

The Special Meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 in the Ishpeming City Hall Conference Room. Mayor Mike Tonkin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

AGENDA COMMENT - There was none.

REQUEST TO FORM A COUNCIL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS

A motion was made by Councilman Tall, supported by Councilwoman Demarest and carried unanimously to appoint two Councilmembers to serve as a committee to review the employment applications for the Chief of Police position.

Councilman Koski volunteered to be on the committee to review employment applications.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Juidici and carried unanimously to appoint Councilman Koski and Councilman Juidici to the Committee and appoint an alternate after the new Council was seated.

2017 BUDGET PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP

Mr. Slown advised key staff was present to answer any questions regarding the 2017 proposed budget. Discussion took place on the fund balance and investment returns on various funds; the increasing MERS costs for the future, noting this issue was not unique to Ishpeming, and the possibility of increasing employee contributions or changing plans in the future for new hires; the increasing health care costs; and the Rural Development Water Improvement Project.

Councilwoman Demarest expressed her disappointment with the new format of the budget and the budget message, and pointed out her concerns regarding the fund balance in the general fund being subsidized by other funds; the revolving loan fund; the suggested bond proposal, and not setting up an equipment fund. She felt good information was not being received to make good decisions.

Councilman Koski felt the budget was well done and using the general ledger software to streamline the process, save time, and reduce costs was good. Council had made tough decisions in the past and would continue making tough decision into the future but he did not feel they were bad decisions or misinformed decisions.

Mr. Lampman advised staff used the general ledger software to develop the budget and there were some formatting issues but those would be corrected. He explained revolving loan funds did still exist but there were population requirements along with many other State requirements in order to utilize one. He provided a brief history of the General Fund-Fund Balance; and talked about developing an Internal Service account for equipment and explained how it was currently being budgeted.

Further discussion took place on the need and importance of a new fire truck and the proposed voter approved bond referendum. The bond proposal would be a short term fix and a long term plan would need to be established in the future. Concern was expressed over asking the citizens to support the referendum.

Any suggested changes to the budget should be directed to staff as soon as possible before the Public Hearing on November 9th.

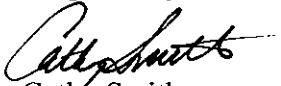
PROJECT EMPIRE COMMUNITY REQUEST LIST

Mr. Slown stated the Project Empire meeting would be held on Thursday, October 13th at 6:00 p.m. at Westwood High School. The State had given an opportunity for municipalities to make requests. It was suggested education and training for displaced workers was of great importance, receive assistance with economic development in our area; and help to bring jobs into the community.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:50 a.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest, supported by Councilman Koski and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Smith,
Recording Secretary