

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Rescheduled Regular Meeting
Minutes
Monday, August 22, 2022**

The rescheduled regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, August 22, 2022 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by David Aeh at 4:00 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, David Aro, Sandy Arsenault, Tracy Magnuson, Brian Buchanan, Jay Clancey (via zoom), Rob Taylor, and Jason Chapman (8). Absent: Eric Laksonen, Carrie Meyer, and Craig Cugini (3). Also present were Bob Hendrickson from the GINCC and Linda Andriacchi, Beautification Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Andriacchi, Beautification, questioned the parking lot permits issued by the City and the process that is followed. There was brief discussion on the process to obtain a parking permit from the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Arsenault supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to approve the May 23, 2022 minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the monthly financial report for period ending July 2022 including the fund balance.

A motion was made by Member Aro supported by Member Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Bob Hendrickson provided a summary of the Chamber of Commerce report noting the current membership was 207 which was an increase from last year by approximately 10 with the newest member being the Ish Creamery. Nominations are being accepted for business person of the year, business of the year, organization of the year, and volunteer of the year on the Chambers website. Member Aeh requested that the previous winners be listed on the nomination page.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Linda Andriacchi noted this year did not start out very good with the hanging planters but the problems were overcome and the hanging baskets look great now and hopefully all the residents were happy. She also pointed out a volunteer worked on the highway round-about and it looks very nice.

Member Aeh reported he has received some donations for beautification at this business and would be contacting Linda Andriacchi to present the dollars.

Member Arsenault thanked Linda for all her work and the wonderful job she does with beautification. She, however, expressed her concern with lack of weed control around buildings and between the sidewalks around town. She pointed out this was not directed toward Linda and the beautification effort. There was further discussion related to weed control and how this could be handled.

FAÇADE GRANT UPDATE – ISH CREAMERY

Finance Office Manager Erickson advised all bills were received and submitted for payment for the Ish Creamery Façade grant.

PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Finance Office Manager Erickson reviewed the proposed 2023 budget.

Member Aro felt the DDA should offer grant opportunities to new businesses located in the downtown (either owning the building or renting) and this should be included in the 2023 budget. Discussion took place related to the proposed grants helping with marketing, hooking up utilities, first year dues for the Chamber of Commerce, etc. and match dollars would be a requirement. Finance Office Manager Erickson proposed included \$10,000 in the promotions line for the DDA budget. Member Aro volunteered to prepare a draft grant document.

There was further discussion related to including weed removal in the downtown in the 2023 budget. After discussion it was proposed to include the following in the 2023 budget:

- Increase the beautification operating supplies line from \$9,000 to \$20,000
- Add \$10,000 to Promotions for offering grants to new business
- Façade Grant line item remain at \$20,000
- Increase the salaries for part-time employees to cover weeding by \$3,000

A motion was made by Member Arsenault, supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to take the numbers as presented by the Finance Office Manager Erickson above for the increases to the 2023 proposed budget and adopted the proposed budget as amended.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS - Member Magnuson advised there was not much to report at this time. The Gus Macker went well along with the Festival of Treasures and the Music on Thursday nights. ICE will be working on planning the Christmas festivities soon.

OLD BUSINESS – Member Arsenault questioned the status of the ADA sidewalk in front of the Bike Shop.

Member Aeh felt that tourism directional signs should now be placed out on US-41 and M-28 particularly since the City of Ishpeming now has a National Historic District designation.

Assistant to the City Manager Cathy Smith advised she was still waiting to hear back from the AT&T Corporate office as to whether the pictures could be installed on the grating.

David Aro provided an update on the Marquette County Emergency Cleaning Fund which was established to provide financial assistance to family members in the community who have experienced a violent suicide.

NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:23 p.m., a motion was made by Member Aro, supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith,

City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager