

***Ishpeming City Council Special Proceedings: October 29, 2025
Ishpeming, MI 49849***

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, October 29, 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, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (4). Absent: Ben Argall (1). Also, present was City Manager Randy Scholz and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pat Scanlon asked that item 5a be moved to the last item under Items of Business.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, asked for the potholes on Michigan and Seventh Streets to be addressed and repaired.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Discuss City of Ishpeming Strategic Planning – Moved to the last item under Items of Business.

b. Public Hearing on the 2026 Proposed Budget and Millage Rates

Mayor Pat Scanlon opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed at 6:03 p.m.

c. Discuss Proposed 2026 Budget

Councilmember Jason Chapman asked if there would be any funds allocated to the two lodges at Al Quaal in the Capital Improvements Plan.

There was discussion related to the Capital Improvement Plan and the amount of funds received each year and the items included in the Plan. Finance Director Grey Getschow and Manager Randy Scholz explained the CIP listing and the columns included in the handout.

Mayor Pat Scanlon advised there would be another work session for the proposed 2026 budget.

d. Authorization for City Treasurer to place delinquent accounts on tax rolls

Finance Director Getschow explained the process for placing accounts on the tax roll and noted this occurs yearly.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to authorize the City Treasurer to place delinquent accounts on the tax rolls.

e. Special Event Application: Ishpeturkey Trot: 11-27-2025

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the special event application for the Ishpeturkey Trot as presented.

f. Resolution #27-2025, Support Forging Futures

Councilmember Jason Chapman explained Forging Futures was a 501c3 organization and would like to fundraise for the Bruce Asgaard Park on Wabash Street which would include repairs to the basketball court and replacement of some playground equipment. He added the first fundraiser for Forging Futures would be held on January 24, 2026 at Peterson Auditorium.

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A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling to adopt Resolution 27-2025, Support Forging Futures as presented. Motion passed 3-0 with Councilmember Jason Chapman abstaining.

g. Agreement to extend existing Residential Garbage and Refuse Collection Agreement with North Country Disposal
Manager Scholz advised the contract for garbage collection with North Country Disposal will expire on December 31st. The current contract allows the City the option to continue the agreement for one additional 5-year term with an increase in rates of 2.8% per year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to waive competitive bidding and extend the Residential Garbage and Refuse Collection Agreement with North Country Disposal with the attorney's review for an additional 5 years as allowed in the contract.

h. Schedule Special Council meeting for November 12th at 6:00 p.m. for the 2024 Audit Presentation
A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, supported by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to schedule the special meeting for November 12th at 6:00 pm for the 2024 Audit presentation.

i. USDA suspension- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Potential impact on Ishpeming residents and utility customers

Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Getschow advised the USDA has announced there would be no supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) payments issued beginning November 1st. He further explained the potential effects it could have on some City residents and some of the consequences that could result from this with respect to the city's utility billing. The loss of SNAP benefits could have a material impact on the ability of a significant portion of city residents to meet their financial obligations.

Manager Scholz reviewed three options available for Council review: (1) take no action (2) universal relief or (3) declare loss of SNAP benefits as a financial hardship and provide targeted utility penalty relief: requiring hardship request form and proof of SNAP benefits; penalties, interest, and shutoffs suspended for the qualifying customer; usage continues to accrue, balances remain due; and monthly review by Council under Unfinished Business. Manager Scholz's recommendation was Option (3).

There was discussion regarding the three options available and the suspension of SNAP benefits.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to concur with the Manager's recommendation and declare the loss of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits a qualifying financial hardship for Ishpeming residents, authorize the City Manager to suspend penalties, interest, and utility disconnections for customers who submit a Hardship Request Form with documentation of current SNAP participation, and direct staff to bring the matter back monthly under Unfinished Business until such time as SNAP benefits are restored or Council modifies this action.

a. Discuss City of Ishpeming Strategic Planning Workshop

Manager Scholz thanked the Lake Superior Community Partnership for setting up this workshop and arranging the process for strategic planning to begin.

Chris Germain, Lake Superior Community Partnership, briefly highlighted the multi-month process for strategic planning that will begin with the workshop tonight and the Community Strategic Planning Engagement Session tomorrow evening. He introduced Rob Neumann and Will Cronin, both from Michigan State University Extension, who will be assisting with the Council workshop.

The City Council broke into groups for the Strategic Planning Workshop with MSU Extension. At the end of the session the following are some of the long-term visions: Community Partnerships; Business Growth and Development; Housing Development; Road Infrastructure; Management of City Properties; Outdoor Recreation; and City Center.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk