

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 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.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, talked about compliance with the City Charter, the Open Meetings Act, and the Freedom of Information Act; the December 6th closed session was broadcast over channel 189 which was a violation; questioned why the Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 was not presented to the Parks Commission before the public hearing and adoption of the Plan.

Jeff DeGabriele, no address provided, cited some of the articles in the constitution; questioned the parking of the City Mayor's vehicle on City property; reviewed his past sworn statements submitted for Misconduct in Office; and questioned some of the advice of the City Attorney.

Oscar Forsman, 575 Mather Avenue, read the draft of the 2024-2028 Draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan, he agreed with the current partnerships with the School which encouraged the students to invest in the community; and he very much enjoyed all that Al Quaal had to offer to City residents.

Todd Kauppinen, 409 S. Third Street, advised he has been monitoring water pooling on the other side of the abandon railroad tracks by his house and given the previous history of the sink hole he expressed his concerned with the water in that area; he asked if the City could evaluate the situation.

Raymond Olds, 1169 Ninth Street, stated he had talked to several residents that were upset with tickets issued for the parking ban when there was no snow; and reminded Councilmembers and staff to speak into the microphones so people watching on Channel 189 and You-Tube could hear.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, thanked DPW for plowing the alley behind his residence; questioned the time limits for public comment on the proposed agenda received by Council; and noted Council should receive packets by Friday per the Council Rules.

May Tsupros, Partridge Creek Farm, thank Council and staff for doing a good job. She provided an update on the Partridge Creek Farm development near the High School and further noted some of the food grown at the site would be provided to the school; and the school was planning to start a Healthy Cooking Program. She added Partridge Creek Farm applied for and received approval for a bee hive at the Middle School Garden and also developed a safety program for the bee hive. Partridge Creek Farm looked forward to the continued partnership with the City.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Halverson, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to remove item 6b from the consent agenda for discussion prior to the Monthly Financial Statements and remove from the agenda item 14a First Reading of Proposed Rezoning due to the Planning Commission taking no action and approve the agenda as amended.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (December 6th and 20th, Closed Session December 6th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements (*moved to be discussed before Monthly Financial Statements*)
- c. Confirm 2024 Publishing Source – The Mining Journal

- d. Confirm 2024 Depositories – Nicolet/TruNorth/First Bank/Comerica/Charles Schwab/Edward D. Jones
- e. Confirm Payment to UPSET for 2024 - \$10,000
- f. Confirm Payment to Commission on Aging for 2024 - \$9,000
- g. Appoint Cathy Miron to a vacancy on the Commission on Aging; Term Expiring:9/2025
- h. Declare 209 Library Books as surplus

7a. Approval of Disbursements

After some brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the disbursements as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow reviewed the unaudited balance sheet including the General Fund, Major and Local Street, Water, Sewer, and Garbage fund for the period ending December 2023.

Councilmember Halverson questioned if the renewal fees for the two marijuana establishments have been paid; staff advised they had been paid for both establishments. She also questioned the budget for the Brasswire Campground.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon , seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the unaudited monthly financial statement report as presented.

ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPORT ON BLOOD DRIVE

Jaylan Wiley and Jackson Foster, Ishpeming High School Students, reported on the Blood Drive that was held on Thursday December 4th noting many community members participated along with several City employees and High School Students. The competition was between Ishpeming and Negaunee and Ishpeming won the competition. They thanked all who donated.

PUBLIC HEARING: CITY OF ISHPEMING PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2024-2028

There was discussion related to the Parks and Recreation Commission not reviewing and providing a recommendation on the Plan to Council before holding a public hearing and before consideration of a resolution of adoption by Council. Manager Cugini advised there was a very tight timeline for approval of the Plan and for the City to be eligible to apply for Michigan Trust Fund Grants and/or Passport Grants in 2024; the Plan would need to be submitted to the DNR by February 1st. He added the School would like to apply for another recreation grant for the Tennis Courts in 2024 and if the Plan is not approved the grant could not be submitted in the 2024 grant cycle.

Julia Cogger, CUPPAD, advised the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Plan is required by the DNR for the City to apply for funding. She reviewed the focus points for the development of the plan; recreation inventory programming; accessibility; and special events held in the city. She noted 450 surveys were received which was a large community input. She reviewed the list of projects in the Plan and advised not all the project would be completed within the 5-year period, however, when applying for grants, the DNR would check if the project was listed in the City's Recreation Plan.

Manager Cugini explained this Recreation Plan was in alignment with the Master Plan; the ad was in the Mining Journal; the draft Plan was on the City's website; and this was the final public hearing before adoption of the Plan.

Mayor Chapman opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Ann Old, 1169 Ninth Street, questioned if the Plan was adopted would a grant for the Tennis Courts be applied for; Manager Cugini advised the Plan must be adopted to apply for the DNR grant for the Tennis Courts.

Councilmember Bean would have preferred to have a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission; however, adoption of the Plan was necessary to apply for grants.

Mayor Chapman closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

a. Adopt Resolution #1-2024: Adoption of Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Mayor Chapman read the Resolution into the record.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adopted Resolution #1-2024, Adoption of the Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028.

2024 CITY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Ryan Whitley, 44 North, provided a presentation on the current plan renewal rates and the two other Plans, Blue Care Network HRA and HSA plans, which were reviewed by the Health Insurance Committee. He also provided the renewal rates for the dental and vision coverage.

Manager Cugini gave a brief summary of discussions at the Health Insurance Committee meetings. The Committee, which included members of the AFSCME Chapters and Police Officers Association of Michigan would like to renew with the current plan and continue discussions related to the health savings account for possible future consideration.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the renewal of the current plan with MPEC for health insurance coverage from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

PROPOSED WAGE INCREASE FOR PRECINCT INSPECTORS

City Clerk Cathy Smith reviewed the wages for precinct inspectors at surrounding municipalities. She added providing equitable pay for their dedication in carrying out their duties with integrity and commitment is essential for successful elections and would also help to retain the City's experienced precinct workers and to recruit new workers.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bean to approve the increase to the Precinct Inspector wages to \$15.00/hour and the Precinct Inspector Chair to \$16.00/hour beginning in 2024. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmembers Lindsay Bean, Elizabeth Firby, and Pat Scanlon (4). Nays: Councilmember Renelle Halverson (1). Motion passed 4-1.

It was the consensus of Council to have a 5-minute recess at 7:42 p.m. Council returned from recess at 7:47 p.m.

ADOPT NEW POLICY #419: APPLYING FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Manager Cugini advised this was a required policy towards becoming Redevelop Ready Community certified.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve Policy 419, Applying for Boards and Commissions as presented.

REVIEW/CONFIRM POLICY 601: COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE POLICY

There was discussion related to the proposed agenda which included the number of public comment items, the length of public comment, and adding Unfinished Business and New Business items.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to have the first Public Comment (5 minutes per person) with the person having the option to speak under public comment or reserve time under an agenda item and the second Public Comment (3 minutes per person) for general comments.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to add New Business and Unfinished Business to the agenda and if there were late additions to the agenda it would be added at the beginning of the meeting under approval of the agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to move the public comment after roll call on the special meeting agendas with a time limit of 4 minutes per person.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

First Reading of Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment: Rezoning from General Commercial to Deferred Development –
This item was removed from the agenda.

First Reading of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment: Increase Diversity in Multiple Residential District (RRC requirements)

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the text amendment for increasing diversity in Multiple Residential District (RRC requirements) as an emergency reading.

DECLARE DPW VEHICLES SURPLUS

1998 Chevy S-10 (2WD)\$1000

2010 Chevy Tahoe (4WD)\$500

2002 Chevy 1500 (4WD)\$500

General Foreman Bill Anderson explained the condition of each vehicles. Manager Cugini advised the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority would like to purchase the two trucks (1998 and 2002) for a total of \$1,500 to be used only on the Landfill site.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to declare all three vehicles as surplus.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to sell the 1998 Chevy S-10 and 2002 Chevy 1500 to the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority for the minimum bids amounts of \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, for a total of \$1,500.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, questioned why the Parks and Recreation Commission did not have an opportunity to review the draft Recreation Plan as there were quorums at the August and October meetings.

Anne Olds, 1169 Ninth Street, does not like to attend meetings at night so she listens at home, however, it is not the same as attending in person because she misses some of the information discussed; but she attends the Mayor's coffee hours and commended the Mayor for having them.

Raymond Olds, 1169 Ninth Street, was concerned with one of the Precincts being at Birchview School.

Dave Kangas, Mayor of Negaunee, explained with leadership comes decisions, and sometimes hard decisions have to be made, but they are necessary and should always be in the best interest of the City.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Bean attended the Planning Commission meeting on Monday and the text amendment to increase diversity in the Multi Residential District which was and RRC requirement was approved; she requested work on the Short-Term Rentals Ordinance continue; and suggested the Planning Commission continue discussions to amend the Marijuana Ordinance to allow additional cannabis licenses in the City.

Councilmember Halverson attended the Housing Commission meeting and reported the Commission was looking into increasing rental rates; their 2024 health care was renewed; and they also discussed window replacements.

Councilmember Firby asked if the ice rink was going to be at the Lake Bancroft Pavilion area for the winter again; and explained she worked during the time that the coffee hours were held and was not able to attend.

Councilmember Scanlon would like to see work done on the tennis courts and would like to pursue grant funding; and he would like to get a closeout report within the next few month with regards to the Brasswire Campground.

Mayor Chapman noted it was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and thanked all of the City law enforcement officers; wished everyone a Happy New year; the next coffee hour would be on January 26th at 1:00 p.m.; and he was still working with ABC-10 highlighting Ishpeming.


MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini advised the City was not awarded the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant; the winter parking ban was not a winter plowing ban; the fire department was recently awarded a grant; and an application was completed for the Distressed Communities Grant for a new fire truck.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:09 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cathy Smith
City Clerk