

## *City of Iron Mountain*

501 S. Stephenson Ave  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
Telephone: 906-774-8530  
Fax: 906-774-3774

Email: [clerktreasurer@cityofironmountain.com](mailto:clerktreasurer@cityofironmountain.com)  
Website: [www.cityofironmountain.com](http://www.cityofironmountain.com)

Regular Meeting of the City Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan, held on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Alessandrini

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

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina, City Attorney Pirkola, and Chief Financial Officer Lieburn

### **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Tomassoni to approve the agenda, as submitted.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

### **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Maule to approve the minutes of December 5, 2022, as presented.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Old Business**

#### **Discuss Potential Dispensary License Change**

*Don Lofholm – Owner of Source of IM, LLC*

Lofholm communicated his company's commitment to working together with other local growing operations. He imparted the idea that the City being sued due to licensing is inevitable either way.

Blomquist relayed that the pre-set goals of the City's last rubric are not achievable based on the current market conditions and that entity ownership has changed. He suggested that marijuana licensing within the city be uncapped and that facility placement be regulated by zoning district, site development standards or the issuance of special use permits. He detailed the specifics on how he felt best to regulate marijuana facilities.

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Zemar to amend the City of Iron Mountain's ordinance regulating medical and recreational marijuana to remove the number of licenses with the condition that a future date of September 2023, be established for its activation or site development standards such as zoning district, site development standards, or the issuance of special use permits have been established.

Zemar supported Blomquist's sentiments and the overall benefits of having additional licenses available within the city. Blomquist clarified that the goal of his motion is to uncap the licenses with conditions. He indicated that the goal would be to have time to put the required ordinance amendments in place prior to the maximum license number being modified. Pirkola expressed hesitation regarding Blomquist's ordinance amendment plan.

Maule questioned why the Council couldn't just have a committee to review this further without a sunset clause. Blomquist stated that the goal of the sunset clause would be to enhance clarity for the process and ensure the process is not voted down during the ordinance amendment process.

**CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN\*CITY COUNCIL\*DECEMBER 19, 2022**

Alessandrini stressed that he would not vote for more than one additional license based on community sentiment. He imparted that opening up licenses would result in less physical investment in the community. Blomquist and Zemar conveyed that the market will dictate the appropriate number of businesses. Blomquist asserted that the cannabis industry needs to be normalized as much as possible and that doing so would avoid lawsuits. Maule highlighted that the Council has the option to not increase the number of licensees.

Zemar estimated that there is more acceptance of marijuana now. Alessandrini reiterated his concern for allowing more than one additional license. Tomassoni questioned what would happen with the additional operations once marijuana becomes legal in Wisconsin. Blomquist voiced the opinion that the city would not be overrun with dispensaries if licenses were uncapped and that there was not a promise of permanent limitations. Zemar stated that the Council has to do what is best for the city first.

Amended motion

The motion for consideration was amended to the following:

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Zemar to amend the City of Iron Mountain's ordinance regulating medical and recreational marijuana to remove the number of licenses contingent on a committee of the City Council working with the Planning Commission to review site development standards, allowable zoning districts, special use permit provisions, and potential design standards with the intent of activating the amended ordinance's regulating medical and recreational marijuana by September 2023.

Pirkola noted his apprehension to Blomquist's proposed motion. Zemar detailed his list of pros for license expansion. Clawson asserted that the people he represents don't want more licenses as a con. Director of Police and Fire Services Mattson imparted that the biggest issue with the current marijuana licenses is the smell. Maule relayed that businesses in town are also concerned about additional licenses being added.

Amended motion

The motion for consideration was amended to the following:

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Zemar to appoint a committee of the Council to review and propose amendments for the City of Iron Mountain's marijuana ordinances and any relevant zoning ordinances that would affect marijuana facilities with the intention of uncapping the number of medical and adult use marijuana licenses in the city.

Tomassoni	Nay
Zemar	Aye
Clawson	Nay
Maule	Nay
Blomquist	Aye
Farragh	Nay
Alessandrini	Aye

**Motion Failed** (Aye-3, Nay-4, Abstain-0)

It was moved by Zemar and supported by Alessandrini to appoint a committee of the Council to review and propose amendments for the City of Iron Mountain's marijuana ordinances and any relevant zoning ordinances that would affect marijuana facilities with the intention of adding one license to the number of medical and adult use marijuana licenses in the city.

Clawson	Nay
Blomquist	Aye
Zemar	Aye
Tomassoni	Nay
Maule	Nay
Farragh	Nay
Alessandrini	Aye

**Motion Failed** (Aye-3, Nay-4, Abstain-0)

Pirkola conveyed that the Council can hold off for now as new law is being decided that will provide greater clarity.

**CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN\*CITY COUNCIL\*DECEMBER 19, 2022**

**New Business**

**Resolution Approving a Spark Grant Application Re: City Park**

Stanchina presented the proposed Spark Grant Application for improvements at City Park. He stressed the importance of utilizing universal design due to the competitiveness of this unmatched grant. The resolution is shown below:

**RESOLUTION 2022-022  
SPARK GRANT  
RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION  
LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH WITHOUT DONATED FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Iron Mountain supports the submission of an application titled, "City Park Trail and Playground Improvements" to the Spark grant program for replacement of playground equipment and paving of a multi-use path at City Park.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Iron Mountain City Council hereby authorizes submission of a Spark Application for \$644,000.

Roll Call: AYES( ):  
NAYES( ):  
ABSENT( ):

Dated: December 19, 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 December 19, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Isaac Micheau, City Clerk/Treasurer

It was moved by Maule and supported by Tomassoni to adopt Resolution 2022-022, Spark Grant Resolution of Authorization Local Unit of Government Match Without Donated Funds

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

**Automated Garbage Discussion**

Stanchina noted that the 65- and 95-gallon garbage cans are available for viewing at the back of the Council Chambers. He proposed a switch in March during the regular street-side garbage collection. Stanchina confirmed that street-side pick up will still have to occur citywide regardless of collection method.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Tomassoni to move forward with automated garbage collection.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

**Adoption of Special Assessment Resolution Re: Rental Inspection Fees, Frozen Meters and Blight Remediation**

Stanchina reviewed the proposed special assessments resolutions as shown below:

**CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN\*CITY COUNCIL\*DECEMBER 19, 2022**

Special Assessment Utilities		Description
314 E. Ludington St.	132.00	Utility Fees (Frozen/Broke Meter)
520 E. D St.	132.00	Utility Fees (Frozen/Broke Meter)
Total	\$ 264.00	

Special Assessment Certificates		Description
317 E. Fleshier St.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
317 E. Fleshier St.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
313 E. Flesheim St.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
313 E. Flesheim St.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
703 W. A St.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
1217 Stockbridge Ave.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
703 W. A St.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
703 W. A St.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
1217 Stockbridge Ave.	25.00	rental fee (Third and Subsequent)
209 Stockbridge Ave.	25.00	rental registration/inspection
209 Stockbridge Ave.	25.00	rental registration/inspection
Total	\$ 275.00	

Special Assessment Blight		Description
812 W. Hughitt St.	162.39	blight remediation
9 Milwaukee Ave. Ct.	90.00	blight remediation
Total	\$ 252.39	
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>\$ 791.39</i>	

It was moved by Blomquist and supported by Farragh to approve the special assessment resolutions for utilities, certificates, and blight, as submitted.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

**Introduction of Parking Lot Lease Re: 400 Block S. Stephenson Ave. (even side)**

Stanchina indicated that the leased area at the rear of the buildings, from Split Endz to Antonio's, needs to be renewed for public parking purposes.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Blomquist to establish a public hearing at 6:00 P.M. on January 3, 2023, to renew the leases for public parking at the rear of the buildings, on the even side, of the 400 block of S. Stephenson Ave.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

**CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN\*CITY COUNCIL\*DECEMBER 19, 2022**

**Reports**

**Financial Reports**

**November Payroll and 11/17/2022-12/14/2022 Claims**

Stanchina clarified that Police Department overtime is high due to holidays occurring in November and partially vacant part-time firefighter positions. Mattson communicated that the cost of Trick-or-Treating candy is split between the Police Department and Fire Department budgets.

It was moved by Maule and supported by Farragh to approve payroll in the amount of \$364,161.19 and claims in the amount of \$443,910.07 with net claims being \$355,633.11.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

**City Manager Reports**

The City Manager reported the following:

1. 39 deer have been harvested through the annual deer management program.
2. City Hall will be closed on December 26, 2022, and January 2, 2023, with no change in garbage collection.
3. LED light project is 60 fixtures from completion and rebates are pending.
4. He will be out of the office on vacation leave.

**City Attorney Reports**

None

**Committee Reports**

Clawson informed the City Council that the Planning Commission is working on an amendment to the City's temporary sign ordinance.

**Public Comment**

None

**Council Member Privilege**

Stanchina verified that that the City Council should see each of the special assessment resolutions per City Ordinance.

Alessandrini updated the City Council on a new sign for Jim and Ida Goulette Park. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Tomassoni and supported by Clawson to adjourn.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

  
Isaac Micheau  
Clerk-Treasurer