

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 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

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, requested time to speak under item 11h on the agenda; advised the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed lowering the price for admission to the tube slide to \$10 noting Gladstone was \$10 per person per day; and she thanked the DPW employees for working all the longer hours during the snow events and water leaks.

Bill Anderson, Ishpeming, advised the Gladstone tube slide charged \$10 for half a day and \$20 for the full day; he questioned if there was a City Policy for employees working from home as it relates to overtime; and reviewed past Council actions for the storm sewer on Third Street and noted the amount approved by the Council for that project.

Rick Edward, resident of Harvey, wanted to recognize the DPW employees and the work they have done in clearing snow and repairing water leaks over the last several weeks. He was impressed with the quality of work, and the city should be proud of their department. Ishpeming was very well maintained.

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

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (December 17, 2025 and January 12, 2026)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm 2026 Publishing Source – The Mining Journal
- d. Confirm 2026 Depositories – Nicolet/TruNorth/First Bank/Comerica/Charles Schwab/Edward D. Jones
- e. Confirm Payment to UPSET for 2026 - \$10,000
- f. Confirm Payment to Commission on Aging for 2026 - \$9,000
- g. Declare 1,066 Library circulating items as surplus
- h. Declare 8 Library metal shelves as surplus
- i. Confirm Manager appointment of Lisa Petersen to vacancy on the DDA: Exp. 7/2026
- j. Confirm Mayor appointment of Amy Lertie to a vacancy on the Parks-Recreation Commission: Exp 5/2026

8. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

a. Monthly Financial Statement Report

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Grey Getschow thanked April Holm for all her work and dedication preparing for the changes that were required by employers with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act; he informed Council the Section 19 funds that the City received will be able to be utilized for Third Street; and he 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 December 2025.

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

b. DPW Update

Manager Randy Scholz thanked the DPW crew for all the long hours they have been putting in with the snow and the water main breaks; he asked the community to be patient as the crews are working as many hours as they can; he met with Chris Holmes, UPEA to begin discussions about construction beginning in the spring; and also noted he would be holding a public information meeting so the public would be aware of the work to be completed in 2026.

c. Police Department Update

Police Chief Chad Radabaugh briefly summarized his annual report noting he was very proud of his staff for all their hard work which contributed to the decrease of controlled substance complaints by 60.5 percent which helps to improve the look of the City; advised officers are involved in many different programs within the community including Shop with a Cop; and reminded residents to not plow or shovel snow into the streets and to follow the off-street parking regulations.

9. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. SNAP Benefits Update

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow suggested the snap benefit service be withdrawn and staff would send letters to the individuals that took advantage of the benefit.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to stop the snap benefit pause the last day of February.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Special Event Application: Ishpeming 4th of July Festivities and Parade Permit: Saturday, July 4, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the special event application for the Fourth of July as presented.

b. Strategic Plan Update – Chris Germain

Chris Germain, Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP), advised there was a very rough draft of a strategic plan which was developed in an outline format. The draft would be provided to Council to obtain their feedback. He provided a brief overview of the draft plan and advised the LSCP would present it to Council in February.

He also explained there was a small list of items that needed to be updated for the City to become fully Redevelopment Ready Certified; and announced that his time at the LSCP was ending for personal reasons and he would be returning downstate to be closer to family. He would be staying with the LSCP until they found a successor but everything with Ishpeming will continue moving forward.

Council and Manager Scholz thanked Mr. Germain for all his work with the City during his time with the LSCP.

c. Parks and Recreation Commission Update

Councilmember Jason Chapman advised the Commission was starting to focus on the upcoming year; lodge renovation plans have been approved and will be sent to Council; they were discussing Brasswire Campground and additional amenities that could be offered; talked about the potential of camping at Al Quaal; and they would be presenting a list of priorities and Council could determine what should be worked on.

d. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Resolution #35-2025, Reimbursement #9

Chris Holmes, UPEA, explained this was a reimbursement for the DWSRF which included invoices from UPEA and A. Lindberg and Sons totaling \$237,529.41.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 35-2025, DWSRF Reimbursement #9 in the amount of \$237,529.41.

e. UPEA Agreement Amendment #1 – Brasswire Campground Solar

Chris Holmes, UPEA, explained this amendment was for an additional \$5,000 added to the contract for some additional design work on the project which would bring the total cost for time and materials to not to exceed \$10,000.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve Amendment #1 in the amount of \$5,000 to the UPEA Professional Services Agreement for the Brasswire Campground for a total agreement amount for time and materials of \$10,000.

f. UPEA Agreement Amendment #2 – Third Street Storm Sewer

Chris Holmes, UPEA, explained this amendment was for the Third Street Storm Sewer staking which was done by Tri-Media.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall, and carried unanimously to approve Amendment #2 for the Third Street Storm Sewer project increasing construction observation \$22,990 for total agreement amount of \$55,000 for design services and \$37,990 for construction observation.

g. Review/Confirm Policy 601: Council Rules of Procedure Policy

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall, and carried unanimously to confirm Policy 601 Council Rules of Procedure Policy as presented with no changes or additions for 2026.

h. Proposed 2026 Fee Schedule

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow explained in 2025 the Council waived the water and sewer rate increases; however, his recommendation for 2026 was to increase the water and sewer rates as stated in the ordinance by 5% each.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ben Argall seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the 2026 Rate and Fee Schedule as presented with the 5% increase to both water and sewer rates.

Councilmember Jason Chapman advised the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the tube slide rates be decreased from \$15/day to \$10/day to allow the slide to be more affordable for low-income families and students.

Discussion followed regarding the tube slide; the rates currently offered; the work at the tube slide being labor intensive which requires both part-time and full-time employees to run it; and the tube slide has always been busy when it is open. Also talk about were assorted options for fees.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman and seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to table this discussion until the next meeting.

i. Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Employment Agreement

Manager Scholz explained this type of agreement aids with retention of professionals in highly specialized roles. There would be no changes to wages, and this position would still follow the Non-Union Personnel Policy #115. He recommends adoption of the employment agreement.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to adopt the Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Employment Agreement as presented.

Councilmember Ben Argall questioned what the policies and/or procedures were for an employee working from home.

j. Planning Commission Recommendations

i. Second Reading of Zoning Ordinance #8-100 Text Amendment Section 11 General Residential

Attorney Caroline Bridges advised this text amendment was related to duplexes becoming permitted principal uses in the General Residential District.

ii. Second Reading of Zoning Ordinance #8-100 Map Amendment

Attorney Bridges advised this was a map amendment which included rezonings and some other minor corrections.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Ben Argall, and carried unanimously to adopt the text amendment to Section 11 General Residential and the Map Amendment to Ordinance 8-100 after the second reading.

k. Talsma Controls Company Proposal – Bell Booster Station

Manager Scholz explained this additional cost was part of the rebuild of the Bell Booster Station and was for the controls to run the pumps which totaled \$15,200.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve the proposal from Talsma Controls in the amount of \$15,200 and waive competitive bidding as recommended by the Manager.

l. Select vendor for new fire truck

Manager Scholz explained the funds have not yet been received from the State for the fire truck, but funds were allocated in the State budget. He advised two bids were received, however, one of the bids did not meet the requirement of being built in Michigan.

Fire Chief Jason Annala reviewed the two bids and explained the truck in the lower bid was approximately \$100,000 less, however, it was not fitted with many of the extras that were requested on the vehicle.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to award the bid, pending funds being received from the State of Michigan to HME Ahrens-Fox c/o Dinges Fire Company in the amount of \$894,192.

m. Adopt Policy #306, Leak Forgiveness Policy

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow recommended rescinding Policy #305 because he felt it presented an undue hardship on residents and he recommended adopting Policy #306 Leak Forgiveness Policy. He further reviewed the proposed changes, explained how payment would be calculated. He also pointed out this would be open to businesses not just households.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ben Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to rescind Policy 305, and adopt Policy 306 pending legal review of the policy.

n. Adopt Policy #307, Community Housing Partner Utility Waiver Policy

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Getschow reviewed the proposed new policy #307 Community Housing Partner Utility Waiver Policy and explained the application would offer a waiver of utility bills for applicants wishing to make a material investment in Ishpeming housing stock and summarized the key aspects.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ben Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to adopt policy #307 including the corresponding application and allow a 60 day window from the date of this adoption for applicants to retroactively apply for qualifying construction and revitalization costs incurred from January 1, 2025 forward pending legal review of the policy.

o. Confirm City Manager to serve as Interim DPW Director

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to confirm the City Manager as the Interim DPW Director.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Ben Argall thanked DPW for working all the long hours on snow removal.

Councilmember Kurt Kipling thanked Councilmember Ben Argall for his articles on Substack; he briefly highlighted the Central Dispatch Policy Board annual report for 2025; thanked the Police Department and DPW for all the extra hours they have been putting in; and thanked Manager Scholz for taking care of the campground signs for Business Route 28.

Councilmember Pat Scanlon thanked the DPW for all the hours worked for snow removal and water leaks; suggested the articles from Councilmember Ben Argall be placed on the website; the Senior Center meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather; and asked residents to be kind to their neighbors because with all the snow there is just nowhere to move it.

Councilmember Brett Argall advised the DDA meeting was cancelled for December; he attended the school board meeting on Monday; and he also went to the Ski Jumping Tournament which was very well attended.

Councilmember Jason Chapman advised it was the 110th Ski Jumping Tournament and he thanked the Ishpeming Ski Club for making it another huge success and added it was a very nice ceremony; thanked all the City staff for their hard work; and the DPW crew for the many extra hours worked the last couple of weeks; and thanked the Police Department for the many calls they answer.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Scholz briefly reviewed his manager's report that was included in the meeting packet and provided an update on D and E Streets and Division Street which were discussed at the last meeting and advised the pay applications and change orders would be brought to the February meeting.

14. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(e) TO CONSULT WITH ITS ATTORNEY REGARDING SETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION – MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL

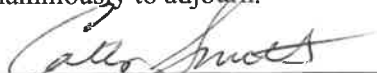
A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorney regarding settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation – Michigan Tax Tribunal at 7:59 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Councilmembers, Ben Argall, Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 8:19 pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to accept the \$160,000 settlement offer for 123 Barnum Street and move forward so AV Rentals could start construction.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:23 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling seconded by Mayor Pat Scanlon and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk