

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

Mayor Chapman read a statement explaining snow removal and the various complaints received.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, thanked Councilmember Scanlon for making the motion and Council for supporting the motion to not raise the water and sewer rates in the City for 2023; she felt the Siren Communications contract should not have been approved and the dollars should go towards Union wage increases and roads; she expressed her concerns with snowplowing; and felt the Manager should not be given a bonus.

Karen Kasper, 111 Bluff Street, gave a brief history of the City of Ishpeming and noted on April 10, 1873 the legislature of the State of Michigan granted the Village of Ishpeming their Charter for the City of Ishpeming. She announced the Historical Society would be having a business after hours at the Gossard on April 10, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mike Tall, 135 Hillcrest Drive, asked Council and staff if the accumulation of water and the pot holes on Steel Street could be looked into by the City.

John Schooler, 772 Michigan Street, advised he had numerous conversations about snow removal with the City Manager and further expressed his concerns and complaints with the snow removal, the snow plan, and the clearing of roads. He further felt the Manager should not received a bonus.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Firby added the closed session minutes of March 21st to the consent agenda.

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

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom and in person.

Bill Anderson, Anderson Peterson Investments, reserved comment under the Brownfield Plan for The Mather.

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 (March 8th, 21st, 29th, and closed session March 21st and 29th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Declare 167 Library Books and one black T-shaped wire rack as surplus
- d. Confirm appointment of Daniel Morgan-Heredia to a vacancy on the DDA: Term expiring 7/2023

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson reviewed the monthly financial statements for the period ending March 2023.

Councilmember Scanlon requested the difference be noted on the balance sheet in the future.

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

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

Jeff Hawkins, Fishbeck, reviewed the Brownfield Plan for The Mather and explained how the Brownfield Plan worked in conjunction with the Tax Increment Financing District. He advised the Ishpeming City Council would need to approve the Plan by resolution and the Plan would then move to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Logan Mulholland, Fishbeck, provided a project overview and reviewed the eligible activities and estimated outcomes of the Brownfield Plan.

Manager Cugini advised the DDA was in favor of the Plan and signed the Interlocal Agreement between the DDA and the Brownfield Authority on Monday, April 3rd.

Mayor Bean advised this was also reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission.

a. Resolution #7-2023, Adoption of Brownfield Plan

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #7-2023, Adoption of the Brownfield Plan as presented.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A PROPOSED ACCESS EASEMENT LYING WEST OF MALTON ROAD

Manager Cugini reviewed the request for the access easement west of Malton Road.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to move forward with the access easement for a lump sum price of \$1,000 with both parties agreeing that the parcels shall not be sold individually, that the easement is for residential access purposes, limited to the single, existing residence, and the current driveway from New York Street will be maintained; also the location of the easement will be depicted on the survey drawing which will reflect the legal description; and authorize the Manager or the Mayor to sign the agreement and easement.

CONSIDER THE VACATION OF ALLEY BETWEEN LOT 85 AND LOT 86 OF CLEVELAND IRON COMPANY'S ADDITION AND CONSIDER SALE OF LOT 85

Attorney Caroline Bridges reviewed the process for the vacation of alley and the proposed sale of the lot.

Motion was made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to vacate the ally between lot 85 an 86 and sell the enlarged lot 85 to the Ishpeming Public Schools for a playground that will be open and available to the public for use when the school does not have activities scheduled; the City may continue to use a portion of the lot for snowplowing/storage; the school will construct and maintain the playground/sports courts and will refrain from constructing any fence which will affect plowing or street maintenance; the school will pay \$1.00 for the enlarged lot because of providing the playground for public use; and, authorize the Manager or the Mayor to sign the agreement and the deed.

ISHPEMING CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Library Director Jesse Shirtz highlighted some of the statistics outlined in the report and noted the summer reading program was a huge success with over 1,000 participants in an 8-week program.

PLANNING COMMISSION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Councilmember Bean reviewed and highlighted some of the items in the 2022 Planning Commission Annual Report.

REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURES, POLICY #601

After some brief discussion, it was the consensus for Council to review the rule and procedures and bring back comment/suggestions to the May 3rd meeting. Attorney Bridges advised there were some suggested revisions from staff that would also be included.

AMENDMENT OF POLICY 118, REGULAR PART-TIME EMPLOYEE BENEFITS POLICY

Manager Cugini advised the amendments were just to clarify the language under the section of vacation time accrual.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to Policy 118 Regular Part-time Employee Benefits Policy as presented.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 2-300, BREACH OF PEACE, DISORDERLY PERSONS, AND MISDEMEANORS

Chief of Police Chad Radabaugh reviewed the proposed amendment to Ordinance 2-300 which included language pertaining to open intoxicants.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of amendment to Ordinance #2-300 as presented.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 2-400, FIREWORKS

Chief of Police Radabaugh reviewed the proposed amendment to Ordinance 2-400 and advised the suggested changes corresponded with State law.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of amendment to Ordinance #2-400 as presented.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2-1300, ANTI-CAMPING ORDINANCE

Chief of Police Radabaugh reviewed the proposed new ordinance and explained this ordinance was being created because of situations that have occurred with people setting up camp in various location in Ishpeming where camping is not permitted.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2-1300 as presented.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 5-1400, PARKING AND STORAGE OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Chief of Police Radabaugh reviewed the proposed ordinance and explained the Police Department had received many complaints regarding recreation vehicle parked on the road that were causing safety issues and traffic hazards. He advised this was the first reading of the first draft of this new proposed ordinance so he was looking for suggestions and/or revisions of any of the language.

There was discussion related to the section pertaining to parking and storage in front or side yards and it was felt that some language should be revise. Also discussed was the section pertaining to parking the rear yard as well as the language in the Section 1409 pertaining to using the vehicle for lodging.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of Ordinance 5-1400 as presented.

AWARD PURCHASE OF 24 MOTOROLA RADIOS AND CHARGES FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS: FIRE DEPARTMENT FEMA GRANT

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to direct the Fire Chief to award the purchase of 24 Motorola radios and chargers to Motorola Solutions for a total price of \$139,071 and the additional \$6,000 programming fee.

CONSIDER PROPOSED FIRE FIGHTER PAY INCREASE

Manager Cugini reviewed the comparable wages for fire fighters and summarized the proposed wage increase. The proposed increase for all fire fighters was an increase to the hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour.

Adjustments to the addition pay included no adjustment for the Fire Chief; Deputy Chiefs would increase from \$155 per month to \$200 per month, and Lieutenants would increase from \$105 per month to \$125 per month.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the proposed fire fighter wage increases as presented.

PROPOSED 2023 FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Councilmember Bean reviewed the discussions that took place at the Parks and Recreation Commission and their decision was to remain with the initial proposal of the refundable clean-up bond for rentals being set at \$225 and one rental rate for both residents and non-residents for the Gazebo, Ballfields and Al Quaal Bathrooms set at \$85 and the additional hour for the ballfield set at \$15.

There was some brief discussion related to the rentals and the refundable clean-up bond and the increase to the clean-up bond to help defray costs if there was damage during the rental.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby to approve the rate increase as presented by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ayes: Councilmembers Bean, Scanlon, and Firby (3). Nays: Mayor Chapman and Councilmember Skauge (2). Motion passed 3-2.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: POTENTIAL FUNDING GREAT LAKES SPORTS COMMISSION

General Foreman Bill Anderson explained the potential funding from the Great Lakes Sports Commission and he would like to continue discussions with the Great Lakes Sports Commission for possible funding to enhance the facilities at Al Quaal.

There was further discussion related to the need for a groomer at Al Quaal and the cost of replacement. Council provided support to continue working with the Great Lake Sports Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Firby asked if there would be another employee survey sent out; she felt it would be useful to get feedback from the employees. Mayor Chapman also felt this was good idea, and noted it had been requested. He would work with Mayor Pro Tem Firby to prepare a survey.

Councilmember Bean explained her reasoning, when she was Mayor, for sending out the first employee survey, but felt she made a mistake at that time. After much thought, she no longer supported conducting an employee survey. She added employee surveys are often handled by a third parties who would then be responsible for keeping the survey anonymous. She requested examples of a municipalities where the Council or Commission conducted an employee survey.

Councilmember Scanlon also expressed his concerns with sending out another employee survey. He would like to hear justification for doing the survey and what information it would bring back to the Council.

After some discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Firby and Mayor Chapman would develop a plan for an employee survey and present it at the June Council meeting.

Councilmember Scanlon questioned why the City charged for water after a structure fire; General Foreman Anderson explained when rural development funds are received there was a requirement for a ready to serve charge for each parcel.

Manager Cugini reviewed the proposed trip report format. Mayor Chapman and Manager Cugini gave a brief summary of the various meetings they attended while in Lansing. There was also some discussion related to available grant funding and the application process.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini advised he was working with Kurt Gronvall from Globe Printing to prepare the 150th logo for the City of Ishpeming. He announced the business after hours at the Gossard on the City's birthday, April 10th from 5-7 p.m.

Manager Cugini introduce the new City Treasurer - Grant Getschow.

Mayor Chapman read into the record the Proclamation for the Worker's Memorial Day.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Firby carried unanimously to adopt the Proclamation for the Worker's Memorial Day as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered on zoom and in person.

John Schooler, 772 Michigan Street, played a voice mail that he received from Manager Cugini.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, felt instead of an employee survey Council should consider conducting a City resident survey.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, submitted a petition pertaining to snowplowing in the City of Ishpeming. He expressed his concerns with the plowing and the ruts from the slush on the City streets and alleys; he also questioned the snow plowing plan. He stated he had plowed the alley behind his house many times during the year; and would be back at future council meetings.

Michael Murphy, 1220 North Third Street, he was interested in opening a business similar to the Lodge Coffee that was in Ishpeming and questioned tax incentives.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Firby and Councilmember Skauge did not have a report.

Councilmember Scanlon felt a work session of Council related to the snow plan should be scheduled. There was discussion related to holding a work session or a special meeting. Councilmember Bean suggested the action items from the back of the Master Plan could also be discussed at the special meeting. It was further felt this meeting would include Department Heads. Discussion followed among Council, Staff, and the City Attorney related to a work session versus a special meeting.

The City Attorney would review the request for a meeting and determine if the meeting should be a work session or a special Council meeting.

Councilmember Scanlon requested snow removal be placed on the May 3rd agenda.

Mayor Chapman felt a plan for how Council and staff respond to complaints should be addressed; he advised he plowed four streets in the City during the last storm; his truck was damaged from hitting pot holes; he felt the City needed to get this right, however, he felt staff did a great job; and he directed staff to never hang up the phone on residents.

Councilmember Bean provided a statement on snow plowing and felt it was very easy for everyone to say how it should be done. She further stated if there were problem areas, it would need to be determined what the problems were and why there were occurring.

MANAGER'S REPORT -There was no report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon and supported by Councilmember Firby to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) to consider personnel evaluation requested by the City Manager at 8:20 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Council Members Lindsay Bean, Elizabeth Firby, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skaug (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 9:47 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:48 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk