

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, January 27, 2025, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair David Aro at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: David Aro, Brice Sturmer, Brian Buchanan, Antonio Adan, Kelly Milano, Carrie Meyer, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, and Grant Getschow (9). Absent: Tracy Magnuson (1). Vacant: one seat (1). Also present was Linda Andriacchi for Beautification.

a. Election of Officers

Member Meyer nominated Member Aro for Chair. Seconded by Member Sturmer.
Member Adan nominated Member Sturmer for Chair. Seconded by Member Buchanan.
Nominations were closed.

Voting took place on the two appointments.

A motion was made by Member Meyer, seconded by Member Argall and carried unanimously to appoint Dave Aro to Chair.

A motion was made by Member Beaumont, seconded by Member Adan and carried unanimously to appoint Brice Sturmer to Vice Chair.

Member Sturmer nominate Krystan Beaumont for secretary. Seconded by Member Buchanan.

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Buchanan and carried unanimously to appoint Krystan Beaumont to Secretary.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The DDA members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Sturmer seconded by Member Milano and carried unanimously to approve the November 25, 2024 s as presented.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Interim Manager Grant Getschow reviewed the monthly financial report for period ending December 31, 2024. Closing entries will be completed next month and the 2025 budget will be provided in March.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Meyer and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

6. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Linda Andriacchi advised she has not heard from DPW regarding the Beautification Caretaker position. She expressed some of her concerns with having DPW maintain and care for the

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baskets and also noted she would like the wage to remain at \$15.00 per hour for the position. In addition, she would like to start discussion of a plan so when the students go back to college, the baskets could remain up into the early fall.

Interim Manager Getschow suggested using the summer hires for DPW (college students) to fill the beautification caretaker position. DPW would hire the staff and assign the rolls but the City would need to ensure the plants were being cared for properly.

7. 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

A motion was made by Member Meyer, seconded Member Beaumont and carried unanimously to accept the 2025 meeting schedule as presented.

8. DISCUSS 2024 FAÇADE GRANT EXTENSION REQUESTS

There was discussion among the members as to allowing the two extensions for the 2024 façade grants; ensuring the applicants have a contractor lined up for the project and that the project would be completed by the new deadline. There was debate if the extensions should be through year-end (December 31st) or if the extension would be for a specified number of months.

It was pointed out the purpose of the façade grant was to improve the facades of business and make the downtown more welcoming.

a. The Mather

Concerns were expressed over the request as it indicated a contract was not currently locked in and it was suggested this item be tabled until further information is received from The Mather.

A motion was made by Member Meyer, seconded by Member Milano and carried unanimously to table this item until the March 24th meeting and send a letter to The Mather asking if contracts have been secured for the Façade Grant and ask if a representative could be present at the next meeting.

b. 204-206 Cleveland Avenue

Justin White, owner of 204-206 Cleveland Avenue, explained the problems that occurred with the façade during the project last summer and advised he does have contractors locked down for the project with completion by the end of the year.

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Buchanan and carried unanimously to authorize the extension of the Façade Grant for 204-206 Cleveland Avenue with completion deadline of December 31, 2025.

9. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CLIFF’S SHAFT MINE MUSEUM

There was discussion regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding submitted by the Cliff’s Shaft Mine Museum. Some concern was expressed with the wording that the “Cliff’s Shaft Mine Museum property will be a priority”.

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Further discussion took place regarding providing a letter of support for a specific project, versus a blanket memorandum of understanding for the Cliff's Shaft Mine property.

The DDA directed staff to reach out to Cliff's Shaft Mine Museum to determine what exactly is needed for the site.

10. ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS REPORT

Member Milano advised that she was working with the Fourth of July Committee on the 2025 festivities. She also provided an update on the Farmer's Market for 2025.

11. OLD BUSINESS – There was none.

15. NEW BUSINESS

DDA Director - Member Aro suggested the DDA consider hiring a part-time DDA Director. Discussion followed on the needs of the DDA and the benefits of having a part-time Director to write and administer grants, attend ribbon cuttings, meet with local business, and hold various events.

Member Adan and Member Beaumont agreed to be on the committee to review wage and further discuss this issue and bring information back to the March meeting.

Anderson Building – Member Adan explained the County was applying for a MEDC Façade grant for the Anderson Building and was looking for a letter of support from the DDA for this project. In addition, to score additional, points, he asked the DDA to commit \$25,455 towards the project.

It was noted the DDA has already determined the Anderson Building to be a priority in the downtown and funds should be committed for this grant to help with stabilization and repairs so the building would be more attractive to developers.

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Meyer and carried unanimously to direct staff to draft a letter of support for the MED façade grant for the Anderson Building and commit the funding of \$25,455 towards the project.

16. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:31 p.m., a motion was made by Member Meyer seconded by Member Milano and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager