

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, May 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Alessandrini

Present: Council Members Moraska, Revord, Villa & Zolner

Absent: Council Member List

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina and City Attorney Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

Alessandrini requested that "Resolution of Recognition Re: Bruce Rosen" be added as item number one under New Business, adjusting the following items accordingly. He asked that "Approval of Noise Ordinance Waiver Re: Relay for Life," "Approval of City Civil Service Commission Appointment Re: Mr. Dave Farragh," "Discussion of Department of Public Works Compost/Dump Site," and "Appointment for Unexpired At-Large Council Vacancy" be approved under New Business as items six through nine, respectively.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Villa to approve the agenda, as amended.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2014

Villa stated that it was clarified that the Liaison Officer works at the school nine months of the year.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Alessandrini to include Member Villa's correction and the resubmission of the minutes of April 7, 2014, at the next regular City Council meeting.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2014

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Villa to approve the minutes of April 21, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 23, 2014

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Villa to approve the minutes of April 23, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 28, 2014

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Alessandrini to approve the minutes of April 28, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

Joe Komblevicz – W8568 Collins Road

Stanchina assured Komblevicz that he did not make an agreement with Joe Rogina, Breitung Township Supervisor, to pave the City's portion of the road leading to the Veteran's Memorial located at the top of Pine Mountain. Stanchina stressed the importance of paving the City's current roads in lieu of paving new roads. Komblevicz asserted that the Veteran's Memorial is a destination for tourist and that the current condition of Iron Mountain's portion of the road could be a deterrent to potential visitors. Stanchina confirmed that the road could be graded by the Department of Public Works when time permits.

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Tina Pirlot – 603 West Fleshiem Street

Pirlot expressed her concern for the City of Iron Mountain hiring a Director of Police and Fire Services or implementing a volunteer Fire Department. She conveyed the opinion that the community should have more time to consider this issue. Stanchina verified that the ordinance would be in place 30 days after adoption and that it would take longer than 30 days to hire an individual, primarily due to testing requirements. Pirlot advocated for the Police and Fire Departments being staffed by separate Chiefs. She questioned the projected savings due to hiring a Director of Police and Fire Services, fairness of only promoting a police officer to fill the newly created position, and the manner in which Act 78 addresses a combined Police and Fire Chief's position. Stanchina advised that the City has not been considering the establishment of a volunteer Fire Department. Alessandrini imparted the opinion that future financial conditions may dictate the need to utilize a volunteer Fire Department. Pirlot reiterated her desire to review the potential cost savings and the logic of hiring one director for the Police and Fire Departments.

Kevin Pirlot – 603 West Fleshiem Street

Pirlot offered his opposition to creating a Director of Police and Fire Services position. He raised the concern that only a police officer could be promoted to the proposed position and that the Fire Department's organizational structure would suffer. Pirlot noted that the Iron Mountain Fire Department has effectively reduced its full-time staff by approximately 50% over the last ten years. He suggested that other cost savings could be reviewed through a joint effort between the City Council and Fire Department.

Sue Reese – 500 Campbell Street (Kingsford, MI)

Reese explained that the pedestal flower pots were removed from her cemetery plots. She voiced the opinion that the policy requiring decorations to be removed from cemetery plots by October 1st is not being enforced fairly. Reese objected to the manner in which the formal enactment of the cemetery policy was advertised to the public. Alessandrini reviewed the advertisement that was placed in the paper reminding the public of the October 1st removal deadline. Stanchina stated that the rules would be posted at the cemetery. He stated that the installation of a camera system at the cemetery would be cost prohibitive.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resolution of Recognition Re: Bruce Rosen

Alessandrini read into the record and presented a Resolution of Recognition for Bruce Rosen.

Consideration of Ordinance Re: Director of Police and Fire Services

Stanchina detailed a proposed ordinance to create a Director of Police and Fire Services position. Moraska objected to one director overseeing both departments due to decreased public safety and poor relations between the police and fire departments. Alessandrini and Revord advocated for the placement of a Director of Police and Fire Services due to similar efficiency at a reduced cost. Alessandrini indicated that Public Safety is more expensive than maintaining two separate departments and that this position is a way to save money while operating two separate departments. Moraska questioned the success other communities have had in appointing one director to oversee separate Police and Fire Departments. Stanchina refuted Moraska's assertion. Alessandrini and Moraska agreed that additional public input is needed on this subject. Stanchina explained that the creation of a Deputy City Manager position was not pursued since the new position would not count as manpower for either the Police or Fire Departments. Stanchina confirmed that the Director of Police and Fire Services would be able to function in law enforcement or firefighting. Moraska raised the concern that only a police officer could meet the qualifications of the new position. Stanchina stressed the importance of reducing long-term costs. Pirkola stated that the basic content of the second draft ordinance has not been altered. Stanchina projected that training costs would be minimal as the Director of Police and Fire Services would be a salaried position.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Revord to establish a public hearing for the proposed Director of Police and Fire Services ordinance on May 19, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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Consideration of Rate Increase Request Re: IM-K Joint Sewage Board

Stanchina detailed the rate increase request by the Iron Mountain – Kingsford Joint Sewage Board. He conveyed that significant capital improvements are required and that funds are not available due to increasing operational costs and decreased water consumption.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Villa to approve the rate increase request by the Iron Mountain – Kingsford Joint Sewage Board, as presented.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Deadline Extension Re: MDNR Trust Fund Grant City Park

Stanchina asserted that a final six-month Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant deadline extension is required for City Park.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Alessandrini to approve the deadline extension regarding the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for City Park.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Discussion of Proposed Ordinance Re: Regulation of Outdoor Furnaces

Stanchina presented a sample ordinance regulating outdoor furnaces for further consideration. Revord supported the sample ordinance, given the tendency of outdoor furnaces to have low chimney heights, close proximities to dwellings and odor complaints. Revord and Stanchina imparted that the regulations could be approved before a problem develops. Moraska objected to the ordinance due to it being unnecessary. Pirkola verified that outdoor furnaces which cause a nuisance can be outlawed. Moraska expressed the opinion that it would be difficult to archive the required chimney height the ordinance would require. Zolner noted that he would like to move the ordinance forward. Villa voiced her support for the primary items addressed by the ordinance.

It was moved by Zolner and supported by Villa to table this issue.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Noise Ordinance Waiver Re: Relay for Life

Stanchina communicated that the American Cancer Society is requesting a noise waiver for the Dickinson/Iron County Relay for Life event the evening of June 13, 2014, and the morning of June 14, 2014.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Moraska to approve a noise ordinance waiver for the evening of June 13, 2014, and the morning of June 14, 2014, for the Dickinson/Iron County Relay for Life event, pending the surrounding residents are notified.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of City Civil Service Commission Appointment Re: Mr. Dave Farragh

Stanchina indicated that Dave Farragh has volunteered and been approved by the employees to fill a vacancy on the City Civil Service Commission as a joint appointment between the employees and City Council. He advised the Council that the Commission meets infrequently.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Revord to appoint Dave Farragh to the City Civil Service Commission for a term to expire on August 1, 2015.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Discussion of Department of Public Works Compost/Dump Site

Stanchina informed the City Council that the City's compost/dump site has been closed on the weekends due to a difficulty in removing the current brush pile. Stanchina updated the City Council on the current status of the brush piles' removal. Revord highlighted the importance of the public knowing that the compost/dumpsite situation is being addressed. He announced that the City is hiring for a Janitor/Other Duty position through the Experience Works program.

Appointment for Unexpired At-Large Council Vacancy

Villa requested additional time to review the applicants' letters of interest. It was concluded that nominations would take place at the special meeting that is scheduled for May 6, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

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Reports

Financial Reports

Quarterly Revenue and Expenditure Report – March 31, 2014

Stanchina offered the Quarterly Revenue and Expenditure Report for the period ending March 31, 2014, to the City Council for review.

City Manager Reports

Water Let Runs

Stanchina announced that all the water let runs have been discontinued.

Water Usage

Stanchina updated the City Council on the status and cause of reduced levels of water usage city-wide.

Skateboard Equipment

Stanchina informed the City Council that the bids for skateboard equipment have not been requested due to the availability of used equipment beginning May 12, 2014.

Police Officer Hire

Stanchina indicated that a new police officer was hired due to upcoming retirements in the Police Department.

City Attorney Reports

Pirkola conveyed that his upcoming seminar was canceled.

Committee Reports

Stanchina noted that Krist Oil has renewed their request to purchase property from the City that is located between their service station and the Department of Public Works facility. He suggested that the Operation and Management Committee meet to review the request.

Public Comment

Doug Johnson – Iron Mountain Firefighter's Association President

Johnson communicated the opinion that the public was not afforded ample opportunity to review the proposed Director of Police and Fire Services ordinance. Stanchina noted that the purpose of the upcoming public hearing is to gather public comment. He objected to the Police Department being solely eligible to test for the position of Director of Police and Fire Services, the speed at which this decision is being made and combining of the Police and Fire Chief's positions.

Alessandrini highlighted the need for increased cost savings within the Police and Fire Department's budgets. He stated that the purpose of the upcoming public hearing is to receive citizen input.

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Boulevard

Feleppa advocated for the proposed wood furnace ordinance based on negative health consequences. She informed Mr. Moraska, as a member of his constituency, that she would like the process of streamlining the Police and Fire Services to continue.

Council Member Privilege

Moraska communicated the opinion that he is an At-Large member of the Council and that he does not have to answer to Ms. Feleppa in particular.

Alessandrini extended an invitation to communicate any questions or concerns with the Council. He stated his desire to operate the City more efficiently, not to harm a specific department.

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Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaac P. Micheau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer