

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, August 9, 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, Renelle Halverson and Pat Scanlon (5). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

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

Dan Perkins, Partridge Creek Farms, thanked the City Council for entering into a partnership with Partridge Creek Farms for the composting grant. He commended the team at City Hall for all their efforts in obtaining grant funding for the City, and particularly thanked Manager Cugini for all his efforts in applying for grants.

Jeff DeGabriele, 413 Vine Street, expressed his opinion with the City Charter not being followed; with some council members being out of order at council meetings, the snow plow discussion being tabled; and the process followed to fill the vacancy on the City Council.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, congratulated Renelle Halverson; read the section of the City Charter related to the City Manager position; thanked the Cemetery employees for keeping the Cemetery looking good; questioned the appointment of a substitute attorney as required by the City Charter; questioned the monthly financial statement presented to the Council; and questioned the turnover in the Finance Office and noted she felt it was a management problem; read the purchasing section of the Charter; and asked why the Council liaisons were not attending the Cemetery Board and Library Board meetings.

Sarah Trumbley, 402 Marquette Street, welcomed Renelle Halverson, express her support for the development of a skate park; she was glad that the City welcomed bikers, hikers, and snowmobilers and felt with all the wonderful trails and parks in the City it enticed many people to move to Ishpeming. She noted in the past several years, the City has built a new senior center, invested in roads and parks, and built a campground. She also advised that she was the City Treasurer and left City employment for health reasons. The City Manager and Council respected her privacy, however since it was brought up in public comment tonight, she wanted to clear the up any rumors.

John Schooler, 772 Michigan Street, was upset up the denial of his insurance claim with regards to damage to his motorcycle.

Todd Kauppinen, 409 S. Third Street , gave a brief history and explanation of the problems with flooding that have been occurring at his property. He asked the City to take necessary steps to resolve this situation. He suggested curbs be installed to direct the water to the storm drain. He has placed sandbags around his property which is helping his situation and also helping some of the neighbors.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, congratulated Councilmember Halverson, asked when it was decided the City Charter would not be followed; at the next meeting he would have a list of Charter violations; and expressed concern over the condition of the sidewalks in the City.

May Tsupros, 525 Main Street, welcomed Councilmember Halverson. He listened to the comments made this evening and shared her full and complete support for the Skate Park and the Community Center Grant. She stated she understood the need to follow the Charter and further understands the importance of infrastructure improvements, roads maintenance, and snow removal, however, she also felt it was necessary to prioritizing the connection of our youth and seniors as they are the life blood of a community; the community needs to come together and entice people to move to the City of Ishpeming.

Kathy Schooler, shared that her father worked for the City for 33 years, and suggested the City provide activities to for the kids at Al Quaal and the playgrounds similar to what was done many years ago.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Chapman read a statement into the record related to the 2023 Budget Amendments and recommended the amendments be moved to the regular September Council meeting due to the number of corrections that were needed.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman supported by Member Scanlon and carried unanimously to move Item 9: 2023 Budget Amendments to the regular September Council meeting.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, requested time to speak under item #20. Authorization to Apply for A Michigan Community Center Grant.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (July 12th and August 2nd)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm Resolution #2023-11 to Vacate Ally between Lot 85 and 86 Cleveland Iron Co. Add.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow advised there were a number of accounting issues within the budget which stemmed from the large turnover in the Finance Department. The prior Finance Office Manager had a lack of accounting training, so he was working on making the necessary corrections. This is why the budget amendments have been moved to September 2023. He reviewed the budget report through July 2023.

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

Confirm special Council meeting for Audit Presentation on August 16.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to confirm the special council meeting for Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLANS

a. Senior Center Construction Fund – Finance Director Getschow advised this deficit plan was necessary due to timing issues of reimbursement requests.

b. Sewer Project Fund 2023 – CWSRF Grant – Finance Director Getschow advised this deficit plan was due to the timing of payment related to the bond for the sewer project.

c. Brasswire Campground Fund – Finance Director Getschow advised this plan was necessary due to no revenues received from the campground to date because of the delayed opening. This deficit plan was for three years, which at that point, there should be a surplus in the fund.

Manager Cugini provided an update on the campground and reported the website was now live, the pump wells were tested and certified from the State, and the dumpsters were delivered today.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean and supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to accept the three Deficit Elimination Plans as presented.

Manager Cugini provided an update on the timeline for the purchase of the bonds for the CWSRF Sewer Project. The contract must be signed by August 28th. He suggested Council confirm support of the CWSRF Sewer Project and authorize the purchase of the bonds.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean and supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to confirm support of the CWSRF Sewer Project and purchase of the bonds.

SPECIAL EVENTS

UP Cross

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to support the UP Cross special event application as presented.

906 Adventure Team- Marji Gesick

Manager Cugini advised there was no one in attendance for the Marji Gesick because Todd Poquette and Tara Gluski both had a conflict with their schedule. He advised this event would be the same as in previous years and he recommended support.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to support the 906 Adventure Team – Marji Gesick event as presented.

4-H SUMMER DAY CAMP

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to support the special event application for the 4-H Summer Day Camp as presented.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO POLICY 115: NON-UNION EMPLOYEES POLICY

a. Proposed wage increases for full-time non-union staff

Manager Cugini reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 115, Non-Union Employees Policy and advised some of the changes were to keep benefits in line and continue the goal of standardizing across the workforce such as the Post Employment Health Plan and MERS Defined Contribution amounts. The other changes were requests from the non-union staff which he agreed with. The proposed increase was 5% upon approval and 3% on January 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to accept the proposed increases for the full-time non-union Senior Staff and the amendments to Policy 115 as presented.

12b. Proposed wage increases for part-time non-union staff

Manager Cugini explained the proposed increase was 5% upon approval and 3% on January 1, 2024 for the Rental Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, the Zoning Administrator, and the Meter Reader. He advised the part-time Library Staff received wage adjustments in 2023; therefore, the Librarian Assistant, and the Library Clerk will receive a 3% increase on January 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to accept the proposed increases for the regular part-time non-union staff as presented.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REQUEST TO PURCHASE A NEW PATROL VEHICLE

There was discussion related to the 2023 budget and the turnover that occurred in the Finance Department. It was suggested staff contact the dealership to determine if a refundable deposit could be made on the truck so it could be held until after the September meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to contact the dealership and place a refundable deposit up to \$5,000 on the vehicle so it could be held until after the September 6, 2023 Council meeting.

SECOND 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

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the second 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.

COURAGE INCORPORATED CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSE RESOLUTION #12-2023

Erik Conradson explained the services provided by Courage Incorporated. He advised this charitable gaming license was required by the State and would be beneficial to their organization for fund raising.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 12-2023 Charitable Gaming License for Courage Incorporated as presented.

CONSIDER LEASE WITH THE IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL FOR A PORTION OF THE HOWARD OIL BUILDING PROPERTY

Bob Hendrickson, new Director of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT), advised the IOHT was applying for a grant for lighting on the trail but would be more likely to get it if the Howard Oil Company building was expanded to include a trail head with picnic tables at the site. They have had discussions with RAMBA related to their plans for the site as well.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to work with the City Attorney and the IOHT and determine lease terms and conditions for the Howard Oil Company area for the submittal of the grant application by the IOHT.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF USED PISTON BULLY FOR PARKS

General Foreman Bill Anderson advised a new piston bully would be in excess of \$300,000. The cost of this used machine was \$17,000, even with the age of the machine, it was in very good condition. He recommended two DPW staff travel to Grand Marais, Minnesota to verify the condition of the machine and if acceptable to purchase the machine.

Councilmember Bean felt this was an incredible deal and this machine would generate revenue. She felt finding a machine at this price again was probably not possible, and the piston bully was needed to keep the trails groomed at Al Quaal.

Manager Cugini noted he had spoken with the president of NMU regarding the potential of NMU contributing towards the purchase of this machine.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize two DPW employees to travel to Grand Marais, Minnesota to verify the condition of the machine and approve the purchase of the piston bully 130D with the amount not to exceed \$17,000 if the machine is deemed a good and acceptable purchase.

CONSIDER QUOTES FROM SUPERIOR PAVING TO PATCH 7TH STREET AND MAIN STREET

Bill Anderson, advised the only bid he was able to obtain for this work was from Superior Paving. There was discussion among Council related to the bid received and it was felt the project should be put out for bids and brought back to Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Halverson supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to request bids be obtained for the two paving project and brought back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CEMETERY BOARD

- a. Consider approval of years 3, 4, and 5 for the GIS Cemetery Project for 2024
- b. Consider quote for repair/replacement of a portion of the Cemetery Fence
- c. Authorization to begin purchasing process for the columbarium's for 2024

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to table these items and place them on the September 6th agenda for discussion.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A MICHIGAN COMMUNITY CENTER GRANT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, questioned if the intent was to construct a Community Center in the City. Manager Cugini explained the details of the grant and also noted there was a lot of competition for these dollars. He further advised the City would be applying for a skate park but also pairing with Partridge Creek Farms (PCF) which would include an educational component along with a pavilion. There was not an actual structure (Community Center) that was being applied for.

May Tsupros, Partridge Creek Farms, advised PCF would be proposing to construct a community pavilion at the garden site and could be used for the youth/senior mentorship programs and collaboration with the community.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to proceed with applying for the Michigan Community Center Grant.

AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR THE BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN COMMUNITIES AND FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A motion as made by Mayor Chapman, supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to issue a Notice of Intent for the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program grant funding.

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to appoint Mayor Chapman to the Central Dispatch Policy Board to fill the vacancy from Councilmember Skauge; and appoint Councilmember Halverson to the DDA to replace Mayor Chapman.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Councilmember Firby to appoint Mayor Chapman to the School Board Liaison to replace Councilmember Firby due to her new position at the Ishpeming Schools.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Chapman asked if there was a possible solution to the problems that are occurring at the South Third Street area and if something could be done before winter. There was discussion among staff and Council related to the issues at that location, what staff was currently doing, and possible solutions.

General Foreman Anderson advised the amount of rain that fell during a short period of time has caused some of the issues.

Councilmember Bean thank Mr. Kauppinen for attending and presenting his concerns but to come up with a solution at the meeting tonight was probably not feasible.

Manager Cugini provided an update on Channel 189 and reported a go-live date would hopefully be set and he could report at the September regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini announce the ribbon cutting for the campground was schedule for August 10, 2023 (tomorrow).

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, felt an announcement on the discolored water due to Negaunee draining their water tank should be posted; Manager Cugini advised it was posted this afternoon.

Todd Kauppinen, appreciated the City evaluating the area around his residence, however, but was concerned the full scope of what was happing in that area with the water was not being considered.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Halverson and Councilmember Firby had no report.

Councilmember Bean attended the Planning Commission meeting and advised a conditional use permit was approved for the Kwik Trip, the Vice President of Kwik Trip was present and they would be closing on that property the end of the month.

Councilmember Scanlon was not able to attend Cemetery Board meetings due to working; and he announced Ishpeming now has a new day care, Tiny Toes Daycare on Washington Street. Council congratulated Councilmember Scanlon on the opening of the facility.

Mayor Chapman announced his next coffee hour on August 24th and noted new Councilmember Renelle Halverson and Ed McBroom would also be in attendance.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini update the Council on various meeting he had attended including the Housing Task Force and the Rural Leadership Summit; and he announced the City receive a 1.7 million dollar grant from Protecting MI Pensions which will go directly to fund MERS pensions.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There was no report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Firby supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk