

*Ishpeming City Council Special Proceedings: April 30, 2026*  
*Ishpeming, MI 49849*

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Thursday, April 30, 2026, in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Pat Scanlon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Council Members Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (4). Vacant Seat (1). Also present was City Manager Randy Scholz and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Pat Scanlon, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda incorporating the addition of “Rental of a street sweeper for DPW” and “Proposed City Charter amendments for the November 2026 General Election ballot”.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Lerlie, 725 N. First Street and also owner of property located at 404 S. Third Street, wanted to advocate for one of the applicants, Claudia Demarest. She added the other two applicants are very good, however, she wanted to advocate for Claudia Demarest because there are some very important issues coming up, including budget, and Mrs. Demarest attends every meeting and knows what some of the issues are and with her past experience on Council she understands the budget and budget process. She asked Council to think seriously about what needs to be accomplished in the next several months before the November election.

Brice Sturmer, 127 N. Third Street in Marquette, and part owner of the Gossard in Ishpeming noted he was present to answer any questions on item 9b on the agenda for 216 W. Division Street; and secondly, he wanted to voice his support for one of the applicants, Collin Fleury. He added having a fresh perspective on Council and with his knowledge and professional experience along with experience on other boards and Commissions he was a very qualified applicant and would be very good for Council.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Appointment to the vacancy on the Ishpeming City Council

Mayor Pat Scanlon advised that each applicant would be allotted 5 minutes to present.

i. Krystan Beaumont

Krystan Beaumont reviewed her background and her passion for the community along with some of her frustrations. She has attended several Council meetings and realized that she wanted to get involved. She reviewed some of the work the DDA has been involved in since she was appointed and reviewed some of the special events, including the Pow Wow, that she helped with planning. She noted the importance of collaboration and continuing economic development in the city. She likes to work on the ground and meet with residents. Everyone should work together and towards the same goals. She would see the City continue to move forward and would like to be involved in Council to do this.

ii. Claudia Demarest

Claudia Demarest noted she was born and raised in Ishpeming and gave some background of her family’s history with the City. She started to attend Council meetings in 2005 and was elected in 2008 for two terms; and she has been on many boards and commissions for the city. She understands how the City works and what the Council’s duties and responsibilities are and has the necessary experience. She added she did not have an agenda, she only cares about the City. The City needs to maintain what we have and continue to improve the infrastructure; continue with the clean up of blight, and continue to search for grant funding for various projects. She believes in following the City Charter. Some individuals have moved to Ishpeming because they say they like Ishpeming; however, now they want to change Ishpeming, so she questioned why these people moved here if they do not like the City.

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iii. Collin Fleury

Collin Fleury, was born and raised in Marquette and has lived in Ishpeming for 3-1/2 years and has been a proud member of the IBEW for 11 years. He completed his internship and has been a journeyman since; he served as Treasurer of the Local and currently serves as president. He became a business agent for the union and serves on the Board of Directors for the Construction Council and, when not working, enjoys being home with his partner Hannah and dog Otis and also enjoys being outdoors. He would like to be on Council and be part of the growth and future of the City. He thought the City was going in a good direction and would like very much to be involved to continue this progress. All the infrastructure improvements are important for the City and with the school and biking and hiking trails, Ishpeming is a great place to live. With his experiences in labor, problem solving skills, and people skills he thought he would make a good addition to Council.

Councilmembers Kurt Kipling and Jason Chapman supported Claudia Demarest for the appointment. (2)

Councilmember Brett Argall and Mayor Pat Scanlon supported Collin Fleury for the appointment. (2)

Mayor Pat Scanlon advised since there was a tie vote, the language in City Charter states the Council has three meetings to resolve the tie or the Council would draw by lot.

Councilmember Kurt Kipling suggested the appointment be selected by lot tonight because nothing would change within the 90 days.

Both applicant names were placed into a hat and Chief of Police Chad Radabaugh drew and selected Claudia Demarest for the vacancy.

Claudia Demarest was sworn in by City Clerk Cathy Smith to the City Councilmember vacancy and was seated.

b. Resolution #11-2026, Support the adoption of a Brownfield Plan for 216 W. Division Street

Jackie Solomon, Director of the Brownfield Authority, gave a brief overview of the Brownfield Plan for 216 W. Division Street noting this was a 24-year plan. This Brownfield Plan was approved by the Brownfield Authority and the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority. If Council adopts the resolution, the next step would be for the Plan to go to the County Board for approval at their meeting in May.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brett Argall, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution # 11-2026, to support the adoption of a Brownfield Plan for 216 W. Division Street as presented.

c. Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation to amend the 2026 Fee Schedule

Manager Scholz advised this proposed language amendment to the 2026 Fee Schedule was to ensure that all leagues were charged the same fee which is \$1,600 for the year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Claudia Demarest, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to approve the proposed amendment to language in the 2026 Fee Schedule from “Little League/Girls Softball” to “Little League/Baseball and Softball Leagues” in the 2026 Fee Schedule.

d. Confirm priority ranking for the Parks and Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Claudia Demarest and carried unanimously to confirm the 2026-2027 priority list for the Parks and Recreation Commission as presented: (1) Neighborhood Park inventory and assessment; (2) Repairing the Al Quaal Lodge; (3) Making Brasswire Campground profitable; (4) Developing campsites at Al Quaal.

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e. First Reading of Amendment to Ordinance 4-1100, Open Burn

Attorney Caroline Bridges reviewed the proposed amendments to the Open Burn Ordinance which included definitions, noting when fires are allowed; and when a permit is needed.

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 4-1100, Open Burn as presented.

f. First Reading of Amendment to Ordinance 3-800, Special Events

Attorney Bridges reviewed advised this was a re-write of the ordinance; the special event policy has been incorporated into this ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Claudia Demarest, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of amendment to Ordinance 3-800 as present.

ADDED ITEM: Street Sweeper Rental for DPW

DPW Director Jake Roberts gave a brief overview of his background and experience.

DPW Director Roberts explained one of the street sweepers was currently not working and he is requesting permission to rent a street sweeper so that sweeping can be completed for this year. The cost of the rental would be \$13,000 for one month with funding from the General Fund with rental reimbursements from Major and Local Streets.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Mayor Pat Scanlon, and carried unanimously to authorize the rental of the street sweeper in the amount of \$13,000.

g. Resolution 12-2026, Update Street Administrator

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 12-2026, Update Street Administrator to Jake Roberts as presented.

h. Confirm appointment of new City Clerk-Emilie Stack effective May 11, 2026

Manager Scholz recommended confirmation of Emilie Stack to the City Clerk position upon the retirement of Cathy Smith. Emilie Stack gave a brief overview of her background and experience.

A motion was made by Councilmember Claudia Demarest, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman, and carried unanimously to confirm the appointment of Emilie Stack to City Clerk.

ADDED ITEM: Proposed City Charter Amendments

Attorney Bridges discussed proposed City Charter amendments and advised there would be time if Council approves the language by the meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The State would like to have the language 60 days prior and the deadline to get to the County Clerk was July 28<sup>th</sup>, so there was time.

Councilmember Claudia Demarest supported amendments because a full Charter revision was a lengthy process.

Mayor Pat Scanlon suggested looking at three Charter amendments and holding a special meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed language.

Attorney Bridges reviewed the three proposed amendments which included language in Section 5.1(c) Manager Residency; Section 10.6 (a)-(c) Bid Process; and Section 2.15-2.17 Councilmember Vacancy.

i. Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268(d) to consider purchase or lease of real property

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(d) to consider purchase or lease of real property at 7:04 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Pat

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Scanlon, Councilmembers Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, Claudia Demarest, and Kurt Kipling (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Return to open session at 7:36 pm

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Mayor Pat Scanlon, and carried unanimously to enter into a purchase agreement with Cleveland Cliff's Iron Company to purchase the land in the amount of \$239,753 and authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase agreement.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:22 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Argall, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

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Cathy Smith, City Clerk