

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 25, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, August 25, 2025, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair David Aro at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: David Aro, Brice Sturmer, Tracy Magnuson, Antonio Adan, Kelly Milano, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, Carrie Meyer, Brian Buchanan, and Randy Scholz (10). Absent: None (0). Vacant: one seat (1). Also, present was Chris Germain from the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Buchanen, seconded by Member Sturmer, and carried unanimously to approve the July 28, 2025, minutes as presented.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow was not available for the meeting. There was some brief discussion related to the monthly report, property values and any potential TIF increases.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Beaumont, and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as submitted.

6. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT – There was no report.

7. LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORT

a. Quarterly Report

Chris Germain, Lake Superior Community Partnership, provided a brief quarterly report including the announcement of The State of the City and community open house to be held on October 30th and at that same time an update will be provided on the City's strategic plan. He also advised the LSCP has been meeting with local businesses and conducting an online audit for the local businesses; continued promotion of the Start-up Assistance Grants and Façade Grants; gave an overview of the previously held business after hours along with upcoming events; and explained the west end business passport program and the revisions being made to the program.

There were discussions related to some of the negative feedback the LSCP has been receiving and Chris Germain advised that any feedback should be directed specifically to him or any of the LSCP Board Members.

8. CONFIRM MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2025

It was the consensus of the DDA to approve the meetings schedule for the remainder of 2025 as presented.

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9. AMENDED FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION

Member Sturmer pointed out the language related to the DDA meeting every other month should be removed from Section 7.1 Time to Review in the Façade Grant Application form.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Carrie Meyer, and carried unanimously to approve the proposed changes in Section 9.1 and 9.2 and amend the language in 7.1 as recommended.

10. CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TOWARDS THE CITY'S REBRANDING EFFORT

Manager Scholz explained the City was going through the rebranding process as part of a grant received to complete the Redevelopment Ready Communities certification. He noted the Council has reviewed the rebranding and has authorized the use of the MMRMA retention fund refund to be used towards implementation of the rebranding. He asked the DDA to consider contributing toward some of the signage for the rebranding.

The DDA requested staff provide a budget which would include the amount being requested from the DDA towards the rebranding effort.

11. ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Member Magnuson advised the Powwow would be added to the Ishpeming Community Events.

Member Beaumont submitted a request from the Powwow Committee for funds in the amount of \$500 in support of the Powwow event. She advised the DDA would also be listed as a sponsor of the event. In addition, the Committee was asking the City Manager to reach out to KBIC and Sioux Tribe leaders asking them to match the \$500.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson Tracy, seconded by Member Buchanan, and carried unanimously to sponsor the Powwow and contribute \$500 toward the event with the DDA being listed as a sponsor.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Part-time DDA Director/Liaison Position

Manager Scholz advised he reached out the Lake Superior Community Partnership asking if they would be interested in hiring for a position that would be shared with the Ishpeming DDA as their Liaison. A new contract would be worked on for the position.

Chris Germain, LSCP, explained how he thought the Liaison position would have approximately 18 hours towards the Ishpeming DDA which could be adjusted as needed. The DDA would be paying for half of a position. He also suggested a couple of members from the DDA could be part of the hiring process. A new contract would be developed for this shared position. He added there were two or three final applications that were being considered; and that this would be a win-win for both organizations.

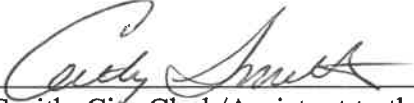
Members Sturmer and Beaumont offered to be on the Committee to select the applicant for the LSCP/Ishpeming DDA Liaison position and to be part of the process.

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12. NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:53 p.m., a motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Sturmer, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager