

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES
March 23, 2015

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, March 23, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman David Aeh called the meeting to order.

Present: David Aeh, Diane Gauthier, Stuart Skauge, Anne Giroux, Claudia Demarest, Judy Hodges, and Mark Slown (7). Absent were David Aro, Rosemarie Strom, and John Summerhill (3). Also in attendance were Jim Lampman, Finance Director and Chamber Director Kori Tosava.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier, supported by Mrs. Demarest, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

Financial Report - Mr. Lampman reviewed the financial report. A motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mr. Skauge and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Mrs. Tosava summarized her report covering updates on memberships, Be Local Buy Local program, community events, and chamber services and reminded everyone of upcoming dates to remember.

In addition, she was requesting funds for the upcoming event “Vegas Comes to Ishpeming” in the amount of \$300. A motion was made by Mr. Skauge, supported by Mr. Aeh and carried unanimously to donate \$300 to be a table sponsor for the Chamber of Commerce “Vegas in Ishpeming” event.

Beautification Committee

Mr. Slown reminded everyone of the Beautification Committee meeting scheduled for March 30, 2015. Letters were sent out to approximately 30 individuals, organization, and churches.

Update on New Business Incentive Program (NBIP)

Mr. Slown was continuing to work on development of the program and would have more information for the next meeting.

Update on 116 E. Canda Street Property

Mr. Slown provided an update indicating John Jilbert was currently working on changing the name on the deed from the City of Ishpeming to the Downtown Development Authority. The environmental consultant for the Brownfield Authority took samples from the building and information should be received soon. It was noted, the DDA had very limited funds for demolition of structures so this would need to be considered before accepting the building. There was discussion on other blighted properties and specific areas that should be targeted in the City.

Update on Gateway Signs

Mr. Slown reported the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority (NIWA) land transaction was approved by NIWA at their last meeting and would be going to the City Council on April 8th. Obtaining the property for the other gateway sign was still being worked on.

Update on Façade Projects

Mr. Slown advised Diane Nault's façade project was nearing completion and was looking very nice. Also noted was Picture This and Pioneer Square the County façade projects would be starting up again very soon.

Attorney for the DDA

There was discussion on retaining an attorney for the DDA after the retirement of David Savu. Mr. Slown suggested Bonnie Hoff, City Attorney, should also represent the DDA. Her retainer fee was \$125.

After some discussion regarding a backup attorney in the event Ms. Hoff is busy or unavailable, a motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mr. Aeh and carried unanimously to designate Bonnie Hoff as attorney for the DDA with Steward and Sheridan as an alternate if needed, and if they agree to the terms.

Ishpeming Business Association Report

Mr. Aeh reported the IBA was publishing an ad indicating what the IBA does and what it will be doing in the future.

Old Business

Mr. Skauge questioned who notified the City that the railroad crossing at Malton Road was inadequate. He suggested Mr. Slown talk to MDOT because it was his understanding in a discussion with a retired MDOT engineer that the crossing was legal.

New Business

Mr. Skauge suggested having a Kick-off Spring Clean-up Day, with City Council and DDA walking down Main Street with the Fire Truck behind cleaning the streets. It was suggested a specific day be selected and the IBA would coordinate with everyone for the kick-off spring clean-up. Mr. Slown would talk to DPW for the clean-up media event and get it on the Beautification Committee agenda and Council agenda.

Mrs. Demarest would like to have a special meeting with the DDA and City Council to discuss reconfiguring the T IF District. She also suggested the DDA adopt a resolution establishing Rules of Procedure for Public Comment at meetings similar to what the Council adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge, supported by Mrs. Demarest and carried unanimously to schedule a joint meeting with the DDA and City Council.

Adjournment

At 5:30 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mr. Aeh and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
Recording Secretary