

Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Monday, October 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, October 26, 2015 in the Ray Leverton Room at the Carnegie Public Library. The meeting was called to order by David Aeh at 4:00 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, David Aro, Diane Gauthier, Sandy Arsenault, Jay Clancey, Anne Giroux, Claudia Demarest, and Mark Slown (8). Absent were Rosemarie Strom and Judy Hodges (2).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Tall explained the steam plant was owned by Bell Forest Products and he felt, as the owners of the building, they should be responsible for the demolition.

Patti Russell, from Wells Fargo, explained Wells Fargo had a great program for small businesses, briefly explained the program, and encouraged anyone interested in beginning a small business to contact her at Wells Fargo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Aro, supported by Mrs. Gauthier and carried unanimously to approve the September 22nd and 28th minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jim Lampman reviewed the financial report for the period ending September 30, 2015 which included summarizing the revenues and expenses for the month. A motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mr. Aeh and carried unanimously to approve the financial reports as presented.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Linda Andriacchi gave an update on the beautification budget and summarized her expenses for the year. She expressed concern over the flowers getting vandalized when so much time, effort, and money had been put into beautification.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Kori Tossava reported the Chamber dinner was a great success. She summarized her report covering updates on memberships, media, and other chamber services and events.

ENTRYWAY SIGN

After some brief discussion regarding the additional cost of powder coating the entry way sign, a motion was made by Mrs. Arsenault, supported by Mrs. Giroux and carried unanimously to table this item until the next meeting and ask Dan Perkins and U.P. Fabricating to attend.

BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT

(a) 116 Canda Street Deed

There was discussion pertaining to the shared wall with 110 Canda Street and the necessity of obtaining bids from architects and engineers to determine how to proceed with the demolition.

A motion was made by Mrs. Demarest supported by Mrs. Arsenault and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to obtain three bids from architect/engineering firms and bring the bids back to the DDA for approval.

(b) 110 Canda Street

Mr. Slown reported the owners of 110 Canda Street rejected the DDA's purchase offer.

DDA PLAN/TIF DISTRICT

Mr. Slown advised the proposed Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan included the deletion of Hematite Heights and Ishpeming Hills area. There was discussion regarding the benefits of reducing the TIF district.

A motion was made by Mrs. Giroux, supported by Mrs. Demarest and carried unanimously to adopt the Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan.

WAY-FINDING SIGNAGE

Discussion took place regarding the procedures for way-finding signage and it was pointed out the signs would have to be strategically placed and would need to be consistent. Too much signage could also be a problem. It was felt further discussion should take place regarding signage especially with the construction of the roundabout.

It was the consensus of the DDA to further look into way-finding signage and bring this item back at a later date.

INVOICE FROM SYNDER DRUG STORES – BEAUTIFICATION - No action was required.

DDA PRIORITY SITES FOR REDEVELOPMENT

It was the consensus to place this item on a future agenda.

ISHPEMING BUSINESS ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mr. Aeh reported the Ladies Night Out would be held on November 17th from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. It had always been a well-attended event. The Christmas parade and Live Nativity were being planned.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Demarest reported the railroad crossing on Malton Road was complete. She also felt the base of Old Ish was in need of paint and should be considered a project for next summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Gauthier announced the Third Annual Ishpeturkey Trot would be held on November 26th and the proceeds would go to support military families.

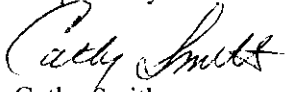
Mr. Aeh reported a new antique store had opened on the corner of First Street and Pearl Street.

Mr. Clancey announced he was now serving wine at the Cognition Brewing Company.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:42 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mr. Aro and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith

Recording Secretary