Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 27, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, July 27, 2026, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by David Aro, DDA Chair, at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: David Aro, Antonio Adan, Brice Sturmer, Kelly Milano, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, and Randy Scholz (7). Absent: Lisa Peterson, Carrie Meyer, Tracy Magnuson and Brian Buchanan (4). Also, present was DDA Liaison Diana Sundberg.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Brett Argall, seconded by Member Krystan Beaumont, and carried unanimously to approve June 22, 2026, minutes as presented.

DDA Chair David Aro asked to make an addition to the agenda: Roundtable Discussion after New Business; added to today's agenda, 8. Roundtable Discussion. In addition, add "Roundtable Discussion" and "Approval of the Agenda" to the agenda for future meetings.

5. MONTHLY REPORTS

a. Finance Report

Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Grey Getschow reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure Report, period ending June 30, 2026, as presented in the packet. Getschow informed the DDA that the DDA should see about $41,000 in additional tax from Kwik Trip.

A Motion was made by Member Randy Scholz, seconded by Member Brice Sturmer, and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

b. Beautification Report

Linda Andriacchi provided Beautification updates: gave thanks and kudos to NorthIron Church for all their efforts; hoping they continue with efforts in the future. Also, gave thanks to DPW. The seasonal workers will be done in a couple weeks; Linda is looking to find someone to fill those spots for watering the plants. For any applicants interested, send the individual to DPW for an application.

A discussion occurred regarding winter decorations. Lights was a topic of discussion. Linda stated she could do some fancy Christmas baskets for City Hall and Old Ish with Christmas wreathes on poles on Main and Division Streets and mainly in the business district. Member Argall asked to have a proposal for a future meeting to be up for a vote.

c. DDA Liaison Report

DDA Liaison, Diana Sundberg reviewed the DDA Liaison Report as provided in the packet; reporting period: July 2026. Some highlights include Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Celebration August 19th, 2026 at the Senior Center, RAMBA Trailhead work started this week, Music on Main and Farmers Market have been well attended, six Start-Up Assistance Grant Applications are being worked on, and a weekly meeting occurs with Jake Roberts, DPW Director to address any areas needed update in Downtown. Member Adan would like to see Radio Results Network stats; Diana does receive a report, and she will distribute to the DDA members.

d. Ishpeming Community Events

Member Beaumont provided an update on recent and upcoming events. Old Ish Days were successful, unfortunately had to cancel the chalk art day due to weather. The Skate Park Event went well and looking forward to having this be an annual event at the Skate Park. Buzz the Gut would like more promotion. Member Beaumont will be the new president for the Fourth of July Committee. The Fourth of July Committee and Ishpeming Community Events are looking for more committee members; looking into having more committees branch off from the Ishpeming Community Events, for example, Powwow, Buzz the Gut, etc.

A discussion occurred regarding the upcoming Christmas Market and the DDA would like to provide as much support as possible.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Michigan Downtown Association UP Meeting – August 6th

Diana provided a reminder to let her know who will be attending the Michigan Downtown Association UP Meeting. The agenda will be sent to those that can attend.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. DDA Liaison Hour Increase

City Manager/Member Randy Scholz provided an overview of the Statement of Explanation as presented in the packet; DDA Liaison position hours increased from 18 hours to 28 hours as well as a budget increase.

A motion was made by Member Antonio Adan, seconded by Member Brice Sturmer, unanimously carried to approve the increase of the DDA Liaison hours from 18-28 and authorize the associated budget increase of $19,506.62 effective January 21, 2027.

b. DDA Strategic Plan – Individual Meetings with Mark Miller

Diana Sundberg will provide Mark Miller's Contact information to DDA Members for each member to schedule an individual meeting.

A discussion was held regarding leveraging current funds. Other communities are doing a revolving loan fund. Many members would like this to be a topic at a future meeting.

8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Diana Sundberg; would like to have a meeting with Grey Getschow to discuss next year's budget.

Kelly Milano; the Firemen's Tournament is coming back to Ishpeming and will be in Ishpeming over the next three years. TV6 reached out to do a follow-up story on the recent events and future events in the City.

Antonio Adan; worked with Word on the Street on an article that was recently published. Provided an update regarding the Anderson Building. Member Adan has been meeting with Member Scholz to discuss other buildings located downtown.

Brice Sturmer; finalizing things with MSHDA regarding Loeffler Block. The hope is to have apartments in 2028.

Dave Aro; discussed meeting with Mark Miller regarding the previous plan. The main item that wasn't complete is the Butler Theatre. A further discussion was had regarding the Butler Theatre.

Randy Scholz; a blighted house was complete on Dawson. Two additional blight properties are going to Council. The Paint Store on Second Street is to be taken down. Having discussions about Malton Road development. The new fire truck was delivered today.

Brett Argall; attended the meeting with Mark Miller.

Grey Getschow; a Rate Study was complete for water/sewer, looking forward to hearing the recommendations. Working on finalizing the Skate Park Grant.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:20 p.m., a motion was made by Member Brett Argall, seconded by Chair David Aro, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Emilie Stack, City Clerk/HR Manager