

A Special Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Monday, April 13, 2015, in the City Hall Conference Room. Mayor Tonkin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Mike Tonkin, Council Members Joseph Juidici, Justin Koski, and Mike Tall. Also present were City Manager Mark Slown and City Attorney Bonnie Hoff.

AGENDA COMMENT

Dave Korpi from Hilltop RV questioned why Council would not put their full support behind an event such as this—an event which brings in tourism and racers from the Midwest. As a hotel owner, he has personally experienced a positive effect from the Red Earth Classic. He encouraged the Council to approve the race.

Jay Clancey, owner of Cognition Brewery also requested Council to overcome the obstacles to approve this race. The Cognition is a major sponsor of this race and would hate to see any negative effects stemming from delaying the approval.

Matt Croschere of Great Lakes Recovery Center spoke at length of the positive effect the race has on the local area youth, as the Red Earth Classic donates \$1 from every registration towards local preventative substance abuse education programs through the Great Lakes Recovery Center. He encouraged Council to approve the Red Earth Classic.

Gerry Koski from Negaunee emphasized that the Red Earth Classic has received nationwide recognition for this race, which gives more notoriety for the Ishpeming-Negaunee area trails. The Youth Development programs that are funded from this race are also a huge asset to the Ishpeming community. He encouraged Council to approve the race.

Jesse Bell from Ishpeming spoke in support of the Red Earth classic, highlighting the positive economic impact of the race. He encouraged the City Council to adopt a more welcoming attitude towards events held in the City and requested Councilmembers consider revising the events policy so that it does not give special favor to not-for-profit entities.

Bob Hendrickson from the Ishpeming Ski Club also spoke in support of the Red Earth Classic. Mr. Hendrickson noted the work on the trails has been beneficial for other user groups, and that the Red Earth Classic's active involvement with the youth is very important for the entire community.

Dan Perkins, city resident and owner of Dan Perkins Construction encouraged the City to approve the race based on its economic impact. He felt it was a loss to see the race begin and end in Negaunee. His business and many other businesses are committed sponsors and do not want to see a negative impact to the race by delaying the approval.

There was discussion among City Council regarding the Red Earth Classic. A motion was made by Mayor Tall, seconded by Mayor Tonkin, to approve the Red Earth Classic. After further discussion, an amendment was made to the motion.

An amended motion was made by Councilman Tall to approve the Red Earth Classic, provided they abide by the three contingencies, 1) include the City of Ishpeming in their event insurance, 2) do not use paint on the race course, and 3) follow all M-DOT requirements for road crossings.

Ayes: Mayor Tonkin and Council members Juidici and Tall (3). Nays: Councilwoman Demarest (1). Abstained: Councilman Koski (1). Motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Mayor Tonkin, and carried unanimously to adjourn at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katelyn Argall
Recording Secretary