

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, October 4, 2010 at 6:33 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Rosen

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

Absent: Council Member Peterson

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Gerald Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Peterson Entered at 6:36 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2010

It was moved by Villa and supported by Farragh to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2010.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 27, 2010

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 27, 2010.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

Kevin Pirlot - 603 West Fleshiem

He detailed what he had learned at a recent Land Bank Training. Pirlot conveyed the idea that Dickinson County could produce revenue from the development of a Land Bank. He noted that blighted properties are an issue for the neighborhoods they are located in. Pirlot expressed the opinion that the city should promote the development of a Land Bank.

Barb Kramer - 135 Bradley Street

She noted that the city does not pay taxes on reverted properties when they are part of a Land Bank.

Old Business

Approval of Annual Contribution Re: Dickinson Area Partnership

Mr. Orttenger, CEO of the Dickinson Area Partnership, presented to the City Council on the benefits that the city receives from his organization. He also detailed how the organization developed. Corombos requested clarification on how the organization receives its funding. Mr. Orttenger noted that the Dickinson Area Partnership extends to areas of Wisconsin. Rosen clarified the Dickinson Area Partnership's Fee Schedule. Orttenger, responding to Peterson's inquiries, relayed that the city has representation on the organization's boards and that the Dickinson Area Partnership encourages development, as funding permits. Alessandrini voiced his support for the Dickinson Area Partnership.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Alessandrini to approve a contribution of \$6,000 to the Dickinson Area Partnership.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

New Business

Establish a Public Hearing Date for a Right of Way Vacation Re: 500 Block of Tamarack St. South Half

Stanchina relayed that the South Half of Tamarack Street, which is proposed for vacation, was in poor condition prior to this year's lift station project. He noted that the remaining section of Tamarack Street serves as access to the city's lift station and a resident's property. The board discussed the options that are available for the South Section of Tamarack Street: vacation,

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abandonment or not taking formal action. Pirkola conveyed the opinion that not taking formal action could create the same outcome as abandoning the right-of-way. It was concluded that barricades would be installed at each end of the proposed right-of-way and that no formal action would be taken.

No Action Taken

Approval of Letter of Understanding Re: AFSCME Local #1176

Stanchina relayed that Bob Formell is retiring on December 16, 2010. He detailed the process that he and CFO Bartolameo completed while deciding how to replace Formell. Stanchina communicated the union's wishes to maintain a full time payroll position. The City Council discussed the merits of each of the proposed options. Corombos requested additional information on this matter, prior to voting. Farragh noted that the new Payroll/Accounts Payable Clerk will not have much time for training after the proper union hiring process has been followed. Peterson echoed Farragh's concerns and expressed the opinion that turnover may occur if a part-time employee is solely responsible for payroll. It was concluded that Stanchina is recommending the final option, resulting in \$13,087.08 of savings. Villa confirmed that the only change from the status quo, time wise, is that the current part-time position would be reduced by five hours per week. Peterson expressed the opinion that the third option would be optimal. Rosen and Corombos relayed that they can not support this motion, as they feel ill prepared to vote at this time. Jacobetti confirmed that Anderson Tackman & Co. is aware of what is involved in performing the city's payroll.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to approve the hiring of a full time Payroll/Accounts Payable Clerk at a rate of \$17.00 per hour and a part-time employee at \$13.70 per hour, for 20 hours per week.

Motion Prevailed (Aye-Farragh, Peterson, Villa & Jacobetti --- Nay-Rosen, Alessandrini & Corombos)

Discussion of Deer Management Program

Stanchina noted that the Timberstone Golf Club is not in support of a deer culling program taking place on their property. He relayed that the Kingsford City Council is being presented with a petition to not cull the Deer Herd. Rosen & Jacobetti voiced their support for a deer culling program. Farragh voiced his disapproval of an archery based deer culling program, now that it has been explored further.

Barb Kramer - 135 Bradley Street

She noted that deer will stay in one area as long as they are not crowded out or starved. Kramer suggested that private property owners, with large lots, may be willing to allow hunting to take place on their property.

Tony Fornetti - 500 West Antoine Street

He relayed the opinion that predators will follow the deer into town.

Kevin Pirlot - 603 West Fleshiem

He conveyed the opinion that the deer herd needs to be reduced. Pirlot supported the idea of creating a low cost deer management program. He relayed the idea that private property owners may be more likely to allow hunting on their property, if their liability was reduced.

It was noted that if a wounded deer was to leave the approved hunting area, it would not be permissible for it to be tracked onto the adjoining property. Therefore, it is not ideal to utilize property that is too small.

No Action Taken

Approval of Final Plat Re: Millie Hill Subdivision

Stanchina noted that the most recent Millie Hill Subdivision Final Plat only varies slightly from the previous one. He detailed the minor changes that were made.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Peterson to approve the Final Plat for the Millie Hill Subdivision in accordance with the April 1, 2009 Developer's Agreement.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Discussion of Contribution Re: Glider Project

Stanchina relayed that a donation request has been made by the Glider Project. He communicated the opinion that the city has several other charities it donates to and that it would be optimal to not approve this donation request, at this time. Rosen relayed the opinion that a \$500 donation will not harm the city. Peterson expressed a concern for the precedent this donation may set. Jacobetti relayed, and Farragh, supported the idea of requiring that donation requests only be considered prior to the budget being approved. Stanchina confirmed that the approval of this donation would decrease the General Fund Balance, as the city is operating with a budget deficit this year.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Villa to approve a donation of \$500 to the Menominee Range Museum.

Motion Prevailed (Aye-Villa, Alessandrini, Rosen, Corombos & Jacobetti --- Nay-Peterson & Farragh)

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Reports

Financial Reports

None

City Manager Reports

DDA Survey

Stanchina noted that the surveys were due today and that a Special Meeting should be scheduled to open them. A meeting was set for October 6, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. to open the surveys.

Washout on Alexander Avenue

Stanchina noted that the washout has been repaired and that drainage implements have been installed.

Water Tank Roof

Stanchina noted that work on the water tank roof should begin next week.

Revenue Sharing

Stanchina relayed that revenue sharing was not cut in this year's state budget. However, he conveyed the idea that revenue sharing may be reduced in the future.

Peterson suggested that it may be beneficial to offer the public information on how to properly egress from a window in the event of a fire.

City Attorney Reports

Pirkola noted that the Champion Easement has been completed.

Committee Reports

Rosen noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee met to discuss the DNR Trust Fund Grant, it was noted how much higher the city's grant application placed this year.

Public Comment

None

Council Member Privilege

Corombos clarified that Dickinson County can not opt out, once it opts in. He relayed that both the County Board and the County Treasurer must agree in order for Dickinson County to opt in. Corombos expressed the opinion that the county is concerned with receiving contaminated properties, as a result of opting in.

Rosen suggested that the Land Bank discussion be placed on the next meetings agenda.

Peterson informed the City Council that a Hospice Program is being established in Dickinson County.

Jacobetti suggested that the Tax Look Up Fee be reviewed at the next City Council Meeting.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer