

***Council Proceedings, March 21, 2023
Ishpeming, MI 49849***

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Jason Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmembers Lindsay Bean, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (5). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and Attorney Caroline Bridges.

AGENDA COMMENT – Public comment was offered via Zoom and in person.

Anne Giroux, Marquette County Brownfield Authority, was present to speak under item #2.

Bill Anderson, The Mather, would like to reserve time under item #2.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, would like to reserve time under item #3.

IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL LEASE AGREEMENT – WINTHROP JUNCTION EASEMENT

Manager Cugini advised this was a proposed lease with the Iron Ore Heritage Trail for a 12' wide easement for access to the Trail from the planned parking area on land given to the IOHT. The map attachment required some changes and those change would be when Larry Bussone returned from vacation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the lease pending the final City Attorney approval and authorize the City Manager to sign.

ACT 381 BROWNFIELD PLAN – THE MATHER, 107 E. CANDA STREET, ISHPEMING

Anne Giroux, Marquette County Brownfield Authority, reviewed the process followed for a Brownfield Plan. She advised the City Council would be required to adopt a resolution and this would be presented at the April Council meeting; however, the County Board would officially adopt the plan. Since the building is located in the TIF district, the Plan also required DDA approval, and the DDA would need to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Brownfield Authority.

She further reviewed various sections of the Plan including the time from of the Plan. She noted that the developers would not be fully reimbursed for this parking structure, there was an approximate \$600,000 gap. Parking structures do not generate revenue which makes the Plan more challenging.

Bill Anderson explained the type of parking structure that was proposed and discussed the design.

SIREN – STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT

Manager Cugini explained Council approved moving forward with the project at the last meeting. Adel Piper, Siren, was in attendance to provide and review the final copy of the contract.

Council went into recess at 5:51 p.m. to have copies made of the contract. Council returned from recess at 5:59 p.m.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, expressed her concerns with the dollar amount of \$9,000/month for the Siren contract and on top of that the Lake Superior Community Partnership contract of \$50,000/year. She felt the streets were in the worst shape ever and funds should be spent elsewhere. She also expressed her concerns with the Council not having the opportunity to read the contract before voting since the copies were just made.

Councilmember Bean felt all the discussion comments had been included in this contract. She also noted she had spoken with various city residents and has received no negative comments related to the Siren contract.

There was discussion related to the return on investment with signing the contract with Siren. Attorney Caroline Bridges advised in the Council packet there was an attorney-client privileged communication that could be discussed in closed session if that was the desire of Council.

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A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Firby to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) to consider materials exempt from discussion or disclosure at 6:11 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 6:44 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to sign the contract with Siren pending further legal review.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:46 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Skauge, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cathy Smith", written in dark ink.

Cathy Smith
City Clerk