1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, November 13, 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 Elizabeth Firby and Pat Scanlon (3). Absent: Councilmember Renelle Halverson (1). One Councilmember seat vacant (1). Also present was Interim City Manager Grant Getschow and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to amend the agenda to remove item (m) appointment of Brooke Routhier as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals and replace it with "appointment of Taylor Ruotsala to a 5-year term on the Housing Commission" and to approve the agenda as amended.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment was offered through Zoom and in person.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, questioned his appointment to the Planning Commission and when his term was up; he had experience being a member of the Planning Commission and also had building trade experience; he applied for the vacancy on the Housing Commission; and questioned why he was not being appointed to either board.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, asked to reserve time under item 10f.

Johnathon Naracon, 742 Elliott Avenue, advised he was on the agenda for appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission and wanted to introduce himself to the Council, he was looking forward to serving the community.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda incorporating the change to item (m).

a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (October 9th and 30th)
b. Approval of Disbursements
c. Confirm Mayor appointment: Brooke Routhier to 3-year term on Planning Commission expiring 11/2027
d. Confirm Mayor appointment: Cory Richards to 3-year term on Planning Commission expiring 11/2027
e. Confirm Mayor appointment: Dax Richer to a 3-year term on the Planning Commission expiring 11-2027
f. Confirm Mayor appointment: Clarice Champion to fill vacancy on the Ishpeming Commission on Aging expiring 9/2026
g. Confirm Mayor appointment: Carol Gaboury to a 3-year term on the Ishpeming Commission on Aging expiring 9/2027
h. Confirm Mayor appointment: David Johnson to 3-year term on the Housing Appeals Board expiring: 12/2027
i. Confirm Mayor appointment: Johnathon Naracon to fill vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission expiring: 5/2025
j. Appoint David Johnson to 3-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals expiring 11/2027
k. Appoint Dax Richer to fill vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals expiring 11/2026
l. Appoint Taylor Routsala to a 3-year term as an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals expiring 11/2027

m. ~~Appoint Brooke Routhier to a 3-year term as an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals expiring 11/2027~~ (removed)
(added) Mayor appointment of Taylor Ruotsala to a 5-year term on the Housing Commission expiring 10/2029

7. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

a. Financial Statement Report

Interim City Manager Grant Getschow reviewed the unaudited balance sheet including the General Fund, Major and Local Streets, Sewer and Garbage fund, DDA, and Police and Fire Retirement Fund for the period ending October 31, 2024.

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

b. DPW Report

Interim DPW Director Bill Anderson advised the Lakeshore Drive roundabout has been completed and was open; the Second Street Storm Sewer repairs and paving has been completed; Habitat for Humanity has been working on the Second Street playlot and work should be done by the end of December with the exception of the chips which will be done in the spring; the Land Bank has demolished 701 Third Street; the trackless tractor was inspected by DPW and has been purchased; DPW crews have been clearing the plow routes; and improvements have been made to the tube slide.

c. Library Report

Library Director Jesse Shirtz provided the monthly report for Council's review and pointed out some of the highlights.

d. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Cathy Smith reported a successful General Election, all went very smoothly; and she thanked all the election inspectors for all their work, dedication, and extra efforts during this very busy election year and further noted the City is very lucky to have such a wonderful team of inspectors.

e. Police Department – There was no report.

f. Fire Department - Fire Chief Jason Annala gave a brief summary of the fire department's monthly activities.

8. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was none.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. State Revolving Fund

i. Resolution 19-2024, CWSRF Payment Reimbursement

Chris Holms, UP Architects and Engineers (UPEA), was present via Zoom, and explained this resolution was for a reimbursement request for the CWSRF project; however, it should be approved contingent upon EGLE's approval of Change Order #2 which was item 10(a)(iii) on the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Firby, seconded by Mayor Chapman and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #19-2024 as presented; contingent upon the approval of Change Order #2 by EGLE.

ii. Void CWSRF Change Order #1 dated 9/11/2024

Chris Holmes, UPEA, advised there was an error made with the change order numbering and requested this change order be voided.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to void Change Order #1 dated 9/11/2024 as requested by staff and UPEA.

iii. CWSRF Change Order #2
Chris Holmes, UPEA, explained this change order was an increase to the project in the amount of $411,853.29 and reviewed the proposed changes; and added this change order has been submitted to EGLE for their approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #2 as presented, pending approval by EGLE.

b. Special Event Application
i. Ishpeming Community Events Christmas Festivities and Parade : November/December 2024
ii. Ishpeturkey Trot: 11/28/2024
iii. 906 Adventure Team Polar Roll: 2/15/2025
A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to approve the three special event applications as presented.

c. 2024 Third Quarter Budget Amendments
Interim Manager Getschow reviewed the proposed 2024 third quarter budget amendments which included amendments to the General Fund, and the Major and Local Street Funds.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adopt the 2024 third quarter budget amendments as presented.

d. Discuss elimination of the Motor Pool Fund
Interim Manager Getschow briefly summarized his analysis of the motor pool fund and explained the estimated impacts on key funds if the Motor Pool Fund was eliminated. There was further discussion related to the purchase of vehicles without a motor pool fund.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to eliminate the motor pool fund on the recommendation of the Manager/Finance Director.

e. Request to waive property taxes on 701 N. Third Street
Interim Manager Getschow explained a portion of the back taxes for 701 N. Third Street were utility bills and the previous lot clean up charges. The Land Bank has demolished the blighted structure on this property and requested these charges be waived.

A motion was made by Mayor Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Scanlon and carried unanimously to waive the delinquent utility charges and clean-up costs for this property for a total of $17,369.32.

f. Discuss offer to purchase Pumphouse Property (52-51-573-028-00)
Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, advised this property was purchased from US Steel for $10,800, and she also added there was still equipment in the building that could potential have value. She asked Council to consider this when deciding what to do with the parcel.

Bill Anderson, Anderson-Petersen Investments, explained the body of water near the property was a fenced in mine pit and also added, the equipment in the building did not have value, but the motor could be removed if Council wished. This parcel was a one-acre lot and there was a water and sewer line on the property. Anderson-Petersen Investments has a very good track record in the community and would like to work on a project at this location.

Councilmember Firby pointed out Council would obviously like to get as much as possible for the property, however, there has been no interest in this parcel from any other party. Anderson-Petersen Investments has been the only party that has expressed an interest in this parcel.

Discussion followed related to the property being on the tax roll if sold; if it would be a brownfield project; and the potential of tax abatement on property. Council very much supported the investment firm, Anderson-Petersen Investments. Also talked about was the purchase price of $5,000 and the development of a purchase agreement that would cover the City from any liability.

Councilmember Scanlon though the City should however do its due diligence before moving forward and should then move forward expeditiously. He suggested staff contact the Marquette County Landbank and the Brownfield Authority to get more information on what the process would be and attempt to obtain some comparable properties to determine a selling price.

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

Cathy Schooler, 769 Michigan Street, asked the Council to reinstate the broadcasting of Council meetings on YouTube and on Channel 189; and added this helps to keep the residents of the City informed on City business.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, referenced sections of the City Policy #417, Sale and Disposal of City-owned Properties that should be followed.

Mike Tonkin, 612 N. Third Street, gave some background information on the history of the waterworks building; and he added he thought the property was worth keeping as a backup during an emergency.

Bill Anderson, Anderson-Petersen Investments, also reviewed sections City Policy #417. He also announced The Mather won the Outstanding Marquette County Business Award and he was very proud of what Anderson-Petersen Investments has accomplished. He thanked everyone for letting them be part of the community.

Sarah Johnson, Partridge Creek Farms (PCF), 901 N. Third Street, thanked Bill Anderson for everything Andeson-Petersen Investment has brought to the community with The Mather. She also thanked City Clerk Cathy Smith for all the work she does for the City. She provided a brief update on PCF; noted there was a lot of grant funding that has been going into the intergenerational farm; and she reminded everyone to visit their website at www.partridgecreekfarm.org for more information related to the Farm.

Ray Olds, 1169 Ninth Street, would like to see coffee with the Mayor continue as it was a great way for residents to ask questions and to receive information on what was happening in the City.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Firby was honored to have served the community over the last four years; she learned a valuable amount of knowledge; she enjoyed working with everyone: staff, Council, and the residents; and she wished the new Council well and knew they would continue to move the City forward.

Councilmember Scanlon thanked all the election inspectors and the City Clerk and her staff for all the work put into the elections this year; he also thanked the Police Department for all their assistance during the General Election.

Mayor Chapman thanked all the voters for having trust in him for another four years and he was honored to serve as the Mayor over the last two years; he looked forward to working with the new Council and would like to see the City continue to move forward; and added he would like to continue the partnerships with Partridge Creek Farm and the Ski Club. He thanked Mayor Pro Tem Firby for her services to the community and thanked staff for all their work.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT
Interim Manager Getschow provided an updated on the Johnson Street clean up from the fire; the new Council would be reviewing the broadcasting of Council meetings on YouTube and on Channel 189; and there were two qualified applicants for the City Manager position and staff would be scheduling interviews for the new Council.

14. ADJOURNMENT
At 7:35 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Firby and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Cathy Smith

Cathy Smith, City Clerk