

ISHIPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of August 13, 2013

A Special Joint Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council and Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Present for the City Council: Mayor Mike Tall, Council Members Claudia Demarest, Joseph Juidici, Elaine Racine, and Mike Tonkin

Present for the Downtown Development Authority: David Aeh, Charlie Anderson, Diane Gauthier, Judy Hodges, Jon Kangas, Elaine Racine, Stuart Skauge, Rosemarie Strom, and Stacey Willey. Absent: Dave Aro and Jason Gauthier.

Also present were Finance Director Jim Lampman, City Attorney David Savu, Chief of Police Dan Willey, Roger Crimmins and Randy Walter of A. Lindberg & Sons, Alan Bakalarski, and Brian Savolainen of UPEA.

Mayor Tall called the City Council meeting to order. DDA Chairman David Aeh called the DDA meeting to order.

Discussion followed on whether bond funds could be diverted from the Penney lot and U. S. 41 utilities to downtown infrastructure improvements; primarily water main replacement. MEDC has determined that crumbling utilities should be addressed before streets are resurfaced through the DIG grant funds. If the utility issues are not taken care of first, MEDC may not provide the funds for the streetscape project. Lindberg is willing to install new water mains as a portion of this project. The additional work would be addressed as a change order, not a separate contract. It was cautioned that, if the grant was lost, the City would have to reapply at a later date with the utilities included, and there is a strong risk that the grant would not be funded again.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mr. Aeh that the DDA approve up to \$400,000 for utility replacement on Main Street from Division Street to Hematite Drive, Hematite Drive from Main Street to Third Street, Bank Street from Main Street to First Street, and First Street from Bank Street to Hematite Drive, in conjunction with the DIG grant streetscape project, with the design and construction work to be done within the grant year. Ayes: Eight (8). Nays: One (1 – Charlie Anderson). Motion carried.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Demarest, seconded by Councilwoman Racine, the City Council awarded the bid for the streetscape project to Lindberg & Sons Construction for the bid amount of \$580,472.50, pending approval of a change order for the utility work.

It was noted there could be a savings by using materials on hand at DPW or by the City purchasing the materials through its tax-exempt status. It was agreed both options should be pursued to see if a savings could be achieved.

Concern was expressed that the grant could be lost if the project were not completed by the end of the year. As a majority of the funds would be spent, an extension could be requested to finish what could not be completed before winter.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mr. Aeh to adjourn the DDA meeting at 4:35 p.m. Motion carried.

On a motion by Mayor Tall, seconded by Councilwoman Demarest, the City Council adjourned the meeting.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary