

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Jason Chapman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, talked about her FOIA request for the City's debt and expressed her concern over the debt; and suggested Council obtain input from the public for the City Manager's evaluation.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Discussion regarding Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Plan Recreation Projects

Manager Cugini explained the reason for the special was for discussing grant funding that was becoming available, to discuss recreation projects for 2025, and commitment of funding in the 2025 budget.

Manager Cugini discussed the proposed tennis court project and allowing for a commitment of 150,000 for the construction of the project in 2025. The Schools would also provide a 150,000 commitment to the project which would be a combined match to a DNR grant. He asked Council to allow him to continue to make project scope adjustments and to prepare a draft resolution for the March regular Council meeting to support a joint grant application with the Ishpeming Public Schools for development of a tennis court complex.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to allow the City Manager to continue to make project scope adjustments for the tennis court project which allow for meaningful investment of \$150,000 commitment (match) to be paired with the Ishpeming School District funds and included in the Grant Application with desired construction in 2025. This is a commitment of funds from the 2025 Budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager to draft a resolution for the March Regular City Council Meeting for support of a joint grant application with the Ishpeming School District for development of a Tennis Court Complex with proposed construction in 2025.

Manager Cugini explained an application for a Community Centers Grant was submitted in conjunction with Partridge Creek Farms for development of a multi-generational gathering and activity site and the construction of a skatepark. A portion of the requested funding may be received but would not cover the entire cost of the proposed project

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to allow the City Manager to evaluate the existing Skate Park project plan, scope, and cost estimate and be paired with Public Improvement Funds for 2025 construction of \$150,000. This would be a commitment of funds for the 2025 Budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to ask the DDA to provide a supportive match of \$100,000 but not less than \$50,000 to be paired with city public improvement funds for the planned construction of the Skate Park in 2025.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager to apply for eligible State DNR or other grant funding where the skate park is an eligible project. Within

the project budget, identify the matching funds (as approved by motions of Council and the DDA collectively) where the total of the grant award would achieve a skate park for \$300,000 or less firm fixed price and where the City Council retains the right to final review of the grant agreement. Proposed construction would be in 2025.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager to accept any initial proposal of funds for grants offered to the City, where there is not a required City match, and is offered in the next thirty days (e.g. MSHDA Housing Readiness Initiative; e.g. Michigan Community Center and Neighborhood Initiative Grant). With the understanding that any grant acceptance of funds allows the Manager to work with the grant agency in the development of a final grant agreement. The agreement requires the review of the City Attorney and then brought before the City Council for final acceptance. This would expire in 30 days.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager to continue to work with Partridge Creek Farms (PCF) to evaluate the existing Community Center and Neighborhood Initiative Grant project plan (Program Component), scope, and cost estimate in anticipation of a reduced grant award. Determine PCF's ability to execute and complete the program requirements and generate additional funding equal to or greater than the application requirement or de-scope within the grant funding award level.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby to direct the City Manager to continue as the Grantee for the Community Center and Neighborhood Initiative Grant project plan (Program Component) where PCF is the sub-grantee and executor. With the understanding that any grant acceptance of funds allows the Manager to work with the grant agency in the development of a final grant agreement. The agreement requires the review of the PCF Board followed by the City Attorney and is then brought before the City Council for final acceptance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to directed the assignment for attempting the development of a Congressionally Directed Spending Packet to Mayor Chapman and Councilmember Bean; and, direct the City Manager to assist the Council Member with the final documentation and submission whereby all of the components are outlined and ready prior to Manager involvement.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:48 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Firby supported by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk