

The Special Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 in the Ray Leverton Room at the Carnegie Public Library. Mayor Mike Tonkin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Mayor Mike Tonkin, Council Members Claudia Demarest, Joseph Juidici, Justin Koski, Mike Tall (5). Also present were City Manager Mark Slown and City Attorney Bonnie Hoff.

AGENDA COMMENT - There was none.

BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT

Anne Giroux, County Treasurer, explained the Land Bank Authority received the grant and they would determine what projects to include. The goal of the grant was to eliminate blight. Since the City owned the land, the Land Bank was asking for permission from the City to demolish the structure; Bell Forest Products leased the building and they have already given their permission to demolish. Mrs. Giroux advised she would need to demonstrate site control, either with owner permission or a deed, by Friday, October 30th and provide the State with this information on the structures scheduled for demolition. The budget was \$70,000 and she spoke with Bell Forest Products and they would cover any overage within reason. The final budget would be agreed to before any demolition. She commended the City on being proactive with blighted properties.

There was discussion related to the owners beginning demolition but not following through to completion.

A motion was made by Councilman Koski, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to approve resolution 2015-11 giving permission for the Marquette County Land Bank Authority to demolish the old steam plant building using blight elimination grant dollars for the demolition.

Council thanked Mrs. Giroux for all her work with the Blight Elimination Grant and her continued efforts to eliminate blight in the City.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES

Mr. Slown explained the Memorandum of Understanding was with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for the Redevelopment Ready Communities program. This would allow the MEDC to evaluate the City and make a recommendation for Ishpeming to become certified as a redevelopment ready community.

A motion was made by Councilman Koski, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the MEDC as presented and authorize the Mayor to sign.

2016 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Councilwoman Demarest questioned the staffing at the Library on Mondays when the library was not open to the public. She felt perhaps their hours should be adjusted to provide more service to the public. Jesse Shirtz, Library Director, explained on Mondays staff would get

caught up from the previous week and get organized to be of better service to the public during the following week.

There was also discussion on the Al Quaal building improvements and grooming equipment, planning/zoning salaries, the assessing contract with the County of Marquette, and fund balance in the General Fund and other funds.

Mr. Slown also pointed out there was an energy grant available that could possibly provide up to \$50,000 in funding for street lighting for the Third Street Improvement project. The match dollars were already budgeted as part of the project.

A motion was made by Councilman Koski, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to approve the 2016 budget as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:28 a.m., motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Smith
Recording Secretary