

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, October 5, 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.

Jeffrey DeGabriele, 413 Vine Street, expressed his concerns with the behaviors of some of the Council members; he briefly reviewed past discussions with Council, the Manager, and the Clerk regarding the special event that was cancelled in August of 2020.

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. There was none.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (September 7th and 21st)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm 2022 L-4029
- d. Declare 238 Library books as surplus

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the monthly financial statements for the period ending September 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.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 BUDGET AND MILLAGE RATES

Mayor Bean opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

There was brief discussion among Council. Councilmember Scanlon pointed out the budget document is continually reviewed and amended as necessary throughout the year.

There being no public comment, Mayor Bean closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENTATION FROM LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (LSCP)

Elle Jensen, Lake Superior Community Partnership, discussed the deliverables outlined in the LSCP agreement and what had been accomplished over the summer. She handed out the Redevelopment Ready Communities Boards and Commissions Training Guide and the Council Orientation packet and advised she would also provide a digital copy to staff and Council. She noted work was progressing on bylaws for various boards and commissions and the Public Participation Plan would be brought to the November meeting for annual approval. There was discussion related to holding a forum on the “State of City” to provide information and receive input from residents/constituents. Also provided was the blight strategy and Ms. Jensen requested feedback from Council.

U.P. ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS EMPIRE STREET RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE – EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR

Manager Cugini advised U.P. Engineers was working on final numbers for the Empire Street project including the emergency sewer repair that was necessary. UPEA was unable to make the meeting so this item would be placed on the November agenda.

REPAIRS TO TUB GRINDER

General Foreman Bill Anderson advised the tub grinder was sent out for repairs to Northern Machining and Repair in Escanaba. The total cost of repairs was \$4,356.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the repairs made to the tub grinder by Northern Machining and Repairs in the amount of \$4,356 to be paid from the Motor Pool Fund.

RESOLUTION #11-2022, 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Office Manager Erickson reviewed the proposed budget amendments to the 2022 budget which included the Motor Pool Fund and the Sewer Fund.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #11-2022, to amend the 2022 Budget: the Motor Pool Fund and the Sewer Fund.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Proposed Part-time Laborer Wage Increases: Tube Slide and Lodge Attendant – General Foreman Anderson advised the Parks and Recreation Commission proposed increasing the wage of the Tube Slide Laborer from \$12.00/hour to \$15.00/hour and also recommended the Lodge Attendant be increased from \$10.00/hour to \$12.50/hour.

Mayor Bean reviewed the discussions by the Parks and Recreation Commission related to the proposed wage increase.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to increase the wage of the Tube Slide Laborer to \$15.00/hour and increase the wage of the Lodge Attendant to \$12.50/hour.

b. Amendments to the 2022 Fee Schedule – General Foreman Anderson advised the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission was to increase the tube slide fee to \$15.00 per day versus \$10.00 and to increase the lodge/pavilion rentals to a rate of \$225 and eliminate the resident versus non-resident rates; the cleanup bond would remain at \$100.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to the 2022 Fee Scheduled increasing the tube slide daily rate to \$15 per day and eliminating the resident/non-resident rates for lodge/pavilion rentals and establish the rental rate at \$225.

c. Recommendation to tear down (2) two buildings at Al Quaal: South Tow and Shack on North Ski Trails – General Foreman Anderson explained where the two buildings were located and noted the buildings were not used and were beyond repairs.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to concur with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission to demolish the South Tow building and the shack on the North Ski Trails.

d. Recommendations for 2022-2023 Tube Slide Operations – General Foreman Anderson advised the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation was to schedule tube slide rentals Thursday through Sunday only and also

stipulate if by December 15th, no applications or not enough applications from students were received, the tube slide would be closed for the year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to run the tube slide rentals from Thursday through Sunday and if, by December 15th, there were not enough student applications received, the tube slide would be closed for the season.

CEMETERY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

a. Amendment to the 2022 Fee Schedule – General Foreman Anderson advised the Cemetery Commission would like to eliminate the practice of some of the residents purchasing the lots and transferring them to non-residents. The proposal was to increase the fees for transfers of lots and niches.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Bean and carried unanimously to approve the recommendation to amend the fee schedule for transfers from \$50 per lot to \$500 per lot and \$1000 per niche.

INITIATE 63-DAY REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT CITY OF ISHPEMING MASTER PLAN

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously begin the 63-day review process of the Draft City of Ishpeming Master Plan immediately.

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT AGENT BID AWARD

Finance Office Manager Erickson advised staff sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a health care benefits agent to six different agencies. A bid response was received from four. He reviewed the the scope of work outlined in the RFP. Staff recommendation was to award to 44 North for the health care agent.

There was discussion related to a health care benefit agent versus health care providers; the need for an agent; and the responses received from the RFP.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman to allow the representative from 44 North to speak. Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

Vince Babcock, 44 North, advised 44 North is an independent agent. They do not write policies, they shop for policies for the City at the best cost. 44 North does not only bring Blue Cross Blue Shield as a carrier, they bring multiple options back to the City for health insurance carriers to get the best overall cost.

Mayor Bean pointed out agents look at the cost and get the best prices; 44 North has been providing this service to the City for many years.

Councilmember Skauge expressed his concerns with needing and agent.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Firby to award the RFP to 44 North for a three-year contract which would go through October 2025 as the City's health care agent. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

RESOLUTION #12-2022, HEALTH INSURANCE PER PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 12-2022, Health Insurance per Public Act 152 of 2011 as presented selecting the exemption option of Public Act 152 of 2011.

REQUEST TO ADD (1) FULL TIME EMPLOYEE IN THE FINANCE OFFICE

Finance Office Manager Erickson reviewed the proposal from the Finance Department for one additional full-time employee. Staff discussed how the addition of a full-time employee would benefit staff at City Hall.

Councilmember Chapman felt this position was necessary at City Hall and questioned if this position would be a union position. Councilmember Scanlon suggested the front window open at 8:00 am with the addition of a full-time employee. Manager Cugini advised this would be explored.

Manager Cugini noted this proposal was to add a full-time employee and retain the two part-time position in the front office.

Councilmember Skauge questioned if additional staff added to City Hall was the best allocation of money or should staff be added to DPW and Police.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, seconded by Mayor Bean to approve the request to add a full-time employee to the Finance Department/Front Office. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

PROPOSAL TO INSULATE ROOF OF THE RECYCLING BUILDING ON SUNSET DRIVE

General Foreman Anderson advised one bid was received for the proposed project from K2 Insulation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon to approve the proposal for the roof insulation at the Recycling Building on Sunset Drive in the amount of \$8,144 from K2 Insulation as presented. Ayes: Mayor Lindsay Bean, Councilmembers Jason Chapman, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft Sale or Disposal of City-owned Property Policy - Manager Cugini advised Attorney Bridges had prepared a draft policy for the Sale or Disposal of City-owned Property. There was brief discussion related to the draft policy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the draft Sale or Disposal of City-owned Property Policy as presented.

Councilmember Scanlon questioned the status of the ditch on Seventh Street; General Foreman Anderson advised DPW staff has been working on the issue.

Councilmember Firby asked if surveying had begun on the playgrounds located around the City; General Foreman Anderson advised staff had surveying a few play lots to date.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon thanked the Fire Department and the Police Department for their work on the two incidents that took place in the City.

Manager Cugini advised a Notice of Intent must be submitted by November 1, 2022 for the CWRP and the DWRF in an attempt to score higher and seek additional funding.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to submit the Notice of Intent for the DWRF and CWRP by November 1, 2022.

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

David Palmer, 759 White Avenue, explained during the water project his yard was torn up. After discussions with City staff and Lindberg and Sons grass has finally been replanted and grown. He was asking for a water credit for watering the seed so the grass would grow.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman advised Anatomy of a Murder was shown at the Cognition Brewing Company to the Rural Justice Collaborative; they also had a tour of the Mather Inn; and presented awards to a couple of law enforcements offices in Marquette County.

Councilmember Scanlon questioned if the if the City Organizational Chart was completed and if personnel evaluations have been done.

Mayor Bean noted she has been attending the Citizen Planner Workshop which is scheduled for every Monday for six weeks. She discussed the possibility of the Planning Commission members receiving a stipend.

Councilmember Firby and Skauge had no report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini advised Channel 189 was progressing. A test is being performed with the equipment before the City can start transmitting on the channel again.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(a) TO CONSIDER A PERIODIC PERSONNEL EVALUATION REQUESTED BY THE CITY MANAGER

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) to consider a periodic personnel evaluation per the employee request at 8:25 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 9:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:12 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk