

City of Iron Mountain

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Regular Meeting of the City Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan, held on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Alessandrini

Present: Council Members Tomassoni, Maule, Farragh, Blomquist, Zemar & Clawson

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

Alessandrini asked that "Approval of Closure Re: Farmer's Market" be added as item ten under New Business. It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Zemar to approve the agenda, as amended.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Tomassoni to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 2022, as presented.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Review of Ordinance Re: Chapter 6 - Animals

Alessandrini opened public comment.

Kim (Grace) Harder-Webb – 1000 Detroit Ave., Iron Mountain, MI

Grace Webb voiced her support for the cows being able to remain in the City.

Gerry Grailer – 410 S. Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain, MI

Grailer conveyed his support for granting Bill Neuens a variance to keep livestock at 606 N. Stephenson Avenue.

Erick Huotari – 604 Chapin St., Iron Mountain, MI

Huotari indicated his support for the current operation of the cows and that the site can be rejected if it is not cared for.

Bill Bailey – 700 Woodbine St., Kingsford, MI

Bailey asked the City Council to consider a variance to allow Bill Neuens to keep livestock at 606 N. Stephenson Avenue.

Steve Branz – 110 Lehman Ave., Iron Mountain, MI

Branz relayed that he likes the concept at the Ice Cream Barn and that he is in support of allowing Bill Neuens to keep livestock at 606 N. Stephenson Avenue.

Alessandrini highlighted that there is currently no ordinance-based option to allow the housing of livestock at this time and that City ordinance has to be amended.

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Greg Seibold – 1112 Carpenter Ave., Iron Mountain, MI

Seibold urged the City to amend the City ordinance to allow the keeping of livestock on a case-by-case basis. He asserted that Tractor Supply is selling live chicks and that the ordinance would have to be amended for it to not be a violation of the current ordinance.

Basil Smeester – 1420 Shepherds Ln., Aurora, WI

Smeester imparted his support for Bills request to house livestock.

Stanchina requested that the City Council offer him and City Attorney Pirkola direction regarding the moving forward of an amendment to Section 6-3, Prohibited acts, of the Code of Ordinances.

Alessandrini suggested that a special use permit be considered for a specified amount of time. He noted that concessions have been made in the past to assist businesses.

Clawson supported allowing the housing of livestock within the City as a business accommodation.

Zemar stated his opposition to an ordinance amendment to allow the housing of cows so close to the highway due to safety concerns and that things should be done the right way.

Blomquist reiterated Zemar's sentiments and that this ordinance amendment conversation would not be happening right now if a home owner had brought in two cows. He relayed that there have been several cases of "ask for forgiveness later" on this project, cows included. Pirkola confirmed that the keeping of livestock could be permitted via special use permit process within specific districts after two ordinances are amended. Stanchina verified that the soonest an ordinance amendment could be completed on this subject would be 60-90 days with an additional 30-45 days to receive a special use permit.

Zemar explained that you cannot insure something that is illegal and the keeping of livestock within the City of Iron Mountain is against City Ordinance.

Tomassoni expressed concern for possible Health Department issues relating to cross-contamination.

Maule stressed the importance of following the proper process and that the livestock be removed until that process is complete.

Blomquist reiterated that change will take time.

Farragh conveyed that he likes the idea of allowing livestock, non-bulls without horns, without corners being cut during the process.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Clawson to direct the City Manager, City Staff and the City Attorney to draft an amendment to City Ordinance Section 6-3 that would allow the keeping of livestock on a Special Use Permit basis within a Business-2 zoning district.

Tomassoni Aye

Maule Aye

Blomquist Nay

Alessandrini Aye

Farragh Aye

Zemar Nay

Clawson Aye

Motion Prevailed (Aye-5, Nay-2, Abstain-0)

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Review of Potential Ballot Questions Re: Council Pay and Civil Service

Council Pay

Stanchina presented ballot language that would set City Council pay at \$30/meeting, up to \$1,500.00, without an automatic CPI increase.

Clawson communicated his disapproval based on the City's unfunded liability.

No Action Taken

Civil Service

Stanchina raised the need to remove the current Civil Service hiring system. He suggested that it would be preferable to gear the discussion toward entry-level positions.

Clawson expressed the opinion that the Civil Service System is obsolete.

Director of Police and Fire Services, Ed Mattson, communicated that it would be best to only remove Civil Service requirements for entry-level positions.

No Action Taken

Approval of Pay Request from Payne and Dolan Re: Brown St. Storm Sewer

Stanchina presented the payment request for Payne and Dolan to redirect the Brown St. storm sewer. It was moved by Clawson and supported by Farragh to approve a payment in the amount of \$6,232.00 to Payne and Dolan to redirect the Brown St. storm sewer.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Authorize Repair Re: 2009 International 7000 Plow Truck

Stanchina imparted that the City's 2009 International 7000 Plow Truck need a head gasket repair. It was moved by Maule and supported by Clawson to approve a payment in the amount of \$5,056.33 to UP International for a head gasket repair on the City's 2009 International 7000 Plow Truck.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of 80% Employer Contribution Cap Re: Health Insurance Premiums

Stanchina submitted the following resolution for Council approval:

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RESOLUTION 2022-11

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZATING ANY CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN EMPLOYEE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF PA 152 OF 2011 TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 4 OF PA152 of 2011, REFERRED TO AS THE 80/20 RULE, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2011, Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation that limits the amount public employers may pay for government employee medical benefits; and

WHEREAS, PA 152 of 2011 provides the following options

- 1) Apply the Hard Cap (State sets amount that employer can pay toward employee's healthcare cost);
- 2) Adopt 80% employer /20% employee cost-sharing model by majority vote of the Council;
- 3) Opt out of health insurance cost sharing by a 2/3's majority vote of the Council;
- 4) Elect not to follow the statute/non-compliance;

WHEREAS; by a majority vote of its governing body, a public employer, excluding the State, may elect to comply with Section 4 of PA 152, referred to as the 80/20 Rule. As such, for medical benefit plan coverage years beginning on or after July 1, 2012, a public employer shall pay not more than 80% of the total annual costs of all the medical benefits plans it offers or contributes to for its employees; and

WHEREAS, total annual costs include the premium or illustrative rate of the medical benefit plan and all employer payments for reimbursement of co-pays, deductibles, fees, taxes and payments into health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or similar accounts used for health care but does not include beneficiary-paid copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, other out-of-pocket expenses, other service related fees that are assessed to the coverage beneficiary, or beneficiary payments into health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or similar accounts use for health care; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Iron Mountain City Council hereby authorizes any City of Iron Mountain employee subject to the terms of PA 152 of 2011 shall comply with Section 4, referred to as the 80/20 Rule.

Dated: June 6, 2022

BY ORDER OF MAYOR AND COMMON
COUNCIL FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN

I, Isaac Micheau, City Clerk-Treasurer for the City of Iron Mountain, Michigan hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at an Iron Mountain City Council Meeting on June 6, 2022.


Isaac Micheau, City Clerk/Treasurer

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Zemar to approve Resolution 2022-11, referred to as the 80/20 Rule, Beginning July 1, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Renewal of Property and Liability Insurance Re: MMRMA

Stanchina detailed the cost and benefits of the City's property and liability insurance.

It was moved by Zemar and supported by Farragh to renew a two-year agreement with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for the City's property and liability insurance at a cost of \$94,052.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Gus Macker Street Closure

Stanchina reviewed the 2022 Gus Macker street closure plan for a 500 team tournament.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Maule to approve the closure of Carpenter Ave. from the north right-of-way line of West C St. to the south right-of-way line of Ludington St.; Hughitt St. from the east right-of-way line of Prospect Ave. to the west right-of-way line of S. Meritt Ave.; West A St. from the east right-of-way line of Prospect Ave. to the west right-of-way line of S. Meritt Ave.; and West B St. from the entrance of Kaizen Chiropractic to the west right-of-way line of S. Meritt Ave. from 5:00 A.M on July 15, 2022, until 7:00 P.M. on July 17, 2022.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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Approval of Pay Request #2 from Bacco Construction Re: 2021 Local Paving

Stanchina detailed pay request #2 from Bacco Construction in the amount of \$242,151.00 for the 2021 local paving.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Clawson to approve pay request #2 from Bacco Construction in the amount of \$242,151.00 for the 2021 local paving.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval to Purchase Fireworks Software Re: Fire Department Emergency Service Reporting Software

Stanchina explained that the Fire Department is requesting to switch from Firehouse software to Fireworks software to manage their daily operations due to increased maintenance fees. Mattson and Stanchina outlined the conversion process.

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Clawson to switch from Firehouse software to Fireworks software at an annual cost of \$5,063.00 with a once time set up fee of \$4,480.00.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Closure Re: Farmer's Market

Stanchina submitted a request by the Farmer's Market to close the City-owned parking lot between E. A St. and Hughitt St. between 6:30 am and 12:30 pm. on Saturdays from June 4th through October 15th. He stated that adjustments would be made when other events are present.

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Alessandrini to approve the closure of the City-owned parking lot between E. A St. and Hughitt St. between 6:30 am and 12:30 pm. on Saturdays from June 4th through October 15th for the Farmers Market.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports

None

City Manager Reports

The City Manager reported the following:

1. The Lake Antoine Association is requesting the local government to manage the Eurasian Milfoil.
2. Brew Fest will be held on June 11, 2022, from 1 PM. to 6 PM.
3. Systems Control has invited the City Council to tour their facility.
4. He confirmed that the updated Memorial Day Parade route was successful and that a better microphone should be utilized during the presentation.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Stanchina informed the City Council that automated trash pickup was discussed at the Infrastructure Committee meeting. He noted that switching the method of trash collection would save wear and tear on the alleys and potentially aid in future recycling services being offered.

Stanchina outlined the updated Kwik Trip utility upgrade request.

Public Comment

Ed Mattson - 176 Green Acres Rd. - Crystal Falls, MI

Mattson indicated that the last attempt at increasing City Council compensation failed due to the automatic CPI increase.

Council Member Privilege

Clawson asserted that City Council should not be a career and compensation should be limited.

Zemar asked what the Director of Police and Fire Services, Ed Mattson, felt on the allowing of livestock in the City issue. Mattson stated that it could work with a very narrow scope of approval.

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Closed Session Re: Manager Evaluation

It was moved by Tomassoni and supported by Zemar to move into Closed Session at 7:52 P.M.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Closed session ended at 8:15 P.M.

Adjournment

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to adjourn.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.


Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer

UNAPPROVED