

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Jason Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jason Chapman, Council Members Lindsay Bean, and Elizabeth Firby (3). Absent: Councilmembers Renelle Halverson and Pat Scanlon (2). Also present was City Manager Craig Cugini.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - There was none.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Discussion Lake Superior Community Partnership West End Forward

i. Dissolution of the Greater Ishpeming/Negaunee Chamber of Commerce

Chris Germain, Lake Superior Community Partnership, was not a spokesperson from the old Greater Ishpeming Negaunee Chamber of Commerce, (GINCC), but was going to discuss moving forward and how the dissolution relates to the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP).

Mr. Germain reviewed the updated LSCP Strategic Plan including their mission, partner experience, guiding principles; their priority focus areas including: (1)retaining and growing existing business, (2)creating vibrant communities, (3)encouraging entrepreneurship, (4)advocating for shared interests and (5)connecting and informing members. He added the LSCP currently has 340 members. He summarized the direct business services (i.e. business after hours, ribbon cuttings, webinars, wage studies), economic development (i.e. EDC loans, housing, childcare, site selection support), and contracted services.

The West End Forward involved the formulation of the West End Advisory Council; dedicated strategy for on-the-ground business network events and service in the West End; and transformation of the existing GINCC office space into the West End Economic Hub. He added the first meeting of the Advisory Council was anticipated to be held in March.

The LSCP would like to establish a West End Hub to be on the west end on a regular basis. The first year it would be located at the old GINCC site and a decision where the location should be. Current members of the GINCC will be offered membership to the LSCP at reduction of \$100 off the fee. The LSCP would like to see continued growth in membership moving forward.

ii. Small Business Hub

Chris Germain explained the Small Business Hub (the Hub) would coordinate and expand resources that would be available to small businesses across a seven-county region in the Central Upper Peninsula. He expected the Hub to be fully operational by April.

Mayor Chapman thanked the LSCP for the presentation.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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



Cathy Smith, City Clerk