

***Council Proceedings, November 29, 2023
Ishpeming, MI 49849***

The special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, November 29, 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). Absent: Renelle Halverson (1). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bean to move public comment after approval of agenda for this special meeting. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmember Elizabeth Firby (2). Nays: Councilmembers Lindsay Bean and Pat Scanlon (2). Motion failed 2-2.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

Finance Director Grant Getschow explained staff received updated information relating to the 2024 projected health care costs and with the removal of the employee health insurance premium share from the proposed budget, the General Fund deficit was at \$152,000. He prepared two alternatives for reducing the budget deficit for Council to review.

Discussion followed regarding any possible options for utility cost savings; moving larger equipment purchases to the Public Improvement Fund; beginning quarterly budget reviews in 2024; reducing Departmental spending as much as feasible; the benefits of increasing the part-time union employee at the Library to full-time; and investment earning in the Cemetery Care and Perpetual Care funds.

Council reviewed the list of items in Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 and discussed some options to amend the proposed 2024 General Fund which included (A) the cost of the City Attorney would be spread throughout different funds as legal services do not only benefit the general fund (\$40,000); (H) All library media would be purchased out of the Public Improvement Fund (\$24,000); (I) The City Council's printing budget would be removed; (J) Supplies cut in the Finance Department; (K) Large purchase requests for elections (laptops) would be purchased from the Public Improvement Fund (\$3,000).

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to adopt the 2024 budget implementing the revisions from Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 which included item (A), (H), (I), (J), and (K) as noted above.

RESOLUTION #18-2023, HEALTH INSURANCE PER PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 18-2023, Health Insurance per Public Act 152 of 2011 as presented selecting the exemption option of Public Act 152 of 2011.

REQUEST FROM DPW TO PURCHASE GATOR FOR THE CEMETERY/PARKS

General Foreman Bill Anderson explained the need for a new gator for the Parks Department. He further noted the Parks and Recreation Commission made a recommendation to Council to purchase the John Deere Gator Groomer for the parks department to maintain the trails and the tube slide for winter activities.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to purchase a gator groomer, track system, including a warranty for a not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000.

REQUEST FROM DPW TO PURCHASE NEW PICK-UP TRUCK

General Forman Anderson provide a list of the trucks currently in the DPW fleet and further noted eight trucks were usable and should remain in the fleet; three trucks needed major repairs; and four trucks should be declared surplus and sold or salvaged. Money was available in the Motor Pool Fund to purchase (2) new pick up trucks; and he asked Council to consider authorizing the City Manager to purchase (2) new pick-up trucks totaling a not-to-exceed amount of \$60,000 for each.

There was discussion regarding the existing vehicle fleet; maintenance records on the fleet; if existing plows could be transferred to the new vehicles; and the overall price of new vehicles at this time.

Finance Director Getschow pointed out the dollars available in the Motor Pool Fund were specifically for the purchases of DPW vehicles and equipment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to purchase two new pick-up trucks from the Motor Pool Fund for the DPW in the not-to-exceed amount of \$120,000 which would include any needed protection packages or plow assemblies if necessary.

2023 COMPENSATION COMMISSION REPORT

City Clerk Cathy Smith reviewed the report submitted by the Compensation Commission and advised no action was necessary unless the Council wished to reject the report. If Council agreed with the determination, no action was necessary, and compensation would be effective 30-days following the date the report was filed with the City Clerk.

One member of the Compensation Commission was present, Member Claudia Demarest, and she stated she supported the increase to Council compensation since the last increase was in 1999.

It was the consensus of Council to accept the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, suggested the City research the possibility of utilizing prisoners for the cemetery and parks part-time summer hires which had been done in the past; questioned when Council and residents would be informed of the impact of the staffing issues in utility billing; and expressed her concerns with discussions related potential wage increases for two union employees.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:33 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Firby supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
City Clerk