

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Pat Scanlon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Council Members Ben Argall, Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (5). Also, present was City Manager Randy Scholz and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pat Scanlon advised item 7(a) minutes from 11/12/2025 should be removed from the agenda and that item 11(i) Skate Park Restoration should be added to the agenda.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, questioned the low manhole covers on Third Street and asked if self-leveling manholes have ever been considered; and congratulated the City on a clean audit.

Kyle Button, MCIC Team Director, explained the Wisconsin Interscholastic Cycling League and the MCIC team would like to hold an adventure ride in Ishpeming the weekend of July 26, 2026 utilizing the Brasswire Campground. The event would be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and they would assist RAMBA with trail work in the spring and early summer. They anticipate attendance of approximately two hundred people. They will be submitting a special event application but wanted to inform the Council of the event.

6. MANAGER OFFER OF INFORMATION - There was no additional information.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the November 12th minutes.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (October 15, 29, and ~~November 12~~)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm reappointment of Richard Burke to a 3-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals: Term Exp 11/2028
- d. Confirm reappointment of Todd Prillwitz to a 3-year term on the Planning Commission: Term Exp 11/2028
- e. Confirm reappointment of Mike Elliott to a 3-year term on the Planning Commission: Term Exp: 11/2028
- f. Confirm reappointment of Mark Broberg to 3-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals: Term Exp: 11/2028
- g. Confirm appointment of Robert Anttila 3-year term on the Parks and Rec Commission: Term Exp: 5/2028
- h. Confirm reappointment of Dean Dompierre to a 3-year term on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Board: Term Exp 12/2028

8. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

a. Monthly Financial Statement Report

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Grey Getschow reviewed the unaudited monthly financial report including the General Fund, Major and Local Streets, Sewer, and Garbage Fund, DDA, and Police and Fire Retirement Fund for the period ending October 2025.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to accept the unaudited financial report as presented.

b. DPW Update

DPW Director Bill Anderson reported DPW did the first plowing of the year; construction was done for this year and would begin again in the spring and added the contractors and engineers did an excellent job on the projects.

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow added there was a large amount of construction work that was done this year with the DWSRF and the CWSRF projects which was a huge undertaking for staff, the engineers, and the contractors.

Councilmember Kipling reminded residents the parking ban was now in effect through April 30th.

9. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. SNAP Benefits Update

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow recommended the loss of SNAP Benefits as a financial hardship remain through mid-December.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall, and carried unanimously to continue the SNAP benefits hardship as adopted at the last meeting until the next regular Council meeting in December.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Special Event Application: Polar Roll: 2/21/2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve the Polar Roll event as proposed.

b. Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

i. Resolution #33-2025, CWSRF Reimbursement Request #12

Chris Holmes, UPEA, reviewed the reimbursement request for the CWSRF noting that the non-participating portion of the pay application was for the Category B project and funds should have already been received by the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #33-2025 CWSRF Reimbursement Request #12 as presented.

ii. Resolution #34-2025, DWSRF Reimbursement Request #8

Chris Holmes, UPEA, explained the breakout of participating costs and non-participating costs for the DWSRF project. The total cost was \$2,679,465.07 with the non-participating cost of \$387,242.22.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #34-2025 DWSRF Reimbursement #8 as presented.

c. Request for Proposals (RFP)– Police/Fire/DPW/City Hall/Library Facilities

City Manager Scholz explained that this RFP was for design and renovation costs for each of the facilities. No action was needed at this time, until a funding source was identified. He asked Councilmembers to review the RFP and provide any comments or suggestions back to him.

d. Request for Proposals (RFP) – New Fire Truck

Manager Scholz explained he worked with Fire Chief Annala in preparing the specification for the RFP. One requirement was that the truck must be manufactured and assembled in Michigan. He has not yet heard back from the State regarding a timeline for receipt of funding.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman seconded by Mayor Pat Scanlon and carried unanimously to move forward with the issuance of the RFP for the purchase of one new fire truck for the Ishpeming Fire Department after notification from the State of the timeline for receipt of funding.

e. Boiler Systems

i. Bid from Prime Contracting – City Hall

DPW Director Bill Anderson explained Prime Contracting could replace the boilers at City Hall for a cost of \$65,443 and added Prime would work with SEMCO to receive the grant/reimbursement in the amount of \$15,000 for the new boiler system, with a final cost of approximately \$50,000.

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow suggested the funding source be the General Fund reserves instead of using Public Improvement funds.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to waive competitive bidding and approve the replacement of the boilers and pumps at City Hall in the amount of \$64,443 from the general fund and proceed with reimbursement from SEMCO for the new system.

ii. Discuss replacement or repairs for Library Boiler

DPW Director Anderson explained the cost to repair the boilers at the Library would be approximately \$250,000 and the cost to replace the entire system from steam to hot water would be approximately \$500,000. Staff will need a decision from Council as to which direction to proceed and Prime Contracting would provide a quote.

Discussion followed on repairing the existing system versus replacing the entire system; the timeline for the project; and looking for grant funding. Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow suggested short-term financing for this project if there were no grants to apply for.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall, and carried unanimously to direct staff to pursue a new hot water heating system in the Carnegie Public Library.

f. UPEA Professional Services Agreement – Solar Lighting at Brasswire Campground

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow reviewed the solar array project at the Brasswire Campground. He suggested the project could be put out for bids to include design and UPEA could review the design and confirm that it would meet the grant requirements.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve the UPEA professional services agreement in the amount of \$5,000, upon final approval by the City Attorney, for the solar array at the Brasswire Campground.

g. Adopt City of Ishpeming 2026 Budget

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow reviewed the proposed changes for Capital Improvement Projects as they were presented. There was discussion related to the capital improvement list and the need for funding for the Third Street storm sewer along with the need for the boilers at the Library.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ben Argall, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2026 budget and the amended Capital Improvements Plan as it was presented.

h. Declare surplus DPW #175 2015 Vacall effective on delivery of new Vector

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to declare the 2015 Vacall as surplus upon delivery of the new Vector.

i. Skate Park Restoration

DPW Director Anderson advised the skate park was complete and he obtained a quote from A. Lindberg and Sons in the amount of \$13,487.50 to complete the restoration of the site. He added this would still fall within the project budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to waive competitive bidding and authorize the work to be completed by A Lindberg and Sons in the amount of \$13,487.50.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Ben Argall attended the Planning Commission meeting and advised they are currently working on amendments to the Master Plan and discussing the Capital Improvement Plan process.

Councilmember Kurt Kipling offered his sympathies to the Kurt LaSage family; attended the 9-1-1 Central Dispatch Board; and thanked Manager Scholz and Attorney Bridges for their help in the process for the construction of two new duplexes in the City.

Councilmember Brett Argall attended the DDA meeting; met with the new DDA Liaison Diana Sundberg and discussed the business community and building up businesses; noted she would be creating a DDA Facebook page; and that she has been great to work with.

Councilmember Jason Chapman reported there was no quorum at the Parks and Recreation meeting; thanked staff, the engineers, and contractors for all the construction done this season; and congratulated all the Ishpeming sports teams.

Pat Scanlon spent a lot of time with citizens and constituents in all areas during the construction projects; learned a lot during this construction season; will be looking into better communication for next year; and expressed his sympathies to the Kurt LaSage Family and thanked all the people involved in that sendoff.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Scholz briefly reviewed his manager's report. City Clerk Cathy Smith reported the Special election went well and thanked all the election workers for their work and dedication during elections.

14. CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Councilmember Ben Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(d) to consider purchase or lease of real property and to include Finance Director Getschow and DPW Director Bill Anderson at 7:30 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Councilmembers, Ben Argall, Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session 7:57 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:59 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk