

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Jason Chapman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jason Chapman, Council Members Lindsay Bean, Renelle Halverson, and Pat Scanlon (4). Absent: Councilmember Elizabeth Firby (1). Also present was Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to add item 10h City Manager Evaluation to the agenda and approve the agenda incorporating the addition of Item 10h.

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

Amy Lerlie, 725 N. First Street, asked to reserve time under Unfinished Business Item “a”.

Kevin Corkin, 604 N. Pine Street, asked to reserve time under New Business Item (a)(ii).

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, questioned when the City Manager’s evaluation would be done; and also asked when the public would be updated on the impacts of the utility billing errors that occurred.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, quoted the statement in the Pledge of Allegiance “justice for all”; questioned the requirements for permits through Marquette Count; and felt individuals were being retaliated against by the City. He would like to reserve time to read a statement from Mr. DeGabriele under New Business item “b”.

May Tsupros, Partridge Creek Farm, gave a brief update on the new curbside pickup of compost service being provided by Partridge Creek Compost (ie. food waste, paper products, cardboard). Residents would need to sign up for this service and would receive a bucket. She advised this was a very exciting movement. Partridge Creek Farms also has garden bed signups and weekly subscriptions for vegetables available. In addition, students at Ishpeming were working on a project to stop hunger in Ishpeming and were going to be providing a soup kitchen at the School. The School has also started a CTE program. She announced she would be moving on from Partridge Creek Farms but would still be in the community.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (January 10th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements

7. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

a. 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, and Police and Fire Retirement Fund for the period ending January 2024. He provided an updated on the Brasswire Campground fund. There was discussion related to the costs of the campground, the grant funds received, and the upcoming camping season.

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

b. City Clerk Election Update Report

City Clerk Cathy Smith advised the Presidential Primary election will be held on February 27th and this would be the first election for Ishpeming with the Early Voting Location available. The early voting period will run from Saturday,

February 17 through Sunday February 25th and the hours will be 10 am to 6 pm all nine days. Voters wishing to vote in person on Election Day would still go to their normal precinct either Birchview School or KD Hall between 7am to 8pm. In addition, the Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, February 24th from 8am to 4 pm for any voters that need to register to vote, wanting to obtain an Absent Voter ballot, or for any questions.

8. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Additional Information on Area South of Division (Across from The High School)

Manager Cugini and DPW General Foreman provided a brief explanation of the discussions with the company that would be able to provide inspections of the sewer laterals. If the City conducted the inspections of the sewer laterals, and a problem was found on the property owners portion of the line, per the City ordinance there was a specific timeline for the repairs to be completed.

Attorney Bridges advised if the City proceeded with line inspections, it could result in an expense to the property owner to repair the line under the time requirements.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon to authorize payment of \$6,400 for the inspection of the sewer laterals and for payment to be taken from the sewer fund. The motion was withdrawn.

There was discussion related to property owners proceeding independently with inspections of their sewer lines versus the City hiring a company and conducting the inspection of private lines; the pros and cons of the inspections being conducted; the current City Ordinance covering repairs to be done on private lines; capping the lines from the vacant lots; and current runoff in that area causing issues of flooding on one of the properties and consideration of installing a curb to divert the water to the storm sewer.

Councilmembers Bean and Halverson reviewed the recommendation from UP Engineers and Architects related to the area and suggested the City follow the recommendation and observe spring runoff; and, let the engineers evaluate the run off issues and water not being diverted to the storm drain.

Manager Cugini provided a brief overview of the emergency declaration in May due to the significant snow event followed by the melt.

There was additional discussion related to the how the notification to the property owners should be handled giving the opportunity to have their private lines scoped and inspected.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to authorize staff to issue a letter to the homeowners provided on the list by staff and suggest to the property owners they contact one of the companies listed to investigate/scope their private lateral lines; in addition, staff should let the companies know who the property owners are and discuss the possibility of a discounted rate for the service.

Council requested UPEA provide a monthly update at the March meeting and asked staff for a map of the area.

Amy Lerlie, owned property at 404 S. Third Street, has had issues with runoff and ground water at this property; water was undermining sections in that area; and as a property owner should would be willing to pay for her property to be inspected and would make any necessary repairs on her line.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Special Event Applications

i. 2024 Fourth of July Festivities and Parade Permit

Andrea Jackson, President of the Ishpeming Fourth of July Committee, announced the Fourth of July festivities would take place on Saturday, July 6th.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Halverson, and carried unanimously to approve the special event application as presented.

ii. Hiawathaland District Camp-o-Ree: Boy Scouts of America

Kevin Corkin, representing Boy Scouts of America, was requesting to use one full loop at the Brasswire Campground for the Hiawathaland District Camp-o-Ree on May 17-19, 2024. When the Boy Scouts have done this in the past at Van Riper, the fee was waived and the Boy Scouts would clean up the sites; and, he was requesting the same thing from the City for the Brasswire Campground.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to allow the Boy Scouts to use Brasswire Campground at no cost in return for the Scouts providing in-kind service of spring clean-up at the campground.

b. Ordinance #11-700: Consideration of Sworn Statement

Mike Tonkin read Jeff DeGabriele, 413 Vine Street, statement related to his sworn statement. Mr. DeGabriele was not able to attend the meeting due to work.

Mayor Chapman noted Manager Cugini spoke after Mr. DeGabriele was finished speaking at the January meeting and this was done with the Mayor's permission. He further noted he reviewed the court ruling and he found nothing in the final statement from the Judge that advised no one was allowed to speak on the issue. No gag orders were listed in the final statement.

There was discussion related to the charge of misconduct and no evidence of misconduct by the City Manager or the Mayor was found. Attorney Bridges advised Council to note the findings prior to dismissal by Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to find the charges against the City Manager to be frivolous, unwarranted, without merit, and unfounded, and dismiss the charges.

c. Resolution 2-2024, Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 2-2024, Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test as presented.

d. Proclamation: Spread Goodness Day

Mayor Chapman read the Spread Goodness Day Proclamation into the record.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the proclamation and declare March 8th as Spread Goodness Day in the City of Ishpeming.

e. Renewal Proposal from HydroCorp: Cross Connection Control Program

Manager Cugini advised the contract had been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to approve the renewal contract with HydroCorp as presented.

f. Proposed Policy 306: Utility Policy for Multi-unit Residential and Commercial Apartments

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to table this item until the next Council meeting.

g. Authorize City Manager travel to Lansing for the Marquette County Ambassadors Spring Trip April 15 – 18, 2024

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to approve travel for the City Manager to Lansing on April 15-18, 2024 as requested.

h. City Manager Evaluation

Mayor Chapman advised Councilmember Bean would take the lead on the City Manager's evaluation. Councilmember Bean would provide the evaluations and asked for the completed evaluations to be returned to her by March 1st.

City Clerk Smith reminded Council that at the May 2023 meeting, a motion was made to make a couple of minor changes to the evaluation form. She would send the minutes to Councilmember Bean.

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

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, questioned what the cost was of testing the Brasswire Campground wells and how many campsites would have to be reserved to pay for this cost.

Cathy Schooler, 769 Michigan Street, talked about sewer lateral line replacements and the timeline in the ordinance to make the repairs.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Bean attended the Planning Commission meeting and they discussed the short-term rental ordinance; allowing additional licenses (processing, secure transport, and testing) to the marijuana ordinance but not including licenses for consumption; and public hearing would be held soon.

Councilmember Halverson attended the Housing Commission meeting and was able to get a tour of the facility; attended the DDA meeting and provided an update on the 2024 beautification effort, the two start-up assistance grants that were awarded for Elevate Athletic Training and the Bike Pantry; and added she would like to utilize Channel 189 to promote the DDA and the City.

Councilmember Scanlon was not able to attend the Commission on Aging meeting and the Cemetery Commission was meeting in March. He asked about the status of the Tennis Court grant; Manager Cugini advised he and Carrie Meyer, Superintendent, were currently working on the grant application; and he asked the City Manager and Police Chief to review security at City Hall.

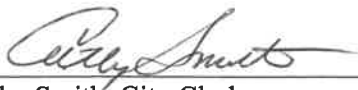
Mayor Chapman congratulated the Ishpeming Ski Club on a successful event; announced his next Coffee Hour at 6:00 p.m. on February 13th at the Mining Museum; attended the Central Dispatch Policy Board; talked about the needed repairs to the Fire Tower; and would like street lines painted in the spring.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cugini advised he talked with Karen Kasper about activities and functions around the Fourth of July, reported the Technical Assistance Grant RFP would be going out very shortly, and provided updates on the roundabout and the CWSRF grant.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:43 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk