

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 22, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, September 22, 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, Tracy Magnuson, Antonio Adan (arrived at 4:08 pm), Kelly Milano, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, Carrie Meyer, Brian Buchanan, and Randy Scholz (9). Absent: Brice Sturmer (1). Vacant: one seat (1). Also, present was Chris Germain from the Lake Superior Community Partnership and Linda Andriacchi Beautification.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Beaumont, and carried unanimously to approve the August 25, 2025, minutes as presented.

5. MONTHLY REPORTS

a. Finance Report

Finance Director Grey Getschow reviewed the monthly report for the period ending August 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Member Brett Argall, seconded by Member Randy Scholz, and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

b. Beautification Committee Report

Linda Andriacchi reported the flower baskets had not been watered by the DPW, so they had to be taken down earlier than anticipated. She requested the DDA consider going back to hiring a person specifically to maintain the baskets. Members agreed and wanted to ensure that this would not happen again in the future.

There was discussion related to using the baskets for some Christmas greenery to hang on Main Street. Mrs. Andriacchi advised she had no plans to do this, but Ishpeming Community Events were welcome to use the baskets.

c. Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) Report

Chris Germain, LSCP, provided a brief update including announcing upcoming events (Breakfast and Business at The Mather; the Housing Development event on October 3rd; Ishpeming Community Open House on October 30th at the Senior Center including the State of the City; and the Small Business Celebration on November 6th). He also asked members to have anyone interested in participating in the UP-Childcare Coalition to reach out to him. He announced Diana Sunberg was hired into the new West End Outreach Coordinator/DDA Liaison position.

There was some brief discussion related to the potential State shutdown and the grant for the stabilization of the Anderson Building.

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d. Ishpeming Community Events Report

Member Magnuson reported Ladies Night would be held on November 19th and planning for the Christmas Festivities and the Parade was in progress.

Member Beaumont announced the Powwow that was held on Sunday September 21st was a success and well attended.

6. Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission

Chair Aro opened the joint meeting with the Planning Commission at 4:21 p.m.

Planning Commission members present: Brooke Routhier, Mike Kinnunen, Ben Argall, Dax Richer, and Matt Loos (5). Absent: Mike Elliott, Corry Richards, and Todd Prillwitz (3). One seat vacant.

i. Discuss Master Plan Goals and Objectives

Member Brooke Routhier reviewed some of the discussion items from previous joint meetings which included the entrance into the downtown from Third Street to Hematite, the area behind the businesses from First Street to Main Street, and suggestions to make that area more aesthetically pleasing. She also briefly highlighted the Building Michigan Community Conference that she attended.

DDA Member Aro provided an update on the various grants currently offered by the DDA for new businesses in the City and for business facades. He added the façade grant timeline had been changed to be a rolling grant versus having a hard deadline; and the new DDA Liaison will work more with events in the community and with business owners.

The DDA and Planning Commission discussed:

- The vacant lot across from The Mater
- How to direct visitors to the downtown and Hematite acting as a “by-pass” of the downtown.
- Angle Parking in the downtown
- Planning Commission goals and objectives by year
- The recent properties purchased from Cliff’s by the City and potential housing development
- The housing resource initiative Plan that CUPPAD is currently working on with a MSHDA grant the City received which will help to determine available sites for development
- The County Target Market Analysis data
- Consideration of adding ADU’s (Accessory Dwelling Units) to the Zoning Ordinance
- The status of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance
- A Youth Liaison from the School for some of the City’s Boards and Commissions

Member Adan provided an update on the progress of the grant for the stabilization of the Anderson Building with work potentially to begin in the spring and updated members of the status of 216 W. Division Street (Rollies Furniture Store).

ii. Set Joint meeting dates for 2026

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It was the consensus of the DDA and the Planning Commission to hold the two joint meetings in 2026 on Monday, February 2nd at 6:30 which would be at a regular Planning Commission meeting and Monday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m. which would be at a regular DDA meeting. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission would be invited to the joint meeting on February 2nd.

The joint meeting of the DDA and Planning Commission was closed at 4:54 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Consider a contribution of funds for the City's Rebranding Effort

Manager Scholz explained he did not have a cost estimate for rebranding for the railroad trestle signage. He will bring this item back to the DDA when information is obtained.

b. Proposed contract with LSCP for DDA Liaison Position

Chris Germain, LSCP, gave a brief overview of the contract with a termination date through 2027 and added that Diana Sundberg was hired for the position and would bring a lot of passion and zeal to the DDA and the City.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to move forward with the contract with the Lake Superior Community Partnership for the DDA Liaison position.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Manager Scholz advised there was no additional information related to the repainting and repairs for Old Ish. He would continue to obtain quotes and get that information back to the DDA.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:07 p.m., a motion was made by Member Scholz, seconded by Member Magnuson, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager