

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Pat Scanlon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Council Members Brett Argall and Kurt Kipling (3). Absent: Councilmembers Ben Argall and Jason Chapman (2). Also present was Interim City Manager Grant Getschow and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to remove item 10g Change Order #2 for Second Street Sewer Project from the agenda and approve the agenda as amended.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, asked Council to consider celebrating the Fourth of July on the Fourth of July and not on a different day. This is a celebration for the City and should be celebrated on that holiday. In addition, he expressed his concern with the nets not being removed from the tennis courts this year and questioned who maintained the courts.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm 2025 Publishing Source – The Mining Journal
- d. Confirm 2025 Depositories – Nicolet/TruNorth/First Bank/Comerica/Charles Schwab/Edward D. Jones
- e. Confirm Payment to UPSET for 2025 - \$10,000
- f. Confirm Payment to Commission on Aging for 2025 - \$9,000

7. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

a. Financial Statement Report

Interim City Manager Grant Getschow explained the summary report had been revised and the report was now summarized from the income statement. He 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 December 31, 2024. He noted the Motor Pool Fund would be dissolved moving forward.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve the unaudited financial report as presented.

b. DPW Report

Interim DPW Director Bill Anderson reported staff had been removing holiday decoration, getting ready for the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Ski Jump Tournament; was continuing to work on meters; and have had a few water leaks over the past week but they were repaired quickly.

Interim City Manager Grant Getschow provided an update on the proposed new water meter portal that would be available for residents and recommended Council authorize moving forward with the project.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to move forward with the water meter portal for residents to monitor water meter usage with funding from the reimbursement for unused meters.

c. Library Report

Library Director Jesse Shirtz summarized her monthly report and advised she would provide the annual report once it has been approved by the Library Board.

8. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Fire Tower Report

Interim Manager Getschow advised the recommendation from UPEA was to remove the decorative cap from the tower or remove the entire tower. He noted the Capital Improvement Plan will have to be reviewed and modified to fund this project

There was discussion related to the Option 1 and Option 2 provided by U.P. Engineers and Architects (UPEA) and their recommendation for the City to pursue Option 2, Demolish the 2001 rebuilt portion and provide a new cap over the remaining portion of the tower which would be more cost-effective option.

Mayor Pat Scanlon suggested UPEA investigate other possible options, such as stripping off and repairing the brick. This item should be brought back to Council at a future meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review/Confirm Policy 601: Council Rules of Procedure Policy

Mayor Pat Scanlon reviewed the recommended changes to the Policy including the proposed language added under Section 1, Item I (2) and the proposed changes to Section III, Item B on the agenda preparation.

In addition, Mayor Scanlon suggested a third paragraph be added to Section 1, Item I as follows: (3) “Pop-in” or “Drop-in” meetings can interfere with the ability of the City Manager and staff to accomplish their work. Therefore, Councilmembers shall make an advance appointment to talk with the Manager and staff whenever possible.

There was some brief discussion regarding the agenda and having two public comment periods. Mayor Pat Scanlon suggested removing the second public comment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to remove the second public comment from the agenda

Councilmember Brett Argall agreed with the proposed changes and incorporating the suggested additions as discussed.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to adopt the Council Rules with the recommended proposed changes and incorporating the suggested additions of #3 under Section 1, Item I and removing the second public comment.

b. 2025 City Council Meeting Schedule

There was some discussion regarding changing the regular meeting date from the first Wednesday, following the first Monday to the third Wednesday of every month.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to amend Policy 601, Council Rules and schedule the regular Council meetings for 2025 on the third Wednesday of every month beginning in February 2025.

c. 2024 Fourth Quarter Budget Amendments

Interim City Manager Getschow reviewed the 2024 Fourth Quarter Budget amendments.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 Fourth Quarter Budget amendments as presented by staff.

d. Proposed 2025 Fee Schedule

City Clerk Cathy Smith advised there were no fee increase recommended at this time. The water and sewer ordinances dictate a 5% increase every year in January for water and sewer rates. Staff was recommending water and sewer rates not be increased at this time and monitor funds for 6-months to ensure the bond payments can be covered and revisit the water and sewer rates in June. Interim Manager Getschow further reviewed the bond payments.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to suspend the 5% increase on water and sewer rates and revisit the rates in June per staff's recommendation.

e. Schedule Unsafe Building Hearing: 409 Maple Street

Interim Manager Getschow gave a brief history of the property located at 409 Maple Street and advised the next step per Ordinance 7-100, was to schedule a hearing with the Hearing Board, which is the City Council.

Attorney Caroline Bridges recommended a special meeting be set for Council to hold the hearing.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to set a special meeting for a hearing on property located at 409 Maple Street for March 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and direct the Clerk to send the appropriate notifications.

f. Resolution 1-2025, Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test

City Clerk Smith advised the Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test need to be adopted yearly for the March Board of Review. Adoption of this Resolution is a requirement the Board of Review and is necessary for the audit being conducted by Treasury.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to adopted Resolution 1-2025, Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test as presented.

g. Change Order #2 – Second Street Storm Sewer Repairs

This item was removed from the agenda.

h. DPW-Water Sewer Department request to purchase Vactor Truck

Interim DPW Director Bill Anderson advised the funding for this vehicle would come from the Water and Sewer Funds and was on the Capital Improvement Plan for 2025.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded from Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to move forward the purchase of the new Vactor Truck with funding of approximately \$607,646 from the Water and Sewer Funds.

i. Quote for repairs to the Pierce Fire Truck

Interim Manager Getschow explained Fire Chief Jason Annala obtained an estimate for the repairs of the 2005 Pierce Fire Truck to keep the vehicle operational and Fire Chief Annala thought this was a good solution until the current Fire Truck millage could potentially be renewed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to move forward with the repairs to the 2005 Pierce Fire Truck for an approximate cost of \$73,506 with funding from the Capital Improvement fund or if allowable the millage funds.

j. Request to declare DPW equipment/vehicles surplus

Interim DPW Director Anderson advised the list of equipment and vehicles was suggested to be declared surplus.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to move forward with declaring the list of items surplus as recommended and authorize DPW to scrap items with no value.

k. 2025 City Health Insurance Coverage

Interim Manager Getschow read a statement into the record related to health care and the General Fund. He also noted he provided a summary sheet of the cost shares and deductibles for both plans for employee and Council to review. He reviewed the two plans that would be offered to City staff.

Ryan Whitley, representative from Acrisure, provided some benchmarks for health insurance in the area and highlighted and summarized some of the data.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to adopt the two plans for health care as presented (BCN HSA Gold and BCN HSA Platinum) as the 2025-2026 City Health Insurance coverage with the City to fund 50% of the employee deductible for each plan.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, thanked Council and staff for recommending a pause on the 5% water and sewer increases.

Ray Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, a lot of good things happened tonight, however, he expressed his concerns with eliminating the second public comment from the agenda.

Ann Olds, 1165 Ninth Street, expressed her disappointed with the elimination of the second public comment.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Interim Manager Getschow explained the grant for the Historical Society that would be applied for to move the Historical Society out of the Gossard Building to the Chem Lab Building at the Cliff Shaft Mine Museum site. He added there would be no City match for this grant. He asked Council for permission to move forward with the grant application.

A motion was made by Mayor Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kipling and carried unanimously to direct the Interim City Manager to move forward with the grant application for the Historical Society.

Mayor Scanlon advised the Michigan Municipal League is offering a virtual newly elected official training in February. He advised Councilmembers to contact Clerk Smith and she would register interested member for the training with the fee to be paid by the City.

A motion was made by Mayor Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kipling and carried unanimously to authorize the Council training with the fee to be paid by the City.

Councilmember Kurt Kipling announced the Meet and Greet with the incoming City Manager, Randy Scholz, from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025 at the Senior Center with coffee/donuts/cookies being served. He reported he met with Central Dispatch and toured the facility and advised the 9-1-1 operators do not get to leave station during the day; met with the ambulance staff and toured the facility; and reviewed the protocol for the ambulance service.

Councilmember Brett Argall attended the DDA/Planning Commission Joint meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and was very excited to be part of those two groups; and thanked Councilmember Kipling and Mayor Scanlon for arranging the Meet and Greet with the incoming City Manager.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Getschow thanked Kathy Hakala, Utility Billing Clerk, for working with agencies and helping residents to get assistance; and thanked all staff for attending the meeting for the City Health Insurance item.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:37 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to adjourn.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cathy Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Cathy Smith, City Clerk