deputy Clerk for a successful Primary election; advised the event at the Ski Hall of Fame was very successful; thanked all City employees for their work and directed residents to Council with complaints.

Councilmember Scanlon thanked organized labor for the festivities on Labor Day and appreciate the Labor Council continuing to have this event in Ishpeming.

Mayor Bean felt the perception of Ishpeming is continuing to improve and has changed a lot during the last 5 years.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini reported on the staff hires in the Police Department and Department of Public Works; a draft budget would be available to Council at a special meeting the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>; and reported on the Drinking Water Revolving Fund and Clean Water Revolving Fund submittals.

It was the consensus of Council to have a special meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, 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