

***Ishpeming City Council Special Proceedings: August 19, 2025
Ishpeming, MI 49849***

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Tuesday, August 19, 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 Brett Argall, and Jason Chapman (3). Absent: Ben Argall and Kurt Kipling (2). Also present was City Manager Randy Scholz and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to move the public comment to before adjournment.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Moved to before adjournment.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Listening/Information Session regarding potential purchase of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Properties

Manager Randy Scholz explained that in May, Cliffs reached out to the City regarding their sale of various properties in and around Ishpeming. Council and staff were required to sign a non-disclosure agreement, and several closed session meetings were held to discuss the parcels and proposals. He further explained that some of the parcels included leases with Cliffs; and he added the City did not want to hold leases and would work with the property owners. If the City Council moves forward with the purchase, environmental concerns will be reviewed, and he welcomed input tonight from the public.

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Grant Getschow explained the City would most likely be contacting a local financial institution for a short-term loan which would be approximately \$60-90,000 annually and approximately 11-15% of the City's Public Improvement millage. The tax revenue that the City would lose from the parcels would be approximately \$23,000.

Mayor Pat Scanlon advised the Council did not wish to retain all the property; the City was ready to go out with a request for proposals for developers. He added the County is working with Cliffs on an easement for the trails and noted the purchase of the Ski Bowl will be a benefit to the City and to the Ski Club and the City would continue to work with the Ski Club.

Councilmember Jason Chapman thought there were many possibilities for this land which included trails; potential for Cedar Beach and would be beneficial for the Ski Club.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chrisine Alberato, Hill Street, questioned what areas the City planned to develop; staff explained the area off Empire Street near Canda Manor is one of the most developable parcels.

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, stated most of her questions have been answered but she would like to see Cedar Beach open again; and she suggested the City consider getting a loan to help with the repair of buildings (i.e. lodges, fire hall, and city hall) that need work.

Ray Chapman, 204 Ready Street, noted this was a win-win for the Ski Club and the City and this would support the City's heritage. He added there has been lots of money invested in the ski bowl by both the City and the Ski Club; and he added Cedar Beach would be a great asset to the City if it could be used as a beach again.

Dale Olgren, 629 N. Fourth Street and lifelong resident, would like to see Lake Angeline kept recreational and would like all trails to be multi-use including motorized.

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Nancy Raley, 554 Jasper, would like all the trails and recreational opportunities preserved including the trails to Jasper Knob. If some trails are affected by development, she would like the trails to be kept, just moved.

Glen Lerlie, President RAMBA, 725 N. First Street, explained RAMBA has had a land use agreement with the City and CCI for many years which allowed the construction of trails. If the City or a developer deems the land as usable, RAMBA would move their trails. RAMBA is grateful for the use of the land. He added RAMBA trails are all multi-use trails, none are strictly biking trails.

Kim Larson, Negaunee resident, on the Board for the Ishpeming Ski Club, and a parent of a ski jumper asked if the City's relationship with the Ski Club would remain the same. Mayor Pat Scanlon advised the Council, and the City are both 100% behind the ski club.

There was some discussion related to the current lease with the Ski Club and the City's continued support. Finance Director Getschow explained the land purchase included just the Ski Bowl not the ski trails to the east of the Bowl.

Jeff Raley, Jasper Street, was impressed with the price the City received for the purchase of the property and questioned if there was anything on the land for the City to be concerned with. He appreciated Council holding the listening session. Mayor Pat Scanlon gave a brief overview of discussions with Cliffs and added the City is doing their due diligence.

Cathy Schooler, 769 Michigan Street, questioned the property located at 719 Michigan Street; Mayor Pat Scanlon advised staff is looking into the lease for this parcel.

Kevin Corkin, 604 N. Pine Street, thanked the Council for doing their due diligence and explaining the process that was followed. He appreciated Council being transparent and for the excellent presentation. He thanked Council and staff for all their work.

Jenna Espinoza, 601 Ready Street, thanked Council for the presentation and would like to see all the trails preserved.

Sally Grant-Waters explained the farm property has been in her family for many years and would like the trails to be preserved; and she would like to see the leases sold at a reasonable cost.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk