

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, July 12, 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, and Pat Scanlon (4). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

Appointment to the vacancy on the City Council

Councilmember Bean felt the initial timeline to apply was very short, particularly with the holiday.

There was discussion related to the City Charter, if this was a violation, and the timeline for extending and filling the vacancy. Attorney Bridges felt it was reasonable to extend for two weeks. Councilmember Scanlon noted he had other residents express interest in applying but were not available during the holiday.

Mayor Chapman felt the three candidates that had submitted the necessary paperwork were very qualified candidates, but also felt 30 days to fill a vacancy when a councilmember passes away was very fast.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to accept the three nominating petitions and affidavits of identity that have been received from Adrian Abbott, Renelle Meiers-Halverson, and Mike Tonkin, and, extend the timeline for submitting nominating petitions for an additional 14 days with a special meeting being scheduled to appoint the new member of Council.

It was the consensus of Council to schedule a special meeting on Wednesday, August 2nd at 5:00 p.m. with petitions due on the July 27th at 4:00 p.m. Candidates would be requested to attend the special meeting to speak and to answer any questions Council may have. The three candidates that have submitted nominating petition would not need to resubmit any paperwork.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, read from the City Charter the sentence pertaining to an appointment to a vacancy on Council. She felt the City Council disrespected the three candidates that submitted their petitions on time as required; she asked when the Brasswire Campground would open and the status of the testing of the wells at the campground; questioned when Channel 189 would be up and running; asked when the corrections needed on Empire Street would be completed; when 7th Street would be paved where the water leak occurred; and asked why residents were not allowed to attend the Blight Resource Group meeting.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, stated he was at a loss of words; was very disappointed because three applicants obtained the required signatures and Council failed to appoint; he noted the City Charter and felt Council's action were in violation of the language.

Renelle Halverson, 605 Park Street, has resided in the City for 35 years; she advised she followed the process and completed the signatures and affidavit the day the petitions were due; she felt it was very unfair to wait when the three applicants were timely in responding to the deadline; she was very disappointed, felt it was a bad decision; and noted she would very much like to serve on the City Council.

Mary Farmer, 415 S. Lake Street, lived near the St. Joseph's Church site and commended the Company that did the demolition as they did a wonderful job; and advised the problem now was that residents were bringing their dogs to the area to run.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to add a new business item, "Case Loader Repair by Miller Bradford" before Old Business and approve the agenda as amended.

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

Jon Becker, Ore to Shore Organizer, Brian Billings, representing Cal's Journey, and Dereck Lindstrom, Marquette Marathon, were all present to answer any questions related to their special event applications.

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 (June 7th, June 14th and June 21st)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Reappoint Jim Bertucci to a 5-year term on the Cemetery Board: Term Expiring 5/2028
- d. Reappoint Daniel Morgan-Heridia to a 4-year term on the DDA: Term Expiring 5/2027
- e. Declare 292 library books as surplus
- f. Declare John Voelker Law Books as surplus and donated to the Ishpeming Area Historical Society

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow reviewed the monthly financial statements for the period ending June 2023 and further reviewed and explained the balances in the various funds.

Audit Update – Finance Director Getschow advised the City received an audit extension due to the staff turnover in the Finance Office; therefore, the 2022 audit was now due on July 31, 2023.

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

BLIGHT UPDATE FROM RACHEL RAAK-LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (LSCP)

Rachel Raak, Economic Development Coordinator, reported her primary responsibility would be to meet all contract deliverables and was very excited to work with the City.

Chris Germain, LSCP, provided an update on the Blight Resource Group meeting that was held on June 27th noting the group included City Officials as well as other resource organizations. He further noted with the sensitivity of the information being discussed in this Resource Group there would be no member from the general public included in the Resource Group.

Manager Cugini provided a brief update on the demolitions that have taken place in the City by the Marquette County Land Bank and also pointed out two new homes that have been constructed by the Land Bank on sites where blighted structures were demolished.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ore to Shore Mountain Bike Epic: August 12, 2023

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to approve the Ore to Shore Mountain Bike Epic to be held on August 12, 2023 as presented.

Swim Teal Lake: July 29, 2023

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the Swim Teal Lake event on July 29, 2023 as presented.

Cal's Journey to support ALS: August 19, 2023

Brian Billings, organizer of Cal's (Kevin) Journey, advised this event was in support of the Carlson family as Kevin battles ALS; this event would be a fun run and there were approximately 150 participants to date; the event would start at 10 am and conclude about 2 pm with registration taking place at the Al Quaal Pavilion. It would be run similar to the Fire Cracker Race. He noted it was very important to Kevin and his family to have the event in Ishpeming.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, support Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve Cal's Journey event on August 19, 2023 as presented.

Marquette Marathon: September 2, 2023

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon, and carried unanimously to approve the Marquette Marathon on September 2, 2023 as presented.

Buzz the Gut: August 12, 2023

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Buzz the Gut on August 12, 2023 as presented.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 2-500, REGULATING THE PRESENCE OF MINORS UNDER AGE 16 IN PUBLIC STREETS AND OTHER PLACES IN THE CITY OF ISHPEMING DURING CERTAIN HOURS

Chief Chad Radabaugh reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of amendment to Ordinance 2-500, Regulating the Presence of Minors Under Age 16 In Public Streets and Other Places in the City of Ishpeming during certain hours as presented.

EMERGENCY READING OF ORDINANCE 11-2500, BOND ORDINANCE FOR THE CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

Manager Cugini indicated in order to keep the bond process moving, this Ordinance would need to be adopted under an emergency reading.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adopt under an emergency reading Ordinance 11-2500, Bond Ordinance for Clean Water State Revolving Fund as presented.

RESOLUTION #10-2023, TO TENTATIVELY AWARD A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR WASTE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Manager Cugini reviewed the bids that were received for the project.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #10-2023, to Tentatively Award a Construction Project for Wastewater System Improvements as presented with the project being awarded to Payne and Dolan.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2023 FEE SCHEDULE

Manager Cugini reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2023 Fee Schedule which included an amendment to the fees for the West End Transfer Station and an amendment to the charge for a meter for water not entering the sanitary sewer system.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the proposed amendments to the 2023 Fee Schedule as presented.

APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE CITY OF ISHPEMING REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY ON THE CENTRAL DISPATCH POLICY BOARD

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to table this appointment until the Council vacancy was filled; and authorize Mayor Chapman to attend the meetings in the interim.

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TRAVEL TO GAYLORD JULY 27-29, 2023 FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT "RURAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT"

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the City Manager's travel as requested.

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

There was discussion related to the proposed changes to Policy 601 Council Rules. Councilmember Scanlon felt the changes were acceptable and he agreed with them.

Attorney Bridges advised also included in the cover memo were a couple of items for Council to consider adding to the Policy. Councilmember Scanlon and Mayor Chapman agreed with the additional items which included taking a break approximately 1-2 hour into a meeting if desired; extending the meeting past 10:00 p.m. if necessary or recessing and scheduling a meeting to reconvene; adding a section on the website to place new and amended ordinances; and place public comment at the end of a special meeting agenda with a three-minute limit.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to Policy #601 as presented.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM: CASE LOADER REPAIRS BY MILLER-BRADFORD AND RISBERG

General Foreman Bill Anderson explained the necessary repairs that were needed on Loader 305.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the repairs to Loader 305 as requested in the amount of \$10,141.91 to be paid for from the Motor Pool Fund.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Scanlon questioned why a temporary homeless shelter was set up at St. John's KD Hall. It was his understanding that individuals were getting dropped off at the MarqTran bus stop to spend the night at the temporary homeless shelter and he did not feel this was appropriate and should not be done in the City. He also noted it was his understanding that the Mayor had advised the Diocese that it was ok.

Mayor Chapman felt homelessness was a problem county-wide and felt there should be a joint effort to help with the problem. He briefly summarized his discussions with the Diocese.

Chief Radabaugh gave a brief outline of the timeline of the evens from when the temporary center opened. He contacted St. John's and asked that the shelter be closed with one of the reasons being the number of complaints received by the Police Department. He advised he was not against shelters, however, there had to be enough staff to monitor the facility.

There was further discussion among staff and Council related to the temporary shelter and it was felt due to the number of calls received by the Police Department staff should reach out to St. John's asking that the temporary shelter be shut down.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager to work with the Chief of Police on the closure of the temporary homeless shelter at St. John's KD and advise Council of the discussions.

Manager Cugini advised Channel 189 was up and running, however, after the recent electrical storm, there was another technical issue; he provided an update on the Brasswire Campground which included development of the website and reservation system along with an update on the results of the water testing at the site; he announced the Fire Hall open house would be held on Wednesday, July 26th from 10-4 p.m.; and provided an update on the playground assessments.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini advised UPEA was scheduled to meet with the contractor to review the punch list items in regards to the Empire Street project; there was an upcoming meeting with EGLE on July 20th to review some of the water challenges the City is facing and a tour of the Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority and the Waste Water Treatment Plant were planned; on July 25th EGLE would be meeting with Partridge Creek regarding the Compost grant; and Representative Jen Hill's office had reached out to schedule a meeting to continue discussions on possible City funding. He also reminded residents that there was a community engagement survey available online, at City Hall, the Senior Center, and on Facebook for anyone interested.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, felt Council did not like the three applicants for the Council vacancy; and also felt it was a violation of the City Charter.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, was disappointed that Council did not make an appointment from the three applications received for the vacancy; and he was upset regarding comments made to the Mayor by other Councilmembers.

Bill Anderson, Co-Owner of Anderson-Peterson Investments and co-owner of the Mather Inn, reported he has noticed an influx of people utilizing their outdoor seating areas since the temporary homeless shelter has been in place.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Firby thanked the Fourth of July Committee for all the events on July 1st, and the Committee was looking for any public input on future events.

Councilmember Scanlon thanked Jesse Melcori from Gwinn for pulling the Fire Department hose cart with her horses in the parade.

Councilmember Bean informed Council that at the last Parks and Recreation Commission it was moved to reduce the number of members from 9 to 7 since there were two current vacancies and further advised that an ordinance was being developed by staff and Attorney Bridges and would be brought back to Council at a later meeting; she advised Al Quaal was in need of a new piston bully to groom the trails and funding was being sought; and reported Brice Sturmer from Melo was in attendance at the Planning Commission meeting and he reported his businesses have been drawing customers from Marquette and he asked the Planning Commission to consider incorporating additional license types to the Ordinance.

Mayor Chapman welcomed new the Pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church; there was a great attendance at the showing of Anatomy of a Murder; announced his next coffee hour would be held on July 28th at the Ishpeming Senior Center; he expressed his sorrow with the loss of Councilmember Stuart Skaug; and added Festival of Treasures was very well attended.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini reported he was still in discussions with the company regarding the Pothole Killer; he thanked Karen Kasper for her efforts with the 150th celebration; wagon horse tours were scheduled in September; the Southshore Fishing Association will be holding their annual veterans fishing day again; he announced the startup of the Lakeshore/US 41 Roundabout; and he thanked Ishpeming Community Events for all their efforts including the Festival of Treasures and Music in the Park.

General Foreman Anderson advised DPW was in the process of preparing the water leak areas for blacktop; however, there was a shortage of materials which delayed the patching; patching would now begin next week.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Firby supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk