

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, April 15, 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 Brett Argall, and Jason Chapman. (3). Absent: Councilmember Kurt Kipling (1). One vacant Council seat (1). 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

Jeff DeGabrielle, 413 Vine Street, thanked the City Manager for putting the Charter online; and expressed his concerns about the conflict of interest with some Councilmembers participating in and running campaigns for legislators.

Councilmember Jason Chapman left the meeting and there was a five-minute recess. Meeting resumed at 6:06 p.m.

Craig Heikkila, 137 W. Superior Street, expressed his concerns with the condition of Ishpeming, including road conditions, parked campers, four-wheelers, and side-by-sides using the roads; and the condition of some of the houses in Ishpeming. He would like the Council and staff to take some kind of action to help improve Ishpeming.

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

7. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (April 1<sup>st</sup> 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm; April 1<sup>st</sup> Closed Sessions)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Reappoint Larry Bussone to a 3-year term on the Iron Ore Heritage Authority, Term expiring 4-30-2029
- d. Reappoint Brooke Routhier to a 5-year term on the Library Board, Term Expiring 5/30/31
- e. Reappoint Claudia Demarest to a 3-year term on the Parks and Recreation Commission: Expiring 5/2029
- f. Reappoint Amy Lerlie to a 3-year term on the Parks and Recreation Commission: Expiring 5/2029

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 Water, Garbage Fund, DDA, and Police and Fire Retirement Fund for the period ending March 2026.

There was discussion related to the cost of plowing and if any changes should be made in the future as to how plowing is managed.

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

b. DPW Update

Manager Randy Scholz noted there has been a slow snow melt so far and staff is continually checking and preparing for the melt.

c. Library 2025 Annual Report

Library Director Jesse Shirtz was unable to review the Library Annual Report, via Zoom, due to technical issues. Council briefly reviewed the report, and it was the consensus of Council to adopt the report as presented.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS – There was none.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was none.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Proclamation: 2025-2026 Ishpeming Hematites Girls Basketball

Mayor Pat Scanlon read the proclamation into the record and noted the Elks Club will be having a breakfast for the team and he would present the proclamations to the team at that time.

b. City of Ishpeming Strategic Plan 2026-2030: Christopher Germain, LSCP

Christopher Germain, LSCP, gave a brief overview of the final draft of the Strategic Plan; provided updates on the status of the Redevelopment Ready Communities certification; reminded everyone of the West End Breakfast; and noted the Local Economy Downtown Tour with MML will be taking place on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to accept the City of Ishpeming Strategic Plan for 2026-2030 as presented.

c. Special Event Application

i. Ishpeming Community Events: Festival of Treasures 7/3/2026; Music in the Park 6/18-9/3, 2026

ii. Barnes Hecker Cemetery Tour: July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> with rain dates of July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>

iii. The Living Room: A Place for Mom: The Village 5K on 5/9/2026

iv. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Iron Range Roll Bike Race: June 6, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to approve all four special event applications as presented.

d. Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority 2026 Well Construction: Cemetery Location Fill Agreement

Mayor Pat Scanlon explained this fill agreement at the cemetery location would be used as the fill site for the Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority (NIWA) project that will be taking place in the spring/summer of 2026.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve the fill agreement for the NIWA project as presented.

e. Purchase photocopier for the Department of Public Works

City Clerk Cathy Smith advised the DPW copier was no longer functioning and was unable to be repaired. The quote from Office Planning Group was through Sourcewell, which was similar to MiDeals, and does the bidding process. The cost of the copier would come from the Public Improvement Fund with the annual maintenance agreement to be paid for by the water and sewer funds.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the copier for DPW from Office Planning Group and the annual maintenance agreement as presented.

f. Resolution 10-2026, Authorize the 42-day City of Ishpeming Master Plan Public Review Period

City Clerk Smith explained the Master Plan housing updates have been completed by CUPPAD through a housing readiness grant that was received by MSHDA. Council is required to start the 42-day public review period for the update and after the public review period, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and then do their final approval of the Plan at their June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to authorize the 42-day public review period for the housing updates to the Master Plan.

g. First Reading of Amendment to Ordinance 8-100, Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Duplex Definitions and Section 19.1(B)(2)

Attorney Caroline Bridges explained this was the first reading of the ordinance amendment which adds definitions for duplexes and addresses with more specific language upper/lower duplexes and side-by-side duplexes in Section 19.1(B)(2).

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of amendment to Ordinance 8-100, Zoning Ordinance for the definitions of duplexes and language in Section 19.1(B)(2) as presented.

h. Authorize City Manager travel to Crystal Mountain for 2026 Small Town and Rural Development Conference June 1-3, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the City Manager's travel to Crystal Mountain for the 2026 Small Town and Rural Development conference, June 1-3, 2026.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pat Scanlon advised plans and timelines for this summer's construction are still being worked on and there would be an open house scheduled to present the information to the public.

Councilmember Brett Argall noted there are many moving parts for the construction and an open house would be beneficial to the public.

Councilmember Jason Chapman advised the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to meet next week; and added individuals are permitted to support candidates, this was not against the law.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

14. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(e) TO CONSULT WITH ITS ATTORNEY IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION

A motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Argall to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorney in connection with specific pending litigation at 7:06 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Councilmembers Brett Argall, Jason Chapman (3). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 3-0.

Return to open session at 7:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the agreement with Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone to represent the City during litigation.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:20 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to adjourn.