

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Jason Chapman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jason Chapman, Council Members Lindsay Bean, 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.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, talked about the tube slide not opening due to the lack of college student applicants to help with operations. She felt tube slide worker applications should be opened up to high school students or other individuals, not just college students to more applications would be received and the tube slide could operate.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom and in person. There was no comment.

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 (December 7th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm 2023 Publishing Source – The Mining Journal
- d. Confirm 2023 Depositories – Nicolet/Flagstar/TruNorth/First Bank/Comerica/Charles Schwab/Edward D. Jones
- e. Confirm Payment to UPSET for 2023 - \$10,000
- f. Confirm Payment to Commission on Aging for 2023 - \$9,000
- g. Appoint Torrey Dupras to vacancy on the Planning Commission: Term Expiring 11/2025
- h. Appoint Jennifer Shaw to a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals: Term Expiring 11/2023

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the monthly financial statements for the period ending December 2022. He noted he would be meeting with the auditors to make end of year adjustments.

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

RESOLUTION 1-2023: 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Finance Office Manager Erickson briefly reviewed the proposed budget amendments for 2022. The resolution also authorized the Finance Office Manager to make any other necessary amendments to the 2022 budget if it was deemed necessary.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 1-2023 to amend the 2022 budget in accordance with P.A. 621 of 1978 as presented.

RESOLUTION 2-2023: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES TO MDOT CONTRACT 22-5259

Manager Cugini advised this resolution was required authorizing signatures to the MDOT Contract 22-5259 for the irrigation system at the US 41/Lakeshore Drive roundabout.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2-2023 approving and authorizing signatures to MDOT Contract 22-5259 as presented.

There was some brief discussion related to the construction of the roundabout at Lakeshore Drive and US 41.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

a. Noquemanon Ski Marathon: January 27 and 28, 2023

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the Special Event Application for the Noquemanon Ski Marathon as presented for January 27th and 28th.

PRESENTATION: IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Carol Fulsher, Administrator of the Iron Ore Heritage Authority, gave a brief overview of accomplishments in 2022. In attendance with her was Don Britton (Chair) and Larry Bussone (Ishpeming City Representative). She advised the IOHT finished the Negaunee Township Trail Head with paved parking, vault toilet, lighting, signage, benches and a bike rack. There was pavement replacement on 1320 linear feet of the trail; new bike aggregate, grading, and rolling in Ishpeming and Tilden Township; seven interpretive signs were installed; and six additional mile markers were placed. She briefly summarized grant applications submitted and received. She also summarized their 2023 plan, which included development of a maintenance building, including equipment and maintenance personnel. She announced she would be retiring the end of 2023 so there would also be a search for a new Administrator.

There was discussion related to the speed on the ORV trails, Ely Township joining the IOHT, and placing signage on the trail for the Brasswire Campground the City would be opening in the spring. Also questioned was the lease agreement between the IOHT and the City of Negaunee to develop a campground on IOHT property in Negaunee.

PRESENTATION: LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (LSCP) YEAR-END REPORT AND 2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

Elle Jensen, Lake Superior Community Partnership, provided a report for 2022 including blight mitigation; Redevelopment Ready Communities progress; and community engagement. At this time, there were no 2023 recommendations, the LSCP would present recommendations at a future date.

Councilmember Scanlon suggested a work session be set up with the Lake Superior Community Partnership for recommendations and collaboration in setting the plan for 2023.

RECREATION PLAN UPDATE BY CUPPAD

Julia Cogger, CUPPAD, reviewed the process followed for the Recreation Plan development and adoption. A survey was the first step to receive input from the community. She reviewed the results of the survey. There was some discussion related to the responses received from the survey.

ADOPT 2023 CITY OF ISHPEMING FEE SCHEDULE

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to not increase the water and sewer rates for the City in 2023.

There was discussion related to the proposed increase from \$100 to \$225 for the refundable clean-up bond for lodge/park rentals as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The proposed increase would help to cover cost if damage occurred during the rental. It was debated whether the increase should be made to the clean-up bond or determine a method to be used to charge if damages occurred during a rental. It was suggested this be sent back to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further evaluation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to accept the proposed revisions to the fees schedule of the addition of "due in January each year" to the marijuana annual permit fee and the removal of duplicate language under the false alarm policy as presented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to send the rental rates back to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further evaluation.

DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENT OF BID PROCEDURES AND MANAGER'S AUTHORITY TO EXPEND APPROPRIATED FUNDS

City Attorney Caroline Bridges provided information on the process for amending the City Charter. In addition, she discussed either the development of an ordinance or a policy giving authorization/direction to the manager for expending appropriated funds.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to authorize the City Attorney and the City Manager to develop a policy/procedure for authorization/direction to the Manager's for expending appropriated funds.

DISCUSS ESTABLISHING A SHORT-TERM RENTAL COMMITTEE

Mayor Chapman would like to establish a committee to review/develop a policy on short-term rentals in the City of Ishpeming. Councilmember Bean advised Zoning Administrator Al Pierce had provided some work on this subject along with the Chair of the Planning Commission.

Council suggested the Planning Commission provide an actionable item to the Council prior to the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Bean talked about the tube slide and the discouragement in the community that the tube slide was going to be closed for the season; she asked about the recommendation to the Planning Commission to evaluate the opening up of Wabash Street to Malton Road. There was discussion related to the Malton Road and US 41 intersection and perhaps not having left turns. She also asked when the "State of the City" meeting would be scheduled.

Councilmember Scanlon questioned the status of the ice rink at Lake Bancroft; Manager Cugini advised the weather was not cooperating but the rink should be open soon.

Manager Cugini advised the new health insurance plan for city employees would be effective February 1st; the Brasswire Campground rates were being worked on; Channel 189 should be operating soon, however, another test was necessary; and City Hall job description for front office staff have been completed.

Manager Cugini explained Police Chief Chad Radabaugh would like to sponsor a qualified candidate through the Northern Michigan University Regional Police Academy to fill the current vacancy. Chief Radabaugh explained he would like to utilizing the MCOLES Public Safety Assistance Program to sponsor the candidate. He briefly explained the program and what was covered.

Manager Cugini reported there was possible funding through the Marquette County Land Bank for the repairs RAMBA would like to make to the roof of the Howard Oil Building that they are currently leasing from the City.

Mayor Chapman asked about the status of the grant for the live scan machine for the Police Department; Chief Radabaugh advised a new machine was approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 and advised he was still waiting for a response from the grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon advised the Gus Macker Committee had contacted him and they would like to reserve dates for the Gus Macker in May. They would be submitting the proper paperwork, but asked if Council could at least reserve the dates.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously reserve May 19-21, 2023 for the Gus Macker tournament contingent upon submittal of the formal application.

Councilmember Bean provided a handout and reviewed the implementation strategies for the goals and objectives of the Master Plan. She also advised the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the possibility of having a City sponsored bike event which would be run by a sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission with revenue from the event going back to the City for recreation. A suggested date would in 2024.

City Attorney Bridges would work with Manager Cugini and evaluate holding an event.

Mayor Chapman would like to travel to Lansing, with Manager Cugini, to meet with the legislators. He asked for Council's permission for travel and expenses.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to allow the travel and reasonable expenses to Lansing for Manager Cugini and Mayor Chapman but with a report of the meeting being submitted to Council.

Manager Cugini provided an update on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered on zoom and in person. There was no public comment.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Scanlon questioned the status of the Fire Department siren; and asked about the use of TextmyGov and the PubWorks software.

Councilmember Firby advised she was on a committee that was establishing the Ishpeming School District Hall of Excellence. She further reviewed how the nominations for the awards would be made.

Councilmember Bean and Skauge had no report.

Mayor Chapman thanked all the employees that work for the City and congratulated Manager Cugini for receiving the Tom Baldini Award.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini announced the Annual Ski Jump Competition was scheduled for 20th and 21st; and he was working with the Historical Society on the opening of the Campground and the 150th celebration.

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 Mayor Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to consider strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining agreement at 8:48 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Council Members Lindsay Bean, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 10:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Smith, City Clerk

