

Ishpeming City Council Proceedings: October 30, 2024
Ishpeming, MI 49849

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Jason Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jason Chapman, Council Members Renelle Halverson, and Pat Scanlon (3). Absent: Councilmember Elizabeth Firby (1). One seat vacant (1). Also present was Interim City Manager Grant Getschow and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Chapman asked to amend the agenda and remove Item 5d as it was pending information from out auditors and to add in its place, confirmation of ceasing the broadcasting of Council meetings on Channel 189 and YouTube.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - Public comment was offered through Zoom and in person.

Mike Tonkin 612 N. Third Street, was disappointed to hear the City was no longer broadcasting meetings on the internet or on Channel 189; he has received many comments related to this from residents; and he was also disappointed that the link to the previous council meetings was not available for a short time on the website.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Discussion of proposed 2025 Budget

i. Parks and Recreation Commission Playground Recommendation

DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson explained the Parks and Recreation Commission would like to see the tot lot done first and suggested it be done in 2025. He further explained if all the playlots were done together there would be a cost savings.

Interim City Manager Getschow thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for their recommendation. He added the plan, in its entirety, could be added to the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan and if funding should become available, the Council could review the plan and determine at that time if the project should move forward.

There was discussion related to the total cost of the all the playlots; the potential increase in cost if the project was put on hold; how much the playlots were being used and which playlots were the most popular, and incorporating this plan into the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to place the proposed plan for the playlots in the 2025 Capital Improvements Plan.

ii. Motor Pool Fund

Interim Manager Getschow gave a brief explanation the Motor Pool Fund and summarized the flow of resources related to vehicles and equipment utilizing the Motor Pool Fund and then reviewed the flow with the elimination of the Motor Pool Fund. He explained how the elimination of the Motor Pool Fund would affect the General Fund.

There was discussion related to the purchase of new vehicles from the Water and Sewer Funds if the Motor Pool was eliminated; reallocating used water and sewer vehicles to other departments; and using golf carts at the cemetery, instead of pickup trucks, which were less expensive to purchase and to maintain.

Councilmember Halverson and Scanlon thought this was a great idea, however, with the possibility of having some new council members after the election, she suggested this be put on hold.

Mayor Chapman thought this would be a positive change and the decision could be made at this point.

Mayor Chapman moved to dissolve the motor pool fund and it was seconded by Councilmember Scanlon. The motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to table this item until the next regular council meeting on November 13th.

b. Public Hearing on 2025 Budget and Millage Rates

Mayor Chapman opened the public hearing for the 2025 Budget and Millage Rates at 5:34 p.m.

There being no comment, the public hearing was closed at 5:38 p.m.

c. Authorization for City Treasurer to place delinquent accounts on tax rolls

There was some brief discussion related to the list of properties and the delinquent charges being placed on the tax rolls.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, supported by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to authorize the City Treasurer to place delinquent accounts on the tax rolls.

d. Confirmation of ceasing the broadcast of meetings on You-Tube and Channel 189

Interim City Manager Getschow explained the City of Ishpeming follows the Open Meetings Act (OMA); noted all minutes are on the City's website, and the link to the previous You-Tube videos was also back on the website.

There was discussion related to the decision made to stop televising on Channel 189 and to stop streaming live on You-Tube; it was noted the decision was made after discussions between the Interim Manager and Chief of Police; and compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Chapman, Councilmembers Scanlon and Halverson all agreed with the decision.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Halverson, and carried unanimously to confirm the decision to temporarily discontinue broadcasting on YouTube and Channel 189.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:49 p.m., a motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk