

**CITY OF ISHPEMING PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2022**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Planning Commission was called to order in the Council Chambers at City Hall by Chairperson Brooke Routhier at 6:31 p.m. Monday, December 5, 2022.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Brooke Routhier, Mike Elliott, Dave Lawler, Mike Kinnunen, Ben Argall, and Lindsay Bean (6).
Absent: Bruce Houghton and Kari Getschow (2). One vacant seat (1). Also present was Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator (ZA).

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brice Sturmer, owner of Velodrome and Melo on Main Street, thanked the Planning Commission for all their work on the marijuana ordinance. He also invited the Planning Commission to attend the open house and if they would like a tour any member could reach out to him.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Bean, seconded by Member Kinnunen, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

E. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

No minutes were available for approval at this time.

F. PRESENTATIONS

Pat and Carrie Scanlon, owner of Tiny Toes Daycare, was present to talk about allowing conditional uses in the Industrial District on Washington Street for their new daycare.

Pat Scanlon, owner, apologized for not having enough information for the Planning Commission at the last meeting. He gave a brief overview of the proposed new business, Tiny Toes Daycare Center, to be located on Washington Street. Marquette County has received ARPA funding, and the County Board will be providing \$25,000, from the ARPA funds, for the daycare center. He added all licensing requirements have been met, staff have been hired and are ready for training; the daycare facility will accommodate twenty-four children; with a proposed expansion in the future to increase the number of children to forty-eight. Currently there are eighteen children signed up for daycare. There will be a total of five staff at opening and staffing will increase after the expansion. There is a strong need for daycare everywhere and having a daycare in the City will be beneficial to its residents. He noted the ARPA funds have been set aside for daycare facilities and are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so it is important for a decision to be made so the funds for this development will not be lost.

There was discussion on the necessary licensing requirements, inspection requirements; ownership of the building; the funding process with ARPA and the County; and options for the Planning Commission regarding the proposed text amendment.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review prior recommendation to City Council for Zoning Text Revisions regarding Addition of Child Day Care Services (62441) as a Conditional Use in the NC, GC, CBD, and I zoning districts

ZA Pierce advised the previous motion from the October meeting approving Child Day Care Services as a conditional use in the Neighborhood Commercial, General Commercial, and Central Business District and not in the Industrial District would need to be rescinded if the Planning Commission wished to reconsider and include the Industrial District in the text amendment.

A motion was made by Member Bean, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to rescind the motion from October 4, 2026 to add “Child Day Care Services” as a conditional use to the Neighborhood Commercial, General Commercial, Central Business zoning districts and exclude the Industrial District.

Member Routhier reviewed discussions at the previous meeting regarding allowing day care centers as conditional uses in the Industrial District. Discussion took place related to the pros and cons of including the Industrial District in the proposed text amendment for Child Day Care Services; and if this is approved, the applicant would need to then apply for a conditional use permit for the project.

A motion was made by Member Argall, seconded by Member Bean, and carried unanimously to add “Child Day Care Services” as a conditional use to the Neighborhood Commercial, General Commercial, Central Business, and Industrial zoning districts and forward the amendment to the Council for a first reading.

It was the consensus of the Planning Commission to hold a special meeting on December 21st for the conditional use hearing.

2. Discuss 2023 Planning Commission goals – Review updated Master Plan Implementation Strategy

Member Routhier reviewed the 2023 Planning Commission goals and there was discussion on the Master Plan Implementation strategy including taking advantage of AARP’s age-friendly livable community training resources; working with UPPCO for energy efficient resources; sidewalk management in the City; create a program to add bike racks; promote branding strategy and signs throughout the downtown; and the Capital Improvement Plan process.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Waiting for UPPCO Easement @ Rustic Campground

ZA Pierce advised UPPCO was still working on the easement for the campground.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

1. CRA re: Melo Cannabis

2. CRA re: Fire Station

ZA Pierce advised these were two information items noting the two marijuana facilities have been approved by the State.

J. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Member Lawler, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Prepared by:



Cathy Smith, City Clerk
(was not in attendance at meeting)



Alan K. Pierce, Zoning Administrator