

j. Amendment to the 2026 Fee Schedule – Shut Off Notice

Deputy Manager/Finance Director Grey Getschow reviewed the rates charged for late fees; the change in process from door hangers to mailed notices; and his proposal to reduce the shut off notice fee to \$5 to cover paper, envelope, printing, postage, and time.

Councilmember Brett Argall would like to receive the utility rate study before any further decisions are made on fees and charges.

Councilmember Jason Chapman thought \$25 was quite a bit to charge for the shut-off notice, particularly with other late fees also being charged if a resident is delinquent on their bill.

Councilmember Ben Argall noted if a utility bill is paid on time there would be no penalty and no charge for a shut-off notice. If a resident is having a difficult time paying their bill, there are other options offered by the City for them to take advance of. He suggested waiting until the utility rate study is complete and perhaps a change to consider would be to reduce the minimum usage amount to help residents that are low water consumption users.

Mayor Pat Scanlon suggested the rate study may help to determine if the minimum usage amount could be reduced to help reduce rates for low consumption users; and suggested no rates/charges be amended until the rate study is complete.

Manager Scholz advised staff was finalizing the contract with Watersworth for the rate study and the study would start in 2026.

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon and seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall to leave this fee in place until the rate study is complete and further review at that time. Ayes: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Councilmembers Ben Argall, Brett Argall, and Kurt Kipling (4). Nays: Councilmember Jason Chapman (1). Motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Jason Chapman voting nay.

k. Amendment to CUPPAD Agreement for the MSHDA Housing Readiness Initiative Grant

City Clerk Smith explained that the Housing Readiness Initiative Grant was extended through June 30, 2026 from the original grant close out date of February 20, 2026. This amendment to the CUPPAD agreement was to coincide with the grant extension through June 30, 2026.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ben Argall, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to approve the grant amendment with CUPPAD for a time extension through June 30, 2026 to coincide with the MSHDA Housing Readiness Initiative Grant extension.

l. First Reading of New Ordinance #7-700, Short Term Rental

Attorney Bridges explained this was an entire rewrite of the previous ordinance that the Council had received and noted this version had not been sent to the Planning Commission. She discussed the proposed language which addressed short-term rentals in different zoning districts; density; and registrations of the short-term rentals.

There was discussion on registration of the short-term rentals and potential cost. The first reading could be adopted with proposed registration rates being brought back to Council at the second reading in March.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Mayor Pat Scanlon, and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of Ordinance 7-700, Short Term Rental Ordinance and to include a proposed registration fee at the next meeting.

m. Schedule special Council meeting for Wednesday, February 25, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m.

It was the consensus of Council to schedule the special meeting for Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Councilmember Brett Argall advised he would not be able to attend the special meeting.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Jason Chapman announced Forging Futures had their first fund raiser and it was very well attended and a donation was received; he provided an update on the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and noted members have been reviewing the marketing plan that was presented by Kevin Corkin last year.

Councilmember Brett Argall attended the school board meeting and noted the Ishpeming Public Schools received a grant to get 30 mountain bikes for students to utilize on the trails; the Match on Main was now open for applications; the DDA increased the façade grant from \$10,000 to \$20,000; the first Business Huddle was held and approximately 12 business owners were in attendance and the Huddle would now be held monthly; he attend the UP 200 event and the Invest UP event and advocated for Ishpeming.

Councilmember Ben Argall missed the Planning Commission meeting but did attend the UP 200 Event, which was a wonderful event to meet many legislators and other individuals and he advocated for Ishpeming; he also hoped the City would be better represented at the next event.

Councilmember Kurt Kipling thanked Councilmember Jason Chapman and Parks and Recreation Member Claudia Demarest for their efforts on the Parks and Recreation Commission; and thanked RAMBA, DPW and the Police Department for all their hard work.

Councilmember Pat Scanlon thanked the DPW for doing a wonderful job; thanked the three officers for the heroic efforts at the Tru North Credit Union and talked about the upcoming construction season.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Scholz briefly reviewed his manager's report presented in the packet.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:19 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to adjourn.


Cathy Smith, City Clerk