

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

Mayor Bean turned the meeting over to newly elected Mayor Jason Chapman.

a. Council appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

Attorney Bridges advised Council to open nominations for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Skauge nominated Lindsay Bean for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Scanlon nominated Elizabeth Firby for Mayor Pro Tem. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed by Mayor Chapman.

The vote was open for Lindsay Bean for Mayor Pro Tem: Ayes: Councilmembers Stuart Skauge and Elizabeth Firby (2); Nay: Councilmember Lindsay Bean and Pat Scanlon (2); Abstain: Mayor Chapman. Vote 2-2.

The vote was open for Elizabeth Firby for Mayor Pro Tem: Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmember Lindsay Bean, Pat Scanlon, Stuart Skauge (4); Nay: Councilmember Elizabeth Firby (1). Vote 4-1.

Mayor Chapman congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Firby.

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

Brice Sturmer, Velodrome Coffee and Melo, thanked the City Council and Planning Commission for allowing the passage of the ordinance to allow marijuana sales in the City. He offered a tour of the full facility to Council, staff, and the Planning Commission. He thanked everyone for welcoming his business to Ishpeming and noted he currently had 12 employees on staff. He advised there was no marijuana use within the facility and no person under 21 was allowed in facility.

Bill Anderson, representing Anderson Peterson Investments, advised the next planned project for the Mather Inn was a parking garage on the corner of Main, Barnum, and Canda Street. He advised Anderson Peterson Investments was still interested in acquiring the Waterworks Building.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Firby 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, requested time to speak under item 22a Update on Inventory of Playgrounds.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (November 9th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Appoint Joseph Erickson to a vacancy on the Building Authority with term expiring 6/2025
- d. Appoint Sarah Trumbley to a vacancy on the Building Authority with term expiring 6/2024
- e. Reappoint John Jackson to 3-year term on Housing Appeals Board: Term Expiring: 12/2025
- f. Reappoint John Jackson to 3-year term on Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority: Term expiring: 12/2025

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the monthly financial statements for the period ending November 2022. He advised there was still a revenue sharing payment due in December.

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

2023 CITY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Ryan Whitley, 44 North, provided a brief summary of the discussions at the Health Insurance Committee meeting. He noted various plan options were reviewed by the committee. He advised if the City were to renew as is, the City would be facing a 10.79% increase. The Committee had selected the MPEC Health Insurance Plan for 2023.

There was brief discussion among staff, Council, and 44 North regarding the new plan options and the benefits offered by the plan.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean and supported by Councilmember Scanlon to accept the MPEC health insurance plan for the 2023 coverage pending the receipt of letters from the union agreeing to the change. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmembers Lindsay Bean, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Stuart Skauge (1). Motion passed 4-1.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION #14-2022 AUTHORIZING NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS FOR THE CWSRF SEWER PROJECT

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #14-2022 authorizing notice of intent and declaring intent to reimburse 2023 CWSRF bonds.

UP ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS - EMPIRE STREET ACTION PLAN

Kevin Nancarrow, UPEA, provided an update and reviewed the punch list for the project. He advised UPEA and Lindberg and Sons would be revisiting the punch list in Spring of 2023.

Councilmember Bean revisited her concerns with the project and would like to see the project completed to an acceptable standard.

Councilmember Scanlon felt UPEA had the project back on track and was holding the contractor accountable.

CONFIRM TRI-MEDIA PROPOSAL FOR GROUNDWATER SAMPLING AT THE NEGAUNEE -ISHPEMING LANDFILL SITE

Manager Cugini advised a letter was received by EGLE requiring testing and sampling for PFAS constituents at the Old Negaunee Ishpeming Landfill located in Ishpeming. He advised he spoke with representatives from Negaunee City and Negaunee Township and the cost of the PFAS sampling would be split between the three communities.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to confirm the proposal from Tri Media for PFAS sampling and move forward with the project in the amount of \$6,500 split between the three municipalities Negaunee City- \$2,170, Negaunee Township – \$1,040, and Ishpeming City - \$3,290.

UPPCO UTILITY BILLING CORRECTION

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the error that occurred in the UPPCO utility billing, the processes followed, and protocols that have been implemented to prevent this error from occurring in the future. The proposed refund was approximately \$32,700.

City Treasurer Sarah Trumbley gave a brief summarized how the error occurred.

a. Resolution #15-2022 Sewer and Water Fund Budget Amendment – UPPCO Utility Billing

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #15-2022 Sewer and Water Fund Budget Amendment for the UPPCO utility billing refund of \$13,923 from the Sewer Fund and \$18,780 from the Water Fund.

EMERGENCY READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #8-100, ZONING ORDINANCE – ADDITION OF CHILDCARE SERVICES IN FOUR COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Councilmember Scanlon abstained from voting for this item as he was involved in the proposed Day Care Facility.

Councilmember Bean gave a brief review of the Planning Commission's discussion related to this amendment.

Manager Cugini noted funding for daycare facilities was currently available and for any funding to be received for this proposed day care project, this process would need to move quickly. There was a large need for day care facilities in the area and surrounding communities.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby and supported by Councilmember Bean to adopted the proposed amendment to Ordinance 8-100 as an emergency for the addition of childcare services in four commercial districts.

Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmembers Lindsay Bean, Elizabeth Firby, and Stuart Skauge (4).

Nays: None (0). Abstain: Councilmember Pat Scanlon (1). Motion passed 4-0.

REQUEST FROM TILDEN TOWNSHIP REGARDING MUTUAL AID WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT

General Foreman Bill Anderson advised he received notification from Tilden Township that they would like to demolish the structure and cap the line which serves Tilden Township under a mutual aid agreement between the City and the Township. He further noted the Township would like to use two fire hydrants, near that location, in the event of an emergency to provide water to Tilden Township. A temporary connection on the hydrant would be set up.

Attorney Bridges stated a mutual aid agreement would be required to be on file.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to accept the request to terminate the line and authorize the Manager to work with the City Attorney to prepare a mutual aid agreement for the use of fire hydrants in the case of an emergency.

2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE PROPOSED CHANGES

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to accept the proposed changes as presented: January 4<sup>th</sup> to January 11<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup> for the 2023 meeting schedule.

DISCUSS WATER LINE FREEZE UP NOTIFICATION LETTER TO RESIDENTS

General Foreman Anderson advised this letter would be sent out to residents if the location of the freeze up in the residence required insulation or if the line needed to be buried deeper to prevent freeze-ups.

There was discussion related to the language in the letter and the current number of residences that have repeat freeze ups.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the notification letter as necessary.

CONFIRM EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO PLOW TRUCK #157

General Foreman Anderson advised plow truck #157 was damaged during the October snow event.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to confirm the repairs to Plow Truck #157 in the amount of \$3,401.59 as presented.

CONFIRM ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE OLD BELL HOSPITAL STORM SEWER PROJECT– MOYLE TRUCKING AND EXCAVATING

Manager Cugini advised as the repairs were being made to the storm sewer, breaks kept occurring further up the line. Moyle would continue to replace the storm sewer at the same price per lineal foot.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to authorize the emergency repair of the additional line at the same price per lineal fee for the storm sewer project.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Chapman would like to keep the same Council appointments to the various committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini advise he was looking into the possibility of applying for a State of Michigan Spark grant which supports projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and he would keep the Council updated.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Inventory of Playgrounds – Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street and member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, questioned why an update was not provided to the Commission.

General Foreman Bill Anderson advised the only update was CUPPAD was still working on the inventory of the various playgrounds and when that work was complete, it would be brought to both Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. He also announced there would be significant lighting enhancements to the ice rink site because UPEA purchased the lights and donations were also made for the other supplies needed for the lighting.

Manager Cugini reported the blood drive between the City of Ishpeming and City of Negaunee was awarded to Ishpeming and the trophy would be on display at the Ishpeming High School.

Councilmember Scanlon asked what the cost saving were from the new snow plow plan; questioned the status of the offer for the Water Works building; and felt there should be a blight committee meeting scheduled.

There was further discussion related to the pumphouse property, the offer currently on file, and the possibility of the County Landbank looking for property to place multi-family dwellings. Bill Anderson, Anderson Petersen Investments, advised they would pull their current offer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest 821 Maurice Street, requested a table be placed at the ice rink for skaters to put on skates; Foreman Anderson advised a table would be placed at the site.

Phil Carter, 601 N. Main Street, a new resident in Ishpeming, explained he wanted to attend a Council meeting and thanked all the Council members for there dedication and service to the community.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Bean reported the Parks and Recreation Commission was not able to get a quorum for the last few meetings but there was a special meeting scheduled and a quorum should be present; the Planning Commission was closing in on the final review of the Master Plan; and she reported five Planning Commissioners completed the Citizen Planner Training. She suggested the City offer a stipend or gift card for the Commissioners that attended training and also suggested perhaps the Planning Commission could receive a per diem.

Councilmember Scanlon recognized Pearl Harbor and all the people lost; he would like to check into the dollar amount authorized for the Manager's approval; and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Firby thanked all the volunteers that participated in the Christmas Parade and the decorating of the Santa House location and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilmember Chapman would like to hold some office hours at City Hall and he would also like to purchase some lapel pins with the City logo; the Christmas Parade was very well attended; and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He thanked Kelsey Boldt for her years of service at the City and wished her the best in her future endeavors.


MANAGER'S REPORT - Manager Cugini advised Siren was working on a proposal to bring back to Council; LSCP would be bringing a report to Council soon; there were currently vacancies at the Library, the Police Department, and DPW; reminded everyone of the visits with Santa and sleigh rides on Thursday nights; and noted it was Army Navy spirit week.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:28 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cathy Smith  
City Clerk