

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, March 19, 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, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (4). Absent: Councilmember Ben Argall (1). Also present was City Manager Randy Scholz and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, welcomed the new City Manager Randy Scholz; highlighted the lease between the Ishpeming Public Schools and the City of Ishpeming for the Playgrounds; supported Item #11(c) as long as they were not asking for funding or asking for someone to write grants; and would like to see City funds used to improve infrastructure and repair of city streets/roads.

Kaitlyn Rich 784 Mather Street, questioned how anyone could not want to help the students; she would like to see a partnership between the City and the School for this project; and the students take a great deal of pride in the school district and the tennis team has been winning in spite of the condition of the courts. She added the dollars were allocated to the grant and she would like to see the dollars remain allocated to the project; she also suggested other funding sources be researched; and to develop a committee between the school and the City to continue to look at funding for this project.

Tim Harris, 1040 Wabash Street, would very much like to work something out between the City and the School so the tennis court project could continue to move forward.

Brian Sarvello, 634 N. Fifth Street, stated there was no greater source of pride in the community than the athletic program at the High School; he noted the tennis court facilities were not just used by the High School, they were used by the entire community and the courts were an embarrassment to the community. He further added the courts could also include pickleball which was becoming very popular; and would like to see cooperation between the School and the City to get this project moving forward.

Janice and Jim Bertucci, 801 N. Maple Street, would like to continue discussions with the City on the sidewalk issue on Empire Street in front of their garage; she provided background information on the issue that occurred and they handed out pictures of the sidewalk to the Council; she added they had many conversations with UPEA and the City over this issue in the past and would like to continue discussions.

Dave Kangas, 112 W. Park Street, Negaunee, welcomed new City Manager Randy Scholz and wished him well.

Dr. Jim Hayward, Buffalo Road, Negaunee Township, and a dentist, stated he was very much in favor of water fluoridation. He pointed out the amount of fluoride in the water was an important factor which helps to prevent tooth decay. In his profession, he does notice a difference in tooth decay in children between a fluorinated community versus those that are not.

Dr. Brian Anderson, 229 Shoreline Drive, Negaunee, and dentist in Ishpeming, was present to speak on the continued fluoridation in the City of Ishpeming and Negaunee. He pointed out fluoride amounts higher than the recommended amount could be an issue, however, at the recommended level fluoride is very beneficial to the dental health in children, therefore, fluoridation should not be discontinued as this would take away the defense against cavities.

Rebecca Maino, 725 Carr Street, Negaunee, a dental hygienist, also supported water fluoridation; fluoridation is beneficial to the children in the community. When she screens patients, she can tell which children come from water fluorinated areas and those that do not have fluoride. When the dose is controlled, it is safe, and she has complete trust and faith in the Water Authority; prevention is the best medicine.

Kristine Rhein, 177 Dana Lane, Marquette, worked for nine years in Dr. Hayward's office, and she noted it was very obvious to tell when patients were in an area that had fluoride in the water and those that did not. She supported fluoridation when it is at the recommended levels.

Dr. Kaitlyn Wetton. Dentist, 571 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, supported water fluoridation and it is the most cost-effective way to prevent cavities and dental disease. Removing fluoride would not be beneficial to the children or the elderly and it would have negative effects over the years. The recommended dosage should remain in the water and Council should advocate for the special needs, children, and elderly.

Dr. Bill Ballard, 3135 Wright Street, a dentist in Marquette, supported the continuation of fluoride in the water at the recommended dosage, it is the best weapon against cavities. If removed, cavities, tooth infections, and missing teeth will occur.

Dave Campana, 1711 Grandview Drive, Marquette, retired pharmacist, was in support of fluoridation adding it is safe and effective in its recommended dosage.

6. MANAGER OFFER OF INFORMATION

City Manager Randy Scholz was happy to be at the City and added everyone has been very welcoming.

7. 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 (February 19th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm Mayor Appointment: Matt Loos to vacancy on the Planning Commission: Term Exp 11/26
- d. Confirm Mayor Appointment: Kevin Corkin to a vacancy on the Compensation Commission: Term Exp 2/29
- e. Confirm Mayor Appointment: Mark Broberg to a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals: Term Exp 11/25

8. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

a. Financial Statement Report

Finance Director 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 February 28, 2025.

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

(i.) Final 2024 Budget Amendments: Police – Fire Retirement Fund - A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve the final budget amendments for 2024 for the Police Fire Retirement fund as presented.

(ii.) Section 19 Amendments – The City Council confirmed the Section 19 amendments as presented by Finance Director Getschow.

b. DPW Update

DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson reported the Aqua Hawk system would be up and running soon and will be a benefit to city residents; he gave a brief overview of the new water billing process and cycle; noted DPW has repaired 10 water main breaks this year; explained why Seventh Street has not been paved to date; and advised the road to the

hospital has not been redone to date because the hospital is looking into the water issues with runoff from the parking lot before work would be done. In addition, he talked about where the storm sewer currently runs at the playgrounds and possible options for the City to provide in-kind services for the tennis court project.

9. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion on the Tennis Court Reconstruction

Mayor Scanlon advise the City does support the school and the improvements to the tennis courts. Staff has been discussing the possibility of in-kind services provided by the City as it relates to storm sewer repairs and are also looking into other grant opportunities to get this project completed. This item would remain on the priority list.

Finance Director Grant Getschow explained budgetary decisions by the City need to be made in the best interest of the entire community. With the construction projects being done this summer, it is the time for the City to make additional infrastructure improvements. He added the City was not walking away from the school or the students; other options were being researched to support this project; and added the City is proud of the school.

Manager Randy Scholz reported he met with staff and school administration regarding the project and various alternative for funding have been discussed. Discussions would continue on this project and he would keep the Council apprised of all discussions.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Special Event Applications

(i.) Fourth of July Festivities

(ii.) Iron Range Roll

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve the special event applications as presented.

b. UPEA Proposal for Third Street Storm Sewer Design

Chris Holmes, UPEA, explained this proposal was for time and materials in a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000 and an agreement would be submitted to the City and the attorney, for review, if this proposal was accepted. He further noted, the targeted start date for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Contract 1 with Lindberg and Sons is scheduled for May 5th and he was till waiting to hear from Payne and Dolan for Contract 2.

Finance Director Getschow recommended funding for the storm sewer on Third Street to come from the Capital Improvement Fund utilizing the funds that would have been put towards the grant match for the tennis court since the grant was not approved by the DNR.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to accept the UPEA Proposal for the Third Street Storm Sewer Design pending approval of the contract review by the City Attorney with the funding from the Capital Improvement Fund; with the DNR grant not being approved, the funds for the grant match would be used toward the Third Street storm sewer.

c. Resolution 5-2025, Support Marquette County West End Youth Center Construction

Jason Chapman, President of the West End Youth Center Steering Committee, introduced his team which included Nathan Gray and Lucy Ostola the two students from Westwood, and Rose Chivens, Founder.

Nathan Gray and Lucy Ostola talked about the benefits of having a youth center on the west end and what its development would provide to the community. They asked Council to support the construction of the West End Youth Center.

President Jason Chapman discussed the social and mental health benefits the center would provide to the community.

Rose Chivens, Founder, explained when she started her discussions of the development of the youth center and her passion to do something for the youth in the community.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to support Resolution #5-2025, to support the Marquette County West End Youth Center Construction with no financial commitment from the City.

d. Police Department request to purchase rifles

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the three (3) FN 15 SRP rifles for the Police Department in the amount of \$4,816.20 from Kiesler Police Supply with funding as budgeted.

e. Brasswire Campground Signage

Councilmember Kurt Kipling questioned if the City could place their own signage for the campground on M-28 utilizing private property.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to place signs on US-41 in both directions in the amount of \$720 annually and to look into the option of installing a City owned sign on private property on M-28. The funding source is the Brasswire Campground Fund.

f. Proposal from Tri-Media for completion of GIS – Cemetery Information System

DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson advised this proposal was for the final section of the cemetery to put into GIS. He provided a demo showing what information will be in the GIS system for the Cemetery.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to finish the GIS work at the cemetery in the amount of \$8,200 with Tri-Media.

g. Discussion on replacement of steam heating system at the Carnegie Library

DPW General Foreman Anderson explained bids were solicited and a mandatory walk-through for the project was required, however, no bids were received. He discussed the project with Prime Specialty Contracting and there were two options: (1) the existing steam system, which was over 20 years old, could be repaired at a cost of approximately \$200,000; or (2) the heating system could be redone with a brand-new hot water heating system at a cost of approximately \$500,000.

Finance Director Grant Getschow advised there was \$250,000 in 2024 Capital Improvements fund for this project.

General Foreman Anderson further explained the pumps and boilers at City Hall were continuing to have problems. Replacing the boilers and pumps and adding a water treatment system at City Hall would cost approximately \$65,000. He added SEMCO was offering an incentive program which included a \$15,000 grant per unit for upgrades and he suggested this be looked into.

Discussion followed related to the heating systems at City Hall and the Library. Councilmembers would like to have an on-site walk through at the Library and at City Hall.

h. Proposed amendments to the 2025 Fee Schedule

General Foreman Anderson explained the proposed amendment to the 2025 Fee schedule which was the addition of a permit charge for water/sewer utility disconnections.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the proposed amendment to the 2025 fee schedule as recommended.

i. FOIA – Appeal of Denial of Records

Jeff DeGabriele explained the questions he had for his FOIA request.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to uphold the disclosure denial.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chapman thanked staff for all their work during the interim period and was excited for our new City Manager Randy Scholz to be in Ishpeming. He provided an update on the Youth Center Steering Committee; advised the Boys and Girls Club would be at the VFW in April; he would continue to update Council on the youth center; and he will be co-hosting Upper Michigan Today next week.

Councilmember Brett Argall attended the Ishpeming Public School Board meeting; thanked Grant Getschow and his staff for their work during the transition period; and was glad to have new Manager Randy Scholz on board.

Councilmember Kurt Kipling attended the Cemetery Board meeting; thanked Grant Getschow and the staff for their work during the transition period; announced the meet and greet with Manager Randy Scholz that will be hosted by the LSCP at the Mather Inn; and reported on the progress of the emergency plan development with the 9-1-1 Board.

Mayor Pat Scanlon advised staff would be working on getting the slides updated on Channel 189; and he welcomed Randy Scholz and noted the City was lucky to have him and he looked forward to working with him.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT- There was no report.

14. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(c) TO CONSIDER STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATIONS CONNECTED WITH A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

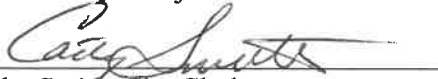
A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to consider strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining agreement at 8:27pm. Ayes: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Councilmembers, Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling. (4). Nays: None (0). Absent: Councilmember Ben Argall (1). Motion passed 4-0.

Returned to open session at 8:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to dispense with Councilmembers attending union negotiation sessions.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:43 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Mayor Pat Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.


Cathy Smith, City Clerk