

The Regular Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 in the Ishpeming Senior Center. Mayor Tonkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mike Tonkin, Council Members Claudia Demarest, Joseph Juidici, Justin Koski, and Mike Tall (5). Absent: None (0). Also present were City Manager Mark Slown and City Attorney Bonnie Hoff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chloe McBeth, Graduate Assistant, in the Masters of Public Administration School for Education, advised NMU was planning to conduct a baseline social capital survey with regards to the Partridge Creek community garden project. If the City was interested in including any specific questions, NMU would be willing to incorporate them into the survey.

Ed Anderson, Fire Chief, announced three firefighters would be retiring. Presented with plaques were: Craig Wolf with 20 years of service, Robert Delongchamp with 21 years of service, and John Harnett with 30 years of service.

AGENDA COMMENT – There was none.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to approve the February 4 and 16, 2015 minutes as presented.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Tall, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to approve the disbursements as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Slown reported the receipt of \$990,940 from the Urgent Need Grant of which \$827,936 was the City portion and \$163,004 was the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority portion. A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Tall and carried unanimously to approve the financial statements as presented.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #7-400

A motion was made by Councilman Koski, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of Ordinance #7-400; Ordinance Regulating the Registration of Residential Rental Dwelling Units.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #7-500

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to approve the first reading of Ordinance #7-500; Ordinance to Require the Inspection of Residential Rental Dwelling Units.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MICHIGAN ENERGY OPTIONS

Michael Larson from Michigan Energy Options was present and explained the Community Energy Manager Pilot project would provide technical assistance and energy management services to five communities.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Manager to sign.

INSTALLATION OF TRAIL SHARING SIGNS

Joni Gleason from Ishpeming and owner of Heritage Hills Riding Facility reported she received a grant from the DNR for \$5,000 for trail sharing signs. If trails were going to be shared, there was a definite need for trail sharing signs as well as trail crossing signs. There was discussion regarding the history of Malton Road, installation of proper signage, placing signs on posts, and development of a signage policy so there would be consistency.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Tall and carried unanimously to give permission to place "Share and Protect our Trail Signs" on the trails, installed on posts, go with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee to have DPW staff determine placement of the signs, and; in addition, any signs currently on the trail would be permitted until a policy was established and with the understanding at some point the signs may need to be removed.

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR USE OF GAS BOATS ON LAKE ANGELINE

The DNR was requesting to use a gas-powered boat to do some studies of Lake Angeline and they also had a grant to install a boat launch. There was discussion pertaining to the use of gas powered boats on Lake Angeline, how this might affect surrounding property owners, and, it was noted Ordinance #4-100 not allowing use of gas powered boats was repealed on June 15, 2005. Additional discussion took place on imposing a "no wake speed" on the Lake. It was the consensus of Council to table this issue.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF NEZ #1

Mayor Tonkin opened the public hearing at 8:45 p.m. Hearing no public comment, the public hearing was closed at 8:45 p.m.

FINDING THE PROPOSED EXPANSION CONSISTENT WITH MASTER PLAN

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to find the proposed expansion of the Downtown NEZ #1 consistent with the City Master Plan and consistent with the goal to revitalize the downtown.

ADOPT STATEMENT OF HOUSING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

A motion was made by Councilman Koski, supported by Councilwoman Demarest and carried unanimously to adopt the Statement of Housing Goals, Objectives, and Policies as presented.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY PHASE III RENOVATIONS PAY REQUEST #1

A motion was made by Councilman Juidici, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to approve for payment the Carnegie Library Phase III Renovations Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$33,975 as presented.

AWARD DUMP BOX REPLACEMENT FOR DPW VEHICLE #169

Mr. Kangas explained the amount budgeted for replacement was \$30,000 and the total bid including the body liner was \$21,302.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to accept the bid to replace the dump box for Vehicle #169 from Casper's Truck and Equipment in the not to exceed amount of \$21,302.

OPT OUT OF 80/20 FOR HEALTH INSURANCE PER P.A. 152 OF 2011

A motion was made by Councilman Juidici, seconded by Councilwoman Demarest and carried unanimously to exempt the City of Ishpeming from the hard cap and 80/20 health insurance premium cost sharing requirement of Public Act 152 of 2011 for calendar year 2015.

LIFT HIRING FREEZE: LIBRARY CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK/RENTAL INSPECTOR

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to eliminate the hiring freeze with the understanding that the current staffing levels will be maintained.

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE ATTORNEY

A motion was made by Councilman Tall, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to approve Kevin Koch as Substitute City Attorney at a rate of \$100/hour.

AUTHORIZE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TRAVEL AND EXPENSES FOR 2015

It was the consensus of Council to continue with the current practice of bringing any individual request for travel to the Manager for approval.

CITY MANAGER REQUEST TO ATTEND REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES TRAINING IN ESCANABA

A motion was made by Councilman Koski, supported by Councilwoman Demarest and carried unanimously to approve the request for the manager to attend the RRC training in Escanaba.

SCHEDULE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION

A motion was made by Councilman Koski, supported by Councilman Tall and carried unanimously to schedule the Special Joint meeting with the Planning Commission for Monday, April 6, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Juidici and Councilman Tall both had comments on the parking situation at the High School on Division Street during sporting events. Chief Dan Willey reported his staff was issuing more parking tickets and additional signage would be added to Division Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Demarest reported there was an insurance meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd with various union representatives and two insurance agents; Vince Babcock from Employee Benefits Agency and Brian Miller from Superior Health and Life Insurance Agency.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to continue using Employee Benefits Agency as the insurance agent.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Tall reported he attend the meetings of the Housing Commission and Central Dispatch. The windows at the high rise had been installed and there were still a couple of minor fixes to the texting function for 9-1-1.

Councilwoman Demarest attended the Library Board meeting and reported the elevator project was progressing but the noise level was high due to construction.

Mayor Tonkin indicated the Planning Commission meeting was cancelled and there was not an Inspiration Zone meeting.

Councilman Juidici had no meetings during the month but wanted to commend the DPW on the great job with snow removal considering the “sno-go” was in for repairs; and reminded everyone if they were on the list of thaws to be patient and DPW would get to them as soon as possible.

Councilman Koski reported he attend and volunteered at the road crossings for the Polar Roll Fatbike Race, he missed the Parks and Recreation meeting, announced the IMBA group chose Marquette as its regional location and would be spending time on the Ishpeming/Negaunee trail system, and commended the DPW staff on the work and maintenance of Al Quaal, the grounds were exceptional for the various events.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Slown reported he was out ill for the last couple days and apologized for not having a written Manager’s report.

Cathy Smith reported Katelyn Argall, DPW Office Manager would provide back up for the various meetings she staffed; and Mrs. Smith would provide backup for the meetings Ms. Argall supported.

Jackie Lykins reported the changes to the cost modifier were the largest in years which equated to approximately an 8% increase in property assessed values; personal property also increased; she advised the Board of Review had their organizational meeting and would be holding their meetings for the purpose of hearing persons, corporations, or firms having questions regarding their assessed and/or taxable value on March 12th and 13th.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Hoff indicated she had a very good start and has enjoyed the first couple of months at the City; she commented on the pictures throughout City Hall and was adding to the collection with pictures in her office.

CLOSED SESSION

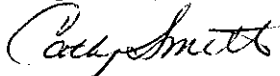
A motion was made by Councilman Tall and supported by Councilman Koski to go into closed session for attorney-client privileged communication pursuant to MCL 15.243(13)g at 9:17 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Tonkin, Council Members Demarest, Juidici, Koski, and Tall (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Return to open session at 9:37 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
Recording Secretary