

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, May 3 2023, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Firby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Firby, Council Members Lindsay Bean, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (arrived at 6:22 p.m.) (4). Absent: Mayor Jason Chapman (1). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

Mayor Pro Tem Firby announced Council would be postponing a few of the items on the agenda due to technical difficulties with televising the meeting.

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

Kurt Kipling, 654 Teal Lake Road, talked about the plowing situation behind the Huron Mountain Bread Company and about plowing during the recent snow event. He felt DPW should be given more hours to clear roads during a snow event. He would also like another letter sent to Huron Mountain Bread Company directing them to not plow snow from their parking lot down onto Teal Lake Road.

John Schooler, 772 Michigan Street, expressed his concerns with the pot holes around town that were not being taken care of; he presented a tire that was damaged from a pot hole; and discussed the patching of pot holes by DPW.

Scott Willey 508 N. Main Street and owner of Willey's Tire Shop, talked about communication with Council and action not being taken.

Cheryl and Bob Marietti, 508 E. North Street, thanked Mayor Chapman for arranging town hall meetings at the Senior Center and felt the interaction was very helpful; they also advised a letter was sent to the City Manager notifying they would no longer be providing the upkeep on Heiden Park but would continue to work on the Ishpeming Heritage Plaza area.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, thanked Mayor Chapman for the town hall meetings at the Senior Center; and expressed her concerns with short term rentals.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, was disappointed with the alley behind his house on Third Street not getting plowed during the last snow event. He spent many hours plowing the alley as that is the only access to their homes the residents have in that location. He briefly summarized the petition he circulated and responses he received.

Clint Collick, 412 E. High Street, discussed his concerns with the plowing and the man hole covers that were pulled up from plowing not being fixed; he also questioned the number of plates missing on the bottom of the street lights; and discussed some blighted properties.

Max McPherson, 426 E. High Street, expressed his concern with the alley not being plowed and since this was the access for their vehicles he would like DPW to plow this alley routinely; he discussed the proposed ordinance related to parking and storage of recreational vehicles; and concurred with past comments regarding pot holes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to amend the agenda and postpone the second readings of Ordinance 2-300, 2-400, and 2-1300, the discussion related to Council Rules, and the draft snow plow plan until the June regular Council meeting.

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

AGENDA COMMENT – Agenda comment was offered though Zoom and in person. There was none.

**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 (April 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and Closed April 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Declare 105 Library Books as surplus
- d. Reappoint Elyse Bertucci to a 5-year term on the Library Board: Term Expiring 5/2028
- e. Reappoint Edmund Holmgren, Jane Hendrick, and Claudia Demarest to the Parks and Recreation Commission with terms expiring 5/2026

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT**

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

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

**PRESENTATION: ASHLEY ROBERTS-ISHPEMING SENIOR CENTER**

Ashely Roberts, Center Director, gave a brief update for the Ishpeming Senior Center. She advised their service area covers all the Townships on the West End; they continue to provide case worker services such as assistance with paperwork, reaching out to agencies, transportation, connections with the Meals-on-Wheels program; and also provide many activities to the Seniors. The Center will also continue to work with Mayor Chapman for providing coffee with the City Mayor located at the Senior Center.

**SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS AND PARADE PERMITS**

Ishpeming Fire Department Parade Permit: June 4, 2023 – A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the parade permit application for the Fire Department as presented.

Ishpeming Historical Society 2023 Cemetery Tours: June 30<sup>th</sup> through August 29<sup>th</sup> – A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the special event application for Cemetery Tours as presented.

St. Rocco/St. Anthony Society: Italian Fest: July 29<sup>th</sup> and Parade Permit July 30<sup>th</sup> - A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the special event application for Italian Fest as presented.

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO ADOPT POLICY #418  
PARK RENTAL POLICY**

Councilmember Bean explained the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adopt Policy #418 Park Rental Policy as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**MERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN ADOPTION AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

Manager Cugini explained this was necessary to make the adjustment for the employer contribution as agreed to during Collective Bargaining with AFSCME for the Defined Contribution Plan from 10% to 11%.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the amendment to the MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement making the change from 10% to 11% as presented.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM DPW EMPLOYEE TO PURCHASE MERS SERVICE CREDIT

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the request from a DPW employee to purchase MERS service credit and authorize the Manager to sign the necessary paperwork.

ANDERSON TACKMAN AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER AND COMMUNICATION LETTER

Finance Office Manager Erickson reviewed the scope of services to conduct the audit for the City which was required to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to accept the Audit Engagement Letter and Communication Letter from Anderson Tackman for the 2022 audit and authorize the Manager and the Mayor to sign.

OLD BUSINESS – There was none.

NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

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

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, expressed his concerns with the proposed ordinance for parking and storage of recreational vehicles and noted when speaking to the general public he hears complaints that City Hall does not care and does not listen.

Clint Collick, 412 High Street, expressed his concerns with the proposed ordinance for parking and storage of recreational vehicles, and, he felt trailers should be allowed to be parked in the yard and be used by family.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street and member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, questioned the PFAS at the Brasswire Campground; asked why the City does not use pavers after repairing roads after water leaks; would like to know when Channel 189 would be up and running again; and asked who cleans at City Hall.

Bob Marietti, 508 E. North Street, expressed his concerns with short term rentals in the City.

John Schooler, 772 Michigan Street, expressed his concerns with the proposed ordinance for parking and storage of recreational vehicles.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Scanlon talked about the proposed Ordinance for the parking and storage of recreational vehicles; he felt the only time residents attended a meeting was to complain-no one ever attended to take about the good things happening in the City. He added Council does listen and does care about the community or they would not want to hold a Council seat.

Councilmember Bean reported the Planning Commission had begun discussions related to short term rentals and information would be forthcoming; however, the process does take time. She added as a member of Council she wanted to sit on Council because she does care about the community and wants to be part of continually making it a better place.

MANAGER'S REPORT -

Manager Cugini thanked the Marietti's for all their efforts in keeping Heiden Park beautiful along the Ishpeming Heritage Plaza area.

City Clerk Cathy Smith reported the election yesterday went very good even with the weather however, the weather caused a low voter turnout. She also advised the City was always looking for election workers, and since 2024 will be a big election year, if anyone was interested in being an election worker please contact City Hall for an application.

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 Bean to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) to consider personnel evaluation requested by the City Manager and to include City Treasurer Grant Getschow and Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson at 7:18 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Firby, Council Members Lindsay Bean, Pat Scanlon, and Stuart Skauge (4). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 4-0.

Returned to open session at 8:06 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to concluded the annual City Manager evaluation for 2022 with a positive outcome and to move forward with the full bonus payment as specified in the Manager's contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to revise the evaluation instrument and remove the goal criteria and the goal questions and add additional measures of performance in Section Three for a total of five (5) criteria; and in addition, the Mayor will be the Councilmember to compile the performance evaluations on an annual basis.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:09 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Skauge and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith  
City Clerk