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, January 18, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Rosen

Present: Council Members Jacobetti, Peterson, Alessandrini, Corombos, Villa, & Farragh

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina, CFO Bartolameolli & City Attorney Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

New Business

5. Wave Park Pavilion Fee RE: Head Start

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 4, 2010

Peterson asked that additional details be added to her concerns under the City Manager Report.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Corombos to approve the minutes as prepared.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Discussion of Crosswalk between VA and Midtown Mall

Stanchina noted that it would be challenging to find a place to locate a cross walk between the VA and the Midtown Mall. He relayed that the cross walk could be located at the intersection, where it is wider, or in the middle of the block, toward the corner of Super One's building. Alessandrini voiced his support for a cross walk heading toward the corner of Super One's building. He added that he would like to see the cross walk go into the driveway area, leaving room for a wheel chair. Farragh relayed that there was a cross walk sign located at the edge of the road prior to it being refurbished the last time. Rosen asked how much traffic there was between the VA and the Midtown Mall. Alessandrini and Villa voiced support for a cross walk between the VA and the Midtown Mall. Stanchina conveyed that there is a lot of traffic in that area where this cross walk would be located. Rosen conveyed that it would be optimal to located the cross walk as far from the intersection as possible.

No action was taken

New Business

Committee Appointments

After minimal discussion the following list was developed and agreed upon by the City Council.

The Mayor made the following appointments.

Committee and Delegate Assignments January 18, 2010

HEALTHCARE Chair: Villa

Alessandrini Peterson

PARKS & RECREATION Chair: Peterson

Villa Rosen

Alternate Farragh

TECHNOLOGY Chair: Jacobetti

Peterson Farragh

STREETS, UTILITIES Chair: Farragh

& EQUIPMENT Alessandrini

Jacobetti Peterson

Corombos

Alternate: Peterson

Farragh Rosen

Alternate: Alessandrini

Chair:

LABOR RELATIONS Chair: Villa

FINANCE

Corombos Rosen

CONSOLIDATED SERVICES Chair: Alessandrini

Rosen Corombos

OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT Chair: Corombos

Alessandrini Jacobetti

Alessandrini

SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY Farragh

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE City Manager Stanchina

MOUNTAIN VIEW BOARD Peterson
DCCCC Alessandrini
ACCESS MANAGEMENT Jacobetti

TIFA LIAISON
PLANNING BOARD LIAISON

PLANNING BOARD LIAISON Jacobetti DDA LIAISON Peterson

Discussion of Land Use/Economic Development Committee

Peterson presented the idea of developing an Economic Development Committee that would consider economic development issues and aid in development throughout the city. She relayed that this committee would work with new and existing business as well as engaging in collaborative efforts with other economic development agencies. Peterson noted that the Khoury property would be a good example of a land use project for the Economic Development Committee to consider.

Alessandrini noted that the city already pays into the Economic Development Authority (EDA), The Chamber of Commerce does this type of work and there is no Brownfield Funds at this time. He asked why another committee would be needed for this issue.

Peterson asked why there is resistance to creating this committee. She conveyed that a little extra effort towards economic development could not hurt the city. Corombos asked what the EDA does. Peterson asked how much the EDA does for Iron Mountain. Alessandrini asked how this new committee would help existing businesses. Peterson relayed that the new committee could share important information. Rosen noted that there is already a lot of time spent on city business by each of the Council Members. He asked for clarification as far as land use is concerned. Peterson relayed that there is property that could be improved throughout the city and that some extra attention to the currently vacant property could be beneficial for the city. Corombos voiced the opinion that he has no problem with the creation of this committee and that the committee does not have to be just Council Members. Farragh noted that Peterson and Corombos could set up this committee if they would like to. Stanchina communicated that the Economic Development Committee could work with the EDA and angle harder for the city.

Alessandrini clarified that this new committee would not upset current EDA plans. Peterson communicated that Mr. Ortenburger thought this committee would be a good idea and that he would help.

Mayor Rosen authorized the Economic Development Committee.

Economic Development Committee

Peterson Villa Corombos

Discussion of a Business License

Stanchina presented the idea of exploring the development of a Business License. Alessandrini noted that he does not want a fee attached to a business license. Stanchina noted that Alessandrini that the City Council sets the fee schedule. Rosen relayed that future City Councils could attach a fee to the issuance of Business Licenses.

Alessandrini noted that businesses already have many required permits when they build or operate their businesses. Peterson presented the idea that the city should be aware of what business is happening within the city limits. Corombos noted that future councils are restricted as far as charging more than the actual cost of permitting a business, due to the bolt decision. Alessandrini expressed the opinion that it could be costly for a business to fight this fee in the future, if it were to being extreme. Rosen clarified that the business license would apply to a business that is buying an existing building and that the city is unaware the business is going to be utilizing that space.

Stanchina communicated that future issues could be avoided if businesses came to the city when they started operations. Peterson noted that it would aid safety, by providing a reason to do a safety inspection of the property. Corombos relayed that there was a building in town that would have been found to have safety risks if this process had existed.

Stanchina communicated that he would do more research if there was interest in this area by the City Council. Farragh noted that there are more businesses in town than the city was aware of it. Alessandrini stressed that he would not be in support of a Business License fee.

No action was taken

Approval of Consultant RE: Small Urban 2010 Project

Stanchina noted that the bids from UP Engineering and Coleman Engineering, on the construction engineering portion, varied greatly. He added that this project requires constant supervision and specific paperwork. Stanchina relayed that the hours on the Coleman Engineering proposal did not make sense. He communicated the opinion that the project inspection could not be done in the stated hours. Stanchina concluded by recommending that the Small Urban 2010 Project to UP Engineering.

Rosen asked Jacobetti how long full time inspection has been required by MDOT. Jacobetti communicated that MDOT has always required full time inspection. He also noted that Small Urban Projects usually hire a consultant to do the daily work and documentation. Jacobetti asked if either firm was told what full time consisted of in this case. Stanchina noted that it was not explicitly noted; however the amount of paving would be the limiting factor. He added that the bids were not to exceed bids, so the values should be conservative.

Jacobetti noted that four hours would not be enough time to do an adequate job on a full service project. He stress that the state will look for a paper trail as they conclude this project. Rosen asked where UP Engineering determined the cost of ongoing testing in their bid. A discussion of the engineering proposals ensued.

Kevin Trevillian, of Coleman Engineering, communicated that they were aware of the proximity and simplicity of this project and that they feel they can provide the quality that is needed for the stated prices. Rosen clarified that the inspection process will fit with the UP Engineering proposal. Trevillion noted that Coleman can provide the key elements, even if some small stuff is not done, with the quoted price. Jacobetti asked how many days of paving this project will include. Stanchina noted that the project will likely take 40 to 50 hours, covering the ¾ mile area. A discussion of this topic ensued.

Nancy Roberts of UP Engineering and Kevin Trevillian of Coleman Engineering detailed there proposals to the City Council. Peterson asked if there is a way to clarify biding. Nancy Roberts noted that not to exceed contracts are hard to bid due to unknown items that can arise. She conveyed that she prefers to bid conservatively on not to exceed contracts. Rosen asked if there is a close deadline on this project. Stanchina communicated that it would be optimal to have this decision soon. It was conveyed by the majority of the City Council that it would be best to not put the Small Urban Project funds are risk.

Pirkola conveyed that it is close as to whether or not the RFP should be re-bid. Jacobetti relayed that he would not think to choose the Coleman Engineering proposal, if he were from MDOT. A discussion ensued.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to award the Small Urban 2010 Project to UP Engineering. **Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

Waive Park Pavilion Fee RE: Great Start

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to allow the Great Start Program to use the Park Pavilion at no charge on June 19, 2010

No action was taken Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports Claims and Payroll

Corombos noted that the claims and payroll concluded as expected. He expressed the opinion that challenging times are likely to develop, on the income side, over the next 4 or 5 years. Corombos relayed that Low construction rates and stagnant home values may be problematic. He concluded by Recommending that the claims and payroll be paid.

Rosen abstained from line items 44 and 106 as he owns Standard Printing and The Form House.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to approve the Claims and Payroll for the month of December 2009.

Rosen Abstained
Corombos Aye
Peterson Aye
Alessandrini Aye
Farragh Aye
Jacobetti Aye
Villa Aye

Motion Prevailed (Aye-6, Nay-0, Abstain-1)

City Manager Report

Stanchina noted that the State of Michigan is looking at a 1.6 billion deficit for the upcoming budget year.

Stanchina relayed that the city will most likely be able to maintain it's ISO rating of a 4, assuming we can meet our suggested changes.

Stanchina noted that the stop sign issue that was mention by Alessandrini previously, had been altered in the past and that the residents preferred the sign stay in its current location. He added that Police Chief Flaminio did not feel there was a significant accident history for that given location.

Stanchina relayed that the MDNR trust fund workshop will be held in Iron Mountain this year and that it will preferred if the committee members attended the workshop. Stanchina noted that the workshop will take place at 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Americas Best Inn on January 20, 2010.

Alessandrini noted that there is a parking issue at the catholic school relating to the fact that there is only 15 minute parking on the right side of the road, in front of the school, and no parking on the left side. He communicated the opinion that the actual hours, in which parking is prohibited, should be clearly marked on the sign. Alessandrini also noted that ticketing needs to be consistent if it is going to take place. A discussion ensued

Peterson inquired about the progress of the Water Department's on-line billing. Stanchina noted that progress is being made and a software problem is being resolved. He noted that an ACH withdrawal will be the start of the on-line payments. Corombos clarified that the city will not loose money.

Peterson asked how much longer the city has before the water bond is paid off. Stanchina conveyed that there is about 25 years remaining.

City Attorney Reports

Pirkola noted that there were 6 tower leasers on the hill and the main concern is a company called SBA. SBA leases tower space. Range communication also leases tower space and has a similar function to SBA. Pirkola relayed that the SBA lease is likely to be \$10,000 per year plus 20% of their revenue from the tower. He noted that this amount is up from the \$4,000 per year they were paying. Pirkola added that the revenue on this site is about \$60,000, resulting in revenue of about \$22,000 for the city from this tower.

Rosen asked how long the tower lease would be and if the SBA tower lease is setting a base line. Pirkola noted that Range Communications is not situated the same as SBA. A discussion ensued.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Jacobetti to approve a tower lease with SBA for \$10,000 and 20% of net revenue.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Committee Reports

Rosen noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be meeting next week.

Public Comment

None

Council Member Privilege

Jacobetti noted that he has seen inherent issues with the city's biding practices. He communicated the opinion that it would beneficial to be more definitive. Jacobetti offered his assistance in this matter. Farragh suggested that the bids on infrastructure and equipment go through the committee process. Corombos noted that our problems are small compared to the problems in Haiti.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Soud P. Micheau

saac Micheau

Clerk-Treasurer