1. CALL TO ORDER
The rescheduled regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, April 10, 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, Elizabeth Firby, and Renelle Halverson. (4). Absent: Councilmember Pat Scanlon (1). Also present was Manager Craig Cugini and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Councilmember Halverson requested two items be added to the agenda under new business: item (e)iii Report on the Planning Commission public hearing on April 1st and before item (f) add Discussion of the Siren Communication contract.

Councilmember Bean did not support the addition of the Planning Commission public hearing because there was not a full Council present with Councilmember Scanlon absent; and, there was no recommendation sent to Council from the Planning Commission regarding the public hearing related to the proposed amendments to the Marijuana Ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Halverson, seconded by Mayor Chapman to add the two items as requested above to the agenda. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, and Councilmembers Elizabeth Firby and Renelle Halverson (3). Nays: Councilmember Lindsay Bean (1). Motion passed 3-1.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson to approve the agenda incorporating the two additional items. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, and Councilmembers Elizabeth Firby and Renelle Halverson (3). Nays: Councilmember Lindsay Bean (1). Motion passed 3-1.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered through Zoom and in person.
Antonio Adan, Marquette County Land Bank, reserved time under 10d.
Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, reserved time under 10d.
Anne Olds, 1165 9th Street, reserved time under 10d and 10g.
Ray Olds, 1165 9th Street, reserved time under 10d.
Larry Poutanen, 122 New York Street, reserved time under 10d.
Kevin Corkin, 604 N. Pine Street, reserved time under 10d.
May Tsupros, 925 N. Main Street, reserved time under 10d.

Anne Giroux, Executive Director of the Marquette County Land Bank and resident of the City f Ishpeming, provided a summary of the Land Bank's accomplishments in the City which included blight elimination and construction of new housing. There has been a wonderful partnership with the City for many years. She provided the City Council with the 2023 Land Bank Annual Report. She added the Land Bank is viewed as a tool for municipalities to increase taxable values and to increase tax base; and the Land Bank is always looking for sites to develop housing. She advised there may be an option that would make all parties happy with regards to 429 E. New York Street.

David Lawler, 925 N. Main Street, thanked the City Council for offering the Planning Commission training related to Planning and Zoning noting training is very beneficial for members of the Planning Commission.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, thanked DPW for a great job plowing during the last storm. He noted yesterday an excavator was being hauled up Third Street and this was not a Class A road.

Valerie Poutanen, 122 New York Street, pointed out Seventh Street, between Division Street and New York Street was in terrible shape and it was difficult to navigate the pot holes.

Councilmember Halverson read an email received from Hugh "Bud" Hart, Arch Street, into the record.

Jason Chapman read an email received from Stephen Fischer, no address provided, into the record.

6. CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mayor Chapman advised there were some typo corrections to be made in the minutes.

a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (March 6th, March 20th, and March 6th closed session)
b. Approval of Disbursements
c. Confirm Manager appointment of Antonio Adan to fill vacancy on the DDA: Term Exp: 7/2027
d. Confirm reappointment of Kaylee Reno to a 5-year term on the Library Board: Term Exp: 5/2029

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 Streets, Sewer, and Garbage fund, and Police and Fire Retirement Fund for the period ending March 2024. He explained the revenues and expenses report and how that report ties into the numbers on the cover sheet that is also provided in the packets.

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

Mayor Chaman asked the Police Department, Fire, Department, Library, and DPW if they had a report.
Chief of Police Chad Radabaugh advised the grant for the new recruits was in process and the recruits would be starting the Academy in May; and he also received the new evidence table.

There was no report from the Fire Department and Library due to a connection issue with Zoom.

DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson reported on the number of new meters that have been installed and advised letters would be going out to property owners that have not scheduled a meter upgrade. He also noted the current traffic pattern at Lakeshore would remain until July; however, it would be changing after July 6th.

8. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.
9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was none.

10. NEW BUSINESS
a. Special Event Applications
Salvation Army Block Party - City Clerk Cathy Smith advised this was a block party to unveil the Salvation Army's gym renovations.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to approve the special event application for the Salvation Army Block Party as presented.

Barbie Fun Run 5K – Manager Cugini explained this was a fun run which was a fundraiser for Dancing with the Stars to benefit the U.P. Hospice Foundation. Participants would follow road rules.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the special event application for the Barbie 5k Run as requested.

b. Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library 2023 Annual Report – Library Director Jesse Shirtz provided a brief summary of the 2023 annual report. She highlighted the increase in attendance to the Library's adult programs and children programs. Mayor Chapman commended the Library staff for all their efforts in 2023 to promote the Library.

c. Proclamation Honoring the Ishpeming Girls Basketball Team – Mayor Chapman read the proclamation.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to adopted the proclamation as presented.

d. Proposed sale of 429 E. New York Street
Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, noted the Poutanen's had inquired about this property years ago and she thought they should be given first chance to purchase the property.

Ray Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, thought residents of the City of Ishpeming should be given first opportunity to purchase vacant property since this has been past practice for many years.

Ann Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, thanked the Land Bank for all the work they have done in the City; however, she thought residents of the City should have the first opportunity to purchase vacant lots.

May Tsupros, 925 N. Main Street, talked about the current housing crisis and noted she has worked with many families that are interested in moving to Ishpeming but were not able to find housing. She understood the past practice of residents having the first options to purchase vacant lots, however, she also pointed out sometimes procedures that were followed in the past need to be changed to accommodate the future of the City.

Antonio Adan, 832 N. Main Street, and also works for the Marquette County Land Bank, advised this lot was ready for construction; and, he further reviewed the history of the site, including the investment made by the County and the City to demolish the blighted structure on the property. The Land Bank was proposing to construct a new residence on the site to add work force housing in the City which would provide tax revenue for the City. The parcel was .3 acres in size and the minimum lot size in the City was 6,000 square feet. He suggested the lot be split into two parcels with a portion to the adjoining land owner and the remainder to the Land Bank to construct a home. He added the Land Bank would like to build as soon as possible and complete the project over the next two years.

Larry Poutanen, 122 New York Street, thought property owners should be given an opportunity to purchase adjoining vacant lots. He was concerned with having enough room to replace his septic tank in the future so he was interested in at least purchasing a portion of the lot, approximately 10 feet. The Land Bank could have the remainder of the property to construct a home.

Kevin Corkin, 604 N. Pine Street, thought splitting the lot was a great solution and pointed out it was also very important to build homes for the working class and to bring tax revenue to the City. Work force housing was needed in the City and he hoped there would be continued interest by families to live in Ishpeming. He thanked Council and the staff for all their time and efforts; and he wanted to point out there are many positive discussions around the City, not all negative.

Attorney Caroline Bridges questioned the 429 E. New York Street lot and if the lot could be split and still accommodate a new septic tank for the adjoining property owner and a new house with septic tank for the Land Bank. She suggested a plan be developed and brought back to Council.

Anne Giroux, Land Bank, advised the Land Bank owned approximately 5 lots in the City of Ishpeming, but many of these parcels have challenges and concerns (i.e. wetlands, location). She noted the 429 E. New York Street site would need further evaluation and consultation with the Health Department with regards to septic tanks and drain fields. Before determining if and how the lot would be split, the Land Bank would like to do some additional research on the various requirements (i.e. zoning, permitting).

There was discussion related to the site, the minimum lot size required for zoning, and the size of the lot required for the development of a new residence.

Councilmember Bean suggested Council wait to receive a development plan before deciding on the sale of the lot.

e. First Reading of Amendment to Ordinance 8-100, Zoning Ordinance
i. Ordinance Map Amendment RZ-2024-01, Error Correction: Industrial to General Residential - Councilmember Bean advised Zoning Administrator Al Pierce was in the process of cleaning up some errors in the Zoning Map.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of the Zoning Map Amendment RZ-2024-01 as presented.

ii. Ordinance Text Amendment ZTA 2024-01 for Garden Definitions and Amendments to Zoning Districts for Permitted and/or Conditional Uses - Councilmember Bean, and the Planning Commission representative, explained this text amendment was being proposed because of large scale gardening which was currently not defined in the Zoning Ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of the Zoning Ordinance text amendment ZTA-2024-01 as presented.

Addition to Agenda: Report on the Planning Commission Public Hearing on April 1st – Councilmember Halverson attended the Planning Commission meeting and provided a summary of the proposed marijuana ordinance amendments and what took place at the public hearing. The Planning Commission vote failed 4-4 to bring forward the proposed amendment to the City Council.

There was discussion related to the current ordinance #2-1600 which lists the licenses currently allowed in the City of Ishpeming: 2 marijuana retailer or provisioning center or combined retailer/provisioning center.

Mayor Chapman suggested a motion be made to direct the Planning Commission to not continue working on this ordinance amendment in the future. He added out of the 18 people he had in attendance at the last coffee hour, 17 people voiced their opposition and one did not want to say either way. He spoke to several people in church who were also opposed. He was concerned the stakeholders in the City were not asked (schools, police, neighboring communities)

Councilmember Bean, appointed councilmember to the Planning Commission, advised the Planning Commission had been working on this amendment for several months and she had regularly updated Council regarding the progress of the amendment and no concerns were brought to her until the public hearing at the Planning Commission. She questioned since there was a recommendation that would have been sent from the Planning Commission to the City Council for the proposed amendment, it may have been improper for three Councilmembers to be in attendance at the Planning Commission meeting, and, for two members of Council to address the Planning Commission as residents, but also as Councilmembers. One member of the Planning Commission did question pursuing the amendment since it appeared Council was opposed. She pointed out there were two retail establishments in the City, however, one had closed, but the building was renovated and now available for another business. The City has received tax revenue from having these licenses.

Mayor Chapman said it was his duty to vote the way the public wants him to vote; he also questioned if all the people that voted in favor of legalizing marijuana were in favor of additional licenses in Ishpeming.

Councilmember Firby questioned this discussion because the current ordinance #2-1600 is only for the two retail licenses/provisioning centers and does not allow any other licenses; and there was no recommendation for increasing the number of licenses from the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Halverson would like to direct the Planning Commission to not move forward with any more plans to bring any other marijuana business into the City because it is not in the best interest of the people. The Planning Commission should cease and desist any more work on the marijuana ordinance amendment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Halverson, seconded by Mayor Chapman to restrict/disallow the establishment of marijuana processors, production facilities, secure transport facilities, or safety compliance facilities within the General Commercial, Central Business District or Industrial Zoning Districts combined. The motion was amended to direct the Planning Commission to discontinue any more planning for facilities in the City. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman and Councilmember Halverson (2). Nays: Councilmembers Lindsay Bean and Elizabeth Firby (2). Motion failed 2-2.

Addition to Agenda: Siren Communications Contract
Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, said the Siren contract expired on April 1, 2024 and thought this was very good for the City of Ishpeming. She added streets needed attention and also questioned when Council directed the Planning Commission to work on amendments to the marijuana ordinance.

Ray Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, expressed his concern with the cost of Siren Communications and was not seeing any results. He suggested as an alternative, the City should support the schools, and make announcements during sporting events or put a billboard up on the highway because the City does have a lot to offer.

Councilmember Halverson questioned if the contract with Siren was complete.

Manager Cugini explained the original contract was extended by the Council, due to a death in the firm, so the contract would expire the end of April, however, there was an off-boarding option within the contract. Siren has been following the contract and providing the deliverables as outlined. Siren Communications has not asked for a renewal and he further explained the off-boarding process.

Attorney Caroline Bridges advised the initial contract ran through March 31, 2024 but they were not able to start right away due to a tragedy in the company so there was a contract amendment to begin two weeks later. She reviewed the off-boarding process.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to begin the off-boarding process with Siren Communications.

Councilmember Bean voted in favor since the off-boarding process as already begun but believes there was value in the work done by Siren.

f. Final 2024 First Quarter Budget Amendments
Finance Director Grant Getschow gave a brief update/clarification regarding the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act and after discussions with Treasury there is no prevention of budget amendments after year end. The Uniform Budget Manual which is published by Treasury, as outlined in the Act, is a best practice manual. He added the General Appropriations Act may permit the Chief Administrative Officer to execute transfers within the limits of the act without the prior approval of the legislative body. He suggested this may be helpful for the City. He pointed out there would be corrective action plans required for having expenditures over appropriations for 2023, since budget amendments were not done.

Mayor Chapman suggested scheduling a budget workshop but have it on the Finance Department's timeline since they are extremely busy. Finance Director Getschow would look into parameters for the Chief Administrative Officer.

Finance Director Getschow reviewed the proposed budget amendment for the first quarter of 2024. There was discussion related to the General Fund revenues and expenditures.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 first quarter budget amendments as presented.

g. Discussion on approved 2024 Capital Improvement Projects
Anne Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, suggested the City purchase a new fire engine instead of purchasing a sidewalk plow. The City needed a fire engine for the safety of the residents. The existing sidewalk plow may not satisfy all the needs of the City, but there should be priorities set.

Mayor Chapman added even though the Fire Department does not pay into the motor pool fund there are no legal requirements or nothing that legally bars the City from using that money towards a fire engine. He did not want to hold off purchasing a fire engine any longer.

Mayor Chapman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Halverson to remove the sidewalk plow from the Capital Improvement Plan as the City purchased a sidewalk plow within the last two years, and take $200,000 from the Motor Pool Fund for the purchase of a new fire engine and direct the fire chief to begin talks and begin purchasing, which leaves time to come up with an external source for the fire engine and encourages looking harder and checking into payment plans; in a total amount not to exceed amount of $1,000,000, pending the attorney review of using Motor Pool Funds. The motion was amended to earmark the approximate $80,000 balance of the public improvement fund to be used as a down payment and work towards finding a payment plan in lieu of waiting for grants. No action taken on this motion.

Finance Director Getschow advised there would be unintended consequences on the General Fund budget if a purchase of a fire engine is made through the Motor Pool Fund. He further explained the various funds the City has and how a motor pool fund works. The Motor Pool is an internal service fund. If motor pool funds were used to purchase a fire truck, the City would have to assess rent at an hourly rate to make the Motor Pool whole. He could verify this with the auditors. He suggested cutting some projects funded by the Public Improvement Fund instead.

There was discussion related to the 2024 projects funded in the public improvement fund, the ramifications of utilizing the Motor Pool Fund; scaling back or eliminating some of the approved 2024 capital projects to put towards funding a new fire engine; and earmarking the approximately $80,000 balance in the Public Improvement Fund to the purchase of a fire engine.

Councilmember Bean expressed her concerns with earmarking dollars without having a payment plan/options presented by staff.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to direct the City Manager and relevant staff to propose options for purchasing a fire truck and to provide Council with some choices on payment options and a down payment to purchase the engine and provide to Council by mid-May.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson to remove the purchase of a sidewalk plow from the approved 2024 public improvement project list. Ayes: Mayor Jason Chapman, Councilmembers Renelle Halverson and Elizabeth Firby (3). Nays: Councilmember Lindsay Bean (1). Motion passed 3-1.

Councilmember Firby noted this purchased could be reconsidered in future.

Councilmember Bean expressed her concern with not purchasing a piece of equipment that was recommended by the Department and the Manager. She noted she makes her decisions on the recommendation of staff and the Manager as she does not have the expertise in the equipment used by all departments.

h. Quotations for Repairs to the 1999 Trackless Sidewalk Plow/Tractor - General Foreman Bill Anderson explained what repairs were needed to the trackless sidewalk plow/tractor. Staff recommended the repairs be made by Miller Bradford and not exceed $10,000, with the payment to be made from the motor pool fund.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to approve the repairs to the trackless sidewalk plow/tractor in an amount not-to-exceed $10,000 with payment from the Motor Pool Fund.

i. Review Planning Commission recommendation: Vacate 20' wide alley between Lots 49-52 of the Nelson's Addition - A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to declare the 20' wide alley between Lots 49-52 as surplus and schedule a public hearing at the next regular Council meeting.

j. Review Planning Commission recommendation: Vacate 20' wide east-west alley between Lots 163 and 165 of the Nelson's Addition – A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to declare the 20' wide east-west alley between Lots 163 and 165 of the Nelson's Addition as surplus and schedule a public hearing at the next regular Council meeting.

k. Recommendation from the Planning Commission and DDA regarding the murals on the railroad trestles
There was discussion on having new murals painted on the trestles versus replacing the existing trestles with a solid color; checking with various organizations, groups, or individuals/students that may be interested in painting new murals; utilizing the closure of Lakeshore to begin this project; and contacting the railroad to determine if permission was needed.

Councilmember Bean was in favor only if it included having a completed project which would include new murals on the trestles.

A motion was made by Councilmember Halverson, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to table this item for further review and direct the Manager to determine if any permissions were needed from the railroad.

l. Amendment to the Traffic Control Orders per Uniform Traffic Control Code: Handicapped Parking Space in parking lot on southwest corner of Main Street and Division Street - Mayor Chapman and Councilmember Halverson discussed two parking spaces instead of one as recommended by staff.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Halverson and carried unanimously to amend the Traffic Control Orders to create two handicapped parking spaces in the parking lot on the southwest corner of Main and Division Street.

m. Consider applying for MDOT Category "F" 2026 Funding -
Manager Cugini advised the deadline to apply for Category "F" MDOT funding was May 1, 2024 for work that would be done in 2026.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to apply for the MDOT Category "F" funding for Option (2) the section of roadway from Washington Street: Township Line to Old Washington as recommended by the engineering and the City Manager.

Mayor Chapman advised Third Street was not a thru-route to the City, and asked if signs could be installed.

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

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, expressed his concern with the loose mesh currently on the fire tower and suggested the tower be removed, either in-part or entirely; and suggested Cleveland Cliff's be contacted to check if they would be willing to help fund some road repairs.

Dave Lawler, 925 Main Street, encouraged residents to participate in the Master Plan discussions at the Planning Commission.

Jeff DeGabriele, 413 Vine Street, was upset with the City Manager discussing the small claims case at a Council meeting; and expressed his concerns with the Mayor violating the parking ban by parking on City property when it is not allowable.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS
Councilmembers Bean and Halverson had no report.

Councilmember Firby asked if a map could be provided of all roads in the City with a plan of what roads where going to be done and when.

Mayor Chapman announced his next Coffee Hours would be held: April 16^{th} at 6:00 p.m. and April 25^{th} at 1:00 p.m. at the Cliff's Shaft Mine Museum and would be co-hosted with Councilmember Halverson. He also thanked DPW for doing a great job during the last snow event.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT
Manager Cugini advised he would be traveling downstate next week to the Ambassador's Conference in Lansing; and, he would be holding office hours with the Manager at the Carnegie Library for residents to ask questions on April 11, 2024 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

14. ADJOURNMENT
At 9:15 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon seconded by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Cathy Smith

Cathy Smith, City Clerk