

Council Proceedings, August 2, 2023
Ishpeming, MI 49849

The special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Jason Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:00 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, support by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to move the public comment up on the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the agenda incorporating placing public comment following the approval of the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, read her letter to the editor that was in the Mining Journal on August 1st; she strongly felt there was a Charter violation by extending the deadline and further felt Council should not consider the additional two applicants, the selection should be made from the first three that filed.

Ann Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, was very concerned over the appointment to the vacant Council seat. She reviewed the process outlined in the Charter and further expressed concern over the extension of the deadline. She felt the selection should be made from the first three applicants.

Kurt Kipling, 654 Teal Lake Road, questioned if there was a problem with not selecting from the first three applicants that met the initial deadline and if there was anything put in writing as to why.

Meredith Seppanen, 619 N. Sixth Street, was one of the applicants that applied after the deadline and her only reason for not submitting at the first deadline was lack of confidence. She would very much like to sit on Council and help to continue to move the City forward.

Renelle Halverson, 655 Park Street, was happy to be present again. She obtained her signatures the day they were due and was still looking for a legitimate reason for not being considered for the appointment at the first meeting and why the three applicants were not acceptable. She felt the extension was in violation of the City Charter.

Raymond Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, felt the City Council violated the Charter on the 150th anniversary of the City and he urged Council to vote only for the three people that initially applied.

APPOINTMENT TO THE VACANCY ON THE ISHPEMING CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Chapman advised he spoke with other attorneys and their opinion was that the word "shall" in the Charter meant "must".

Councilmember Bean explained her interpretation of the language in the Charter and her reasoning for agreeing to the extension of the deadline. The pool of applicants was increased which was good for the residents of the City of Ishpeming and there was a high standard for the Council to fill this vacancy since it was a Council appointment versus an election. The new deadline was within 30 days from the first regular meeting where the seat would have been vacant.

Councilmember Bean indicated she would like to ask the questions that were planned for all the candidates and hear why they would like to be on Council; noting the public would also have the opportunity to hear their responses; which would be similar to the process when candidates run for an election.

Councilmember Chapman felt the selection should be limited to the original three applicants.

Council Proceedings, August 2, 2023
Ishpeming, MI 49849

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman to appoint Renelle Halverson to the vacancy on the City Council. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmembers Pat Scanlon and Elizabeth Firby (3). Nays: Councilmember Lindsay Bean (1). Motion passed 3-1.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:45 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon supported by Councilmember Firby 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