

*Ishpeming City Council Proceedings: April 2, 2025*  
*Ishpeming, MI 49849*

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Pat Scanlon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Council Members Ben Argall, Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (5).  
Absent: None (0). Also present was City Manager Randy Scholz and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

3. 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.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Glen Lerlie, 725 First Street, President of RAMBA, provide a brief update on the Shenanigans bike race and advised racers were starting to register for campsites at the Brasswire Campground; reported that most of the RAMBA trails were groomed as of today; and RAMBA would be approaching Council for permission to work on some projects this summer including a beginner trail from the HOB and an advanced trail at Al Quaal.

Amy Lerlie, 725 First Street, Secretary of RAMBA, advised the grant application for solar panels at Brasswire was submitted but no update on award of the grant has been received to date.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

(a) Resolutions #10-2025, #11-2025, #12-2025, #13-2025, and #14-2025 Decertification of Streets on Act 51 Map

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve resolutions #10-2025, #11-2025, #12-2025, #13-2025, and #14-2025 as presented to Decertify Streets on the Act 51 Map.

(b) Design options for Third Street – UP Engineers and Architects

Chris Holms, UPEA, introduced Jake VanderMate, who will be continuing to assist him on the construction projects this year. He reviewed the proposed design and cost of the storm sewer on Third Street.

Discussion followed on the various design options for Third Street including reducing the width of Third and adding green space between the sidewalk and the road; the addition of a bike lane instead of green space; and designs that would be beneficial for plowing in the winter.

Council would like to set up a site visit at Third Street to review the options. This item would be brought back to another Council meeting for a decision.

(c) Joint Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission

Parks and Recreation Commission members present: Claudia Demarest, Jason Chapman, Kevin Corkin, and Craig Heikkila (4). Absent: Jane Hetrick, Carrie Meyer (2). One vacant seat (1).

(i) Budget

Member Claudia Demarest asked about the campground's revenues and expenses for the 2024 season.

Finance Director Grant Getschow provided a brief explanation of the 2024 budget for the campground. He added the campground was gaining popularity and noted the events in town have been beneficial to the campground. He explained the payments to be made back to the water and sewer funds have been paused and noted there was a Debt Elimination Plan submitted to the State for this fund.

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(ii) Brasswire Campground

Councilmember Chapman would like the Parks and Recreation Commission to determine what services and upgrades should be made to the Brasswire Campground and make the recommendations to the City Council.

There was discussion related to the Lake Superior Community Partnership agreement with the City and the DDA and it was questioned if the LSCP could provide marketing services for the Brasswire under the contract; and it was asked if the LSCP could be invited to attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to discuss services they could provide for marketing and promoting Brasswire.

General Foreman Bill Anderson advised he has contacted MDOT for the wayfinding signage/directional signage to be placed on US 41 for the Brasswire Campground and MDOT is currently pursuing that signage. He further explained the signage on M-28 was still being looked into.

Member Kevin Corkin provide a summary of the findings in his report including some of the positive and negative comments made at various City meetings regarding the campground; comparisons that were made to other local campgrounds (i.e. Rippling River, Van Riper, and the Country Village RV Park); the potential of the City partnering with RAMBA; and providing additional facilities at the campground to entice more campers (i.e. playground equipment, pump track, shower facilities, splash pad).

(iii) Al Quaal Lodge Improvements

Member Claudia Demarest advised she met with Manager Scholz and Mayor Pat Scanlon at Al Quaal to discuss the condition of the Al Quaal Lodge. She questioned why the funds allocated in 2024 were no longer allocated to the repairs at the lodge. She did not want the structural integrity of the lodge to continue to decline.

Member Craig Heikkila asked who does the facility maintenance for the City and thought the damage could have been avoided if previous repairs were done correctly.

Discussion followed on the allocation of funds in the Capital Improvement fund. Finance Director Grant Getschow reviewed some of the expenses from the CIP fund and also talked about the cost of the new infrastructure on Third Street which included the storm sewer. He noted with all the construction that will be taking place in 2025, this was the time to repair other necessary infrastructure.

Mayor Pat Scanlon suggested the Parks and Recreation Commission obtain an estimate on what it would cost to repair the lodge and provide a recommendation to the City Council. He added a cost was needed before any decision could be made on the Al Quaal Lodge.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.

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Cathy Smith, City Clerk