

Ishpeming Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for February 07, 2022
(Agenda items are in bold text)

A. Call to order -- for the Ishpeming Planning Commission was by Chairperson Brooke Routhier at 7:02 P.M.

B. Roll Call --

Present: Brooke Routhier, Mike Kinnunen, Lindsay Bean, David Lawler, Mike Elliott, Kari Getschow.

Absent: Ryan Pizziola, Harry Weikel, and Bruce Houghton.

Public present: Elle Jansen, Jacie Duraso & Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator.

C. Public Comment – Elle Jansen, a Community and Economic Development Specialist at the Lake Superior Community Partnership, spoke to Commissioners regarding the manner that the “Partnership” would be able to assist the City, i.e. Business Retention / Business Development etc., by working with City Staff.

D. Approval of Agenda –The agenda was approved unanimously as presented upon a motion by Lindsay Bean supported by Brooke Routhier.

E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes of January 10, 2022 are not typed yet.

F. Presentations - none

G. Public Hearings – none

H. New Business

1. Review of Draft Marihuana Application form

Al furnished a completed Marihuana application form to Commissioners for informational purposes/ review and discussed the application process and timing for the applicants. The Zoning Ordinance revisions will be effective on a Monday morning and due to our limitation to only 2 venues permitted in the City, the anticipation is that Conditional Use applications will come in immediately. All of the furnished information is informative and no action is required.

There will be statutory delays for revisions of the Zoning Ordinance to work in tandem with the applications. The final form has only about one hour of typing performed so far. The details and time frames for adoption were discussed.

2. Malton Road Recreation and Development

There was general discussion over a future campground, a potential dog park in the landfill borrow pit and possible trail (mountain/ snow biking, snowshoe, skiing, hiking) mapping. Negaunee’s development plans were also mentioned. Al mentioned the potential for UPPCO’s N-S powerline to not be within a recorded easement. Lindsay mentioned on-going Parks and Recreation discussions and the possibility of Public Hearings and / or Charrette for public involvement. Al discussed efforts to acquire land from CCIC North of the Seventh Addition and immediately South of the old Brownstone building.

3. CUPPAD – Ryan Soucy : Master Plan (Projected to be complete for March meeting)

Ryan was not present. Commissioners were informed of a 63-day review period required by statute. There are usually many opportunities to seek and provide additional input. On-line input will also be solicited.

4. Draft Notice of Adoption –Legal Ad for Mining Journal

Al provided background adoption information for Commissioners. There is a difference between the Zoning Enabling Act and the City of Ishpeming Charter. The City attorney is following adoption procedures specified by the City Charter which are more detailed than State statute requirements. The process takes about 2 months to complete. Commissioners were appreciative of the information on adoption timeframes.

I. Old Business

1. City Council Second Reading – Marihuana

City Council Second Reading Chapter 2-1600 (Police Power)

City Council Second Reading Chapter 8-100 (Zoning Ordinance)

(Zoning Ordinance typing in process)

The information presented is an overview of detail changes to the Zoning Ordinance and is as adopted.


2. Old Landfill – City Solar farm investigation Update

Al informed Commissioners regarding techniques to anchor solar panels atop closed landfills and a hot-off the press MSUE “Planning & Zoning for Solar Energy Systems” guidebook that is very good. Al hopes to draft an informational letter to the City of Negaunee as well as Negaunee Township as all three parties are on the landfill closure deed. More to follow!

J. Correspondence – None.

K. Meeting Adjournment was unanimous upon a motion by Lindsay Bean supported by Dave Lawler at 7:38 P.M.

Prepared By:



Alan K. Pierce, Planning Commission Assistant Secretary

Reviewed By:

Bruce Houghton, Planning Commission Secretary