

City of Iron Mountain

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Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan to be held on Monday, July 6, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen

Present: Council Members Corombos, Alessandrini, Farragh, Rosen, Burke & Peterson

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Gerald Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to approve the agenda as submitted

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2009

Peterson noted an incorrectly recorded vote on the DNR trust fund issue

Farragh noted an incorrectly recorded vote on the claims and payroll vote

Special Meeting of June 22, 2009

Approved as prepared

Public Comment (5 minute limit)

None

Old Business

Bid opening and authorization to purchase RE: Gas Detectors

WB Thompson & Co.	\$3,395.00
Fire Rescue Supply LLC.	\$4,058.00
Puroll Equipment Co.	\$4,344.00
Pomasl Fire Equipment	\$3,315.00
AFC International	\$3,545.25

Alessandrini asked what the bid specs asked for. VanLaanen and Stanchina noted that WB Thompson responded to the bid properly. Rosen confirmed that WB Thompson responded correctly. VanLaanen asked if the chief had any preferences.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Alessandrini to refer the bid packages to the city staff for recommendation.

Motion prevailed unanimously

New Business

Approval of Resolution RE: Iron Mountain Fire Department Charity Work

Stanchina stated that the Fire Department is planning to collect money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He also conveyed that fire departments around the country do this.

Stanchina stated that the event is slated for July 31st. Kevin Pirlot, city fire fighter, communicated that firemen around the country raised around nine million dollars last year.

Corombos clarified that this event will be happening all over the state. Pirlot noted that this event has taken place in many locations around the county, adding that Marquette raised around

New Business (Cont...)

\$10,000 last year. He did note this would be the first time this event would take place in Iron Mountain. Pirlot assured the council that proper signage would be used to alert motorist.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to support the resolution submitted by the Iron Mountain Fire Department to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association confirming there is no state law impeding traffic on a state highway.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Discussion of Bike Path

Rosen reiterated that he supports the bike path, but will not support loosing parking in the city. He also noted that he previously recommended signing certain streets. Nathan Alwine, Dickinson County Bike Path Committee, conveyed that the bike path involves areas outside of Iron Mountain. Rich Mortel, Dickinson County Bike Path Committee, communicated that Iron Mountain is the only major Upper Peninsula city without bike paths. He conveyed his support for boosting tourism through biking. Mortel relayed his belief that trying the bike path to start with will only benefit the city. He noted that loosing parking would not be such a bad idea. Rosen asked what Mortel what his ending goal was. Mortel communicated that his goal was a longer and more prevalent biking network. Peterson voiced her concern for individuals who can not handle the additional fifteen feet. She also noted that Marquette's trails are more nature oriented and tend to not be on the road. Additionally, Peterson conveyed that Marquette's City Council recently rejected a proposal to put a bike path on Write Street. Mortel conveyed that his previous opinion is the optimal and that he would be okay with staring some where less. Rosen wanted to encourage the bike path without loosing parking. VanLaanen conveyed that easement on rail road property may be granted if the land was deemed abandoned.

Burke Entered at 7:06 PM

Corombos asked if the bike path committee has written permission to cross the Chapin pit on rail road property. Mortel stated they did not. Corombos asked if the bike committee thought the city had a right-of-way through the railroad property. VanLaanen conveyed that the DNR is working with the railroad to develop a right-of-way. Discussion about railroad easement continued.

Alwine presented several options for the proposed bike path: through the cable constructor's parking lot to merit Ave, to E Street, then lane striping on Crystal Lake Blvd. Farragh asked where the location of the signage will be. Alwine stated they will be on the sidewalk portion. He also added that Dickinson County has a Building Healthy Communities Program that could assist in building certain sections of trail. Alwine also noted that the eventual goal is to move the bike path off Crystal Lake Blvd and into the grassy area, similar to Strawberry Lake. Rosen asked if the streets are wide enough to add bike lanes and accommodate two lanes of traffic. Alwine stated it was at all points. Farragh asked if anyone talked to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Alwine spoke on the three proposed options. Farragh spoke his concerns for leading bikers to Harding Ave. Alwine detailed that after arriving at City Park the trail would leave the west end of the park and connect to another trail system. VanLaanen asked if the signed route would be okay. Rosen stated his agreement. Bob Warner, President of the Dickinson Bike Path, communicated that the bike path came out of the Dickinson County Planning Board. He communicated that a grant is being worked on for bike path development. Peterson voiced her concern for educating young bikers on biking safety. Burke asked if the parking at Crystal Lake's park had been considered. Stanchina noted the path did not go that far.

New Business (Cont...)

Peterson asked what the cost was for the city installation of the bike path signs. VanLaanen noted the signs could be installed by the bike path committee members with city supervision. Corombos asked if permission to allow the route could be altered by the City Commission if needed. VanLaanen voiced the bike committee's concern for safety.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to approve option 3 as submitted by Nathan Alwine with the signage being installed in an approved manor.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of Resolution RE: Liquor License Transfer

Stanchina presented a proposed liquor license transfer from Janie's Sports Bar to Palm Enterprises at 1052 Stephenson Avenue, doing business as Country Kitchen.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to allow the liquor license to transfer.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of Annual Dues RE: CUPPAD

Stanchina presented an invoice for retaining our membership with CUPPAD. He noted they can help to develop GIS. Peterson asked if the city has utilized the ten free hours of service. Farragh and Stanchina believed the time was utilized for the preparing a master plan for the planning board.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Peterson to approve the CUPPAD invoice as submitted.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of FYE June 30, 2010 Fee Schedule

Stanchina presented the proposed fee schedule. He noted there were some reduction and recertification. Stanchina noted that sign permits and home permits dropped in price. VanLaanen asked what the sewer flow fee is. Stanchina reported that they were for sprinkler companies. He added that most everything regarding the cemetery went up in price. Peterson asked if use of the city pavilion has increased since the new fee schedules were enacted, to ensure the investment is paying off. Stanchina and Farragh noted we probably should get more rentals to achieve the above stated goal.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to approve the fees as prepared.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of Bond Ordinance RE: S2/SRF Infrastructure Improvement Program

Stanchina presented the bond ordinance. He stated that the ordinance was developed by Miller Canfield. Stanchina also noted eleven general contractors showed up to the pre-bid and bids will be due on July 20th. Peterson asked if all the work was bid as one project, including the lift station. Stanchina stated that it was. Peterson asked Pirkola if he had looked over the document. He conveyed that Miller Canfield will have people more versed in this area.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Rosen to adopt the ordinance.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports

MERS Invoice

Stanchina informed the council that MERS was \$51,673.94. He conveyed that a portion of the cost came from back pay.

City Manager Reports

WE Energies

Stanchina present that rates will go up at least 16%. He reported that some will go up as much as 45%. He also reported that they will be going for an additional 17% after the initial price increase. Stanchina communicated that the increased cost is due to the construction of two new power plants. He stated that the larger jump is due to the way the Michigan Public Service Commission handles rate increases, they must be done at one time and not throughout the process.

Stanchina noted that there is a projected 40% increase in electricity used to run street lights. He reported that most the city's use is off peak. A discussion about increasing electrical rates ensued.

Paving Schedule

Stanchina communicated that a bid specification book had been completed and is projected to be voted on during the first meeting in august. He added that 10 intersections are included in the bid specification book. Rosen asked about being able to include C Street. A discussion of the TIFA parking lit ensued.

Sewer Capacity Study

Stanchina noted that he just received the study; it is going to be considered by the infrastructure committee. He noted how busy the DPW will be given their current in kind work.

Khoury Property

Alessandrini noted the property should be cleaned up.

Fifth Street

Alessandrini reported that Fifth Street needs to be paved in order to increase the probability of getting new sidewalks, retaining walls and curb and gutter from the state. He conveyed that the Safe Roads to School program would be the granting program if all works out.

Bloomquist Property

Peterson asked where the project is. Stanchina conveyed that something must be happening on the project or the land will return to the city. Peterson asked for clarification on this issue.

City Attorney Reports

VanLaanen asked about the attorney's written opinion on a council person sitting on the Police and Fire Pension board.

Committee Reports

Alessandrini reported that Vision 20/20 met today. He reported on the progress of the side walk improvements within the Vision 20/20 area. Stanchina reported that the Finance committee met pertaining to the tower leases. Alessandrini asked how the talks went. Pirkola conveyed that communication was being opened between the companies and the city. He communicated that all tower agreements were terminated so negotiations can take place.

Stanchina communicated that Parks and Recreation should get together soon.

Public Comment (Cont...)

Public Comment (5 minute limit)

Barb Cramer – 135 Bradley Street – She thanked the council for approving the bike path concept and noted its growing popularity. Cramer also asked if something could be done to slow traffic in the down town district, to its signed levels.

Bob Moraska – 224 W. D Street – He reported that the Sew & Vac is having problems with sinking catch basins in front of it. Moraska asked Burke “you voted against the TIFA pass through, what was your proposed solution?” Burke and Moraska discussed personal differences over previously alleged actions, Burke choose to not answer the question. Moraska conveyed his disapproval for the manor in which he is being represented by his councilman.

Dorothy Johnson – Washington Court – She requested assistance acquiring public transportation. Johnson reported that this issue is causing health and financial issues.

Julie Manderfield – 606 Fairbanks – She thanked Peterson and Rosen for saving parking. Manderfield conveyed that she did not feel people are lazy for not wanting to loose some parking.

Council Member Privilege

Rosen

He communicated that creating a transit authority is a county issue. Stanchina also conveyed that working with DICSA would be appropriate.

Burke

Burke conveyed his appreciation to the Lilia Foundation for installing several decorative boulders and 3 new Maples at Crystal Lake’s park. He also reported that 6 new picnic tables were donated, including a Moose Johnson memorial table. Additionally, Burke noted that new wood chips and sand have also been installed thought out Crystal Lake’s Park. He ardently conveyed his appreciation to the city employees for their help and support thought the development of the Crystal Lake area.

Alessandrini

Alessandrini thanked and commended the Sons of the American legion for their efforts on the Fourth of July fire works. He also noted that the Fire Department raided \$3,900 with their more recent boot drive. He conveyed that a portion of the Traders Mine road has a speed limit issue, possibly due to inadequate signage. Lastly, Alessandrini brought up the issue of an Assessor’s trainee.

Peterson

Peterson voiced her appreciation for the Sons on the American Legion’s support of the Fourth of July fireworks. She also echoed Rosen’s opinion that transportation is a county issue. Lastly, Peterson communicated that she felt Burke should answer Moraska’s question.

VanLaanen

VanLaanen communicated that he felt the open dialog concept is fraught with problems.

Adjournment

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to adjourn

Motion prevailed unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 PM



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer