

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting
(and Joint Planning Commission Meeting)
Minutes
Monday, September 23, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, September 23, 2024 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Aeh at 4:00 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, Grant Getschow, Brian Buchanan, Kelly Milano, Antonio Adan, David Aro, and Carrie Meyer (7). Absent: Krystan Beaumont, Renelle Halverson, Tracy Magnuson and Brice Sturmer (4). Also present was Linda Andriacchi for Beautification.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lindsay Bean, 141 Vine Street, asked to reserve time under item 9a.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Meyer supported by Member Aro and carried unanimously to approve the July 22, 2024 minutes as presented.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Interim City Manager Grant Getschow reviewed the monthly financial report for period ending August 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Member Aro supported by Member Meyer and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

a. Proposed 2025 DDA Budget

Interim Manager Getschow, Member Aro, and Member Aeh gave a summary of the discussion during the proposed 2025 budget meeting. The Façade Grants were increased to \$30,000 and the Start-up Assistance Grants were increased to \$15,000.

There was discussion related to the importance maintaining the downtown so it looked cared for, which included removing weeds around the buildings, emptying garbage cans, maintaining the downtown gardens; and finding a developer for the Anderson Building. Consideration should be giving to funding an employee towards maintenance of the downtown area. The DDA's financial assistance in plowing the downtown was also discussed.

Members talked about the importance of stabilizing the back wall of the Anderson Building which could possibly assist in finding a developer for the site. Member Adan explained the Land Bank could potentially find funding to assist with the stabilization of the wall, and added he has had conversations with Pat Moyle regarding next steps for stabilization.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan seconded by Member Adan and carried unanimously to approve the proposed 2025 DDA budget as presented and forward to the City Council.

6. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Linda Andriacchi thanked DPW for responding quickly to emails regarding the vehicle issues. Amy Marietti did not know if she would be able to water flowers again next year, so she would be looking for some during the winter months. She also asked if an increase in wage would be considered.

7. LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (LSCP) REPORT

The LSCP reports for July and August were handed out and there was some brief discussion related to the reports.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Meyer and carried unanimously to accept the LSCP reports as presented for July and August.

8. 2024 FAÇADE GRANT REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

a. Confirm extension for 204-206 Cleveland Avenue

A motion was made by Member Meyer, seconded by Member Adan and carried unanimously to extend the façade grant for 204-206 Cleveland Avenue until December 31, 2024.

9. START UP ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. Junior Achievement of the Upper Peninsula

A motion was made by Member Aro, seconded by Member Adan and carried unanimously to approve the Start Up Assistance grant application for Junior Achievement of the Upper Peninsula as presented.

Lindsay Bean explained there were three employees that covered the entire Upper Peninsula for Junior Achievement and she was excited to have the main office located in Ishpeming.

10. ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS REPORT

Member Aeh reported the summer concert series was very successful; the next event would be Ladies Night Out and then the Christmas Festivities.

There was discussion related to contacting various food trucks and asking if they would be interested in attending events in the City of Ishpeming. Member Adan has contacted a couple of food vendors and provided a list of upcoming events in the City. He received a positive response when talking to the vendors.

11. LETTER FROM CLIFF SHAFT MINE MUSEUM

Member Aeh advised he did not receive a copy of the request, so this item would be placed on the November regular DDA meeting agenda.

12. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Member Aeh was very interested in pursuing funding to assist with the stabilization of the back wall of the Anderson Building. He understood that there would be no commitment of dollars from the Marquette County Land Bank, but would like to ask for any kind of assistance to explore what could be done towards the stabilization and to research any funding options. The possibility of obtaining State Land Bank funds was discussed towards incentivization of this site.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Meyer, to draft a letter to the Marquette County Land Bank asking for any kind of assistance to determine options for stabilization of the Anderson Building along with any assistance to explore funding options, this would not be a request for dollars, and, in addition, send a copy to the Ishpeming City Council. Motion passed 6-1 with Member Adan abstaining.

Member Adan provided some information on the Michigan Main Street training and consideration of working with the LSCP on completing the application process.

13. JOINT MEETING WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The joint meeting with the Planning Commission began at 5:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Members Present: Brooke Routhier, Lindsay Bean, Mike Tonkin, Cory Richards, Phil Carter, Torrey Dupras, and Mike Elliott (7). Member Absent: Renelle Halverson and Mike Kinnunen. (2)

Discuss Master Plan Goals and Objectives

Chairperson Brooke Routhier explained the Planning Commission continues to review the Master Plan's goals and objectives. Discussion took place on wayfinding signage and the contract the City has with Community Image

Builders which was part of the Redevelopment Ready Communities Technical Assistance Grant for Branding and Marketing. It was suggested the main corridor to enter Ishpeming was Third Street to Hematite and it was important to get people into the downtown. Creating a more aesthetically pleasing entrance to the City including more green space was important. Narrowing Third Street would be very beneficial. Adding more trees on Hematite and adding some barriers to block the alley view was also talked about.

The street lighting in the downtown was discussed along with the reconfiguration of Third Street during the construction project which would include more green space in that corridor. One concern with lighting was to have it aim downward so it was not creating light pollution.

Interim DPW Director Bill Anderson reviewed the new plan for Jopling Street in the 8th addition which was part of the CWSRF project. The intersection at Prairie and Jopling Street would be reconfigured and green space would be added in the area.

The proposed plan that was submitted by NMU student Eli Williams which suggested including parklets in the downtown and making the downtown more walkable was discussed. In addition, members talked about having food trucks attend more of the events in Ishpeming which would possibly bring more people to the downtown.

Member Routhier explained the Planning Commission would have a larger role in the review of the Capital Improvement Project and the Capital Improvement Plan.

Discuss Third Street possible 2025 Construction and Design

Interim DPW Director Bill Anderson explained the proposed construction and design of Third Street. It was being proposed to narrow the width of Third Street, similar to the north end of Thirds Street, and adding some green space.

There was discussion related to the importance of having Third Street be aesthetically pleasing with it being a main entrance to the City along with Hematite Drive; and limiting the amount of hard space and increasing the amount of green space would be very beneficial.

Set Joint Meeting Dates for 2025

It was agreed to hold the first joint meeting of the DDA and Planning Commission at the Planning Commission's regular meeting on January 6, 2025; the second joint meeting would be held at the DDA regular meeting on September 22, 2024. It was also discussed having a joint meeting with the DDA/Planning Commission/Parks and Recreation Commission on a date in March.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:18 p.m., a motion was made by Member Carter, supported by Member Aro and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith

City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager