

A Special Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Monday, January 27, 2014, in the City Hall Conference Room. Mayor Tall called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mike Tall, Council Members Claudia Demarest, and Joseph Juidici (3). Absent: Council Members Elaine Racine and Mike Tonkin (2). Also present were City Manager Mark Slown and City Attorney David Savu.

Lift Hiring Freeze

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest and seconded by Councilman Juidici to lift the hiring freeze and authorize the hiring of a Rental Housing Inspector and a co-op student for the Clerk/Treasurer's Office. Ayes: Three (3). Nays: None (0). Absent: Two (2). Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at 3:50 p.m. and reconvened at 4:03 p.m.

Mr. Savu left the meeting at 3:50 p.m. Councilwoman Racine arrived at 4:10 p.m.

Joint Meeting with the Downtown Development Authority

U. S. 41 Gateway Improvements

Tom West, Director of the Ski Hall of Fame, made a presentation on proposed signage and landscaping for the Ski Hall of Fame property. He requested an endorsement of the project and stated this would enhance their chances of getting a grant.

Mr. Slown stated a committee of Council and DDA members has been discussing how to proceed with the gateway project and reduce beautification costs. The immediate focus is on east and west end entryway signs. Once a decision is made on the entry signs, discussion on viaduct or other improvements can follow. Some conceptual drawings of signs have been made as a starting point.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest and seconded by Mayor Tall to support the concept for the east and west entry signs as presented, provided it comes within budget. Ayes: Four (4). Nays: None (0). Absent: One (1). Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mayor Tall and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to support the Ski Hall of Fame signing and landscaping improvements as presented by Mr. West. Ayes: Four (4). Nays: None (0). Absent: One (1). Motion carried.

Beautification

Discussion followed on reducing costs for beautification. Service organizations, master gardeners, and individuals with an interest in gardening could be contacted to see if they would be willing to volunteer. The DDA will continue to pay for the flowers and most of the watering. An inventory will be made of areas requiring beautification, and the City Manager's Office will send invitations asking groups or individuals to participate. Businesses may be willing to adopt

planters in front of their businesses. If needed, bids could be requested for someone to supervise the beautification efforts of the volunteers.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest and seconded by Councilman Juidici to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m. Ayes: Four (4). Nays: None (0). Absent: One (1). Motion carried.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary