

City of Iron Mountain

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

Email: clerktreasurer@cityofironmountain.com

Website: www.cityofironmountain.com

Regular Meeting of the City Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, May 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Alessandrini

Present: Council Members Coe, List, Moraska, Revord & Zolner

Absent: Council Member Villa

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina, Chief Financial Officer Carol Bartolameolli and City Attorney Pirkola.

Alessandrini welcomed Brad Coe to the City Council.

Approval of Agenda

Alessandrini requested that "Consideration of Request by the Society of Creative Anachronism Re: Archery Demonstration at City Park" be added as item three under Old Business, "Approval of Parking Lot Closure Re: Out to Lunch" be added as item seven under New Business and "Approval of Parking Lot Closure Re: Farmer & Artisans Market" be added as item eight under New Business.

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2014

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Revord to approve the minutes of April 7, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2014

It was moved by Moraska and supported by List to approve the minutes of May 5, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 6, 2014

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Alessandrini to approve the minutes of May 6, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

None

Public Hearing

Quit Claim Deed Request from Harry Rahoi

Alessandrini opened the Public Hearing.

No comments were received.

Alessandrini closed the Public Hearing.

Ordinance to Establish Department of Police and Fire Services

Alessandrini opened the Public Hearing.

Kevin Pirlot – 603 West Fleshiem Street

He expressed his concerns regarding the potential shortfalls of consolidating the Police and Fire Chiefs' duties under one Director of Police and Fire Services. Pirlot compared and contrasted the public safety systems of Iron Mountain and Marshall, MI. He urged the City Council to take additional time to consult the employees on this issue.

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Tina Pirlot – 603 West Fleshiem Street

She asserted that Iron Mountain residents have already supported the City maintaining a full-time Fire Department. Pirlot refuted the claims that the Director of Police and Fire Services' position would enhance efficiency. She advocated that this issue be considered further.

Doug Johnson – W7978 Sportsmen Club Road (Iron Mountain Firefighters' Association President)

He stressed that safety is more important than cost savings. Johnson overviewed his concerns for decreased service levels, unequal opportunity for firemen to become the Director of Police and Fire services, compliance with MIOSHA Part 74 and decreased firefighting experience. Johnson confirmed that the current Fire Chief is not compliant with MIOSHA Part 74, but that the Union is not grieving it due to his short tenure as Chief, and that mutual aid is available if necessary.

Carol Schneider – 405 West D Street

She addressed her desire to maintain the current level of services within the City. Schneider speculated that inter-departmental conflicts will ensue if a Director of Police and Fire Services position is established. She suggested that other areas of waste could be explored. Alessandrini clarified that no layoffs will occur as a result of the Chief's positions being consolidated.

Chad Hedmark – 507 Osterberg Parkway (Niagara, WI) (Part-time Iron Mountain Firefighter)

He advised that it would not be ideal to employ a Director of Police and Fire Services that lacks practical firefighting experience. Stanchina explained that the Director of Police and Fire Services would initially be assuming the administrative duties of the Fire Chief until they have the necessary experience to assume command of the fireground. Hedmark highlighted his safety concerns for a non-experienced individual overseeing the fire ground.

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Boulevard

She commended the City Council for addressing the issue of Police and Fire expenses. Feleppa submitted that many other communities of Iron Mountain's size successfully utilize volunteer Fire Departments.

Alessandrini closed the Public Hearing.

Old Business

Approval of Quit Claim Deed Request from Harry Rahoi

Stanchina presented Rahoi's quit claim deed request.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Revord to approve Rahoi's quit claim deed request, as presented.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Ordinance to Establish Department of Police and Fire Services

Stanchina reviewed the background of the Deputy City Manager and Director of Police and Fire Services position. He stressed the importance of consolidation as it affects the City's Economic Vitality Incentive Program. Stanchina imparted that there is ample experience within each department that can be drawn upon if necessary. Zolner noted his desire to table this item due to a need for further consideration. Stanchina confirmed that the Police and Fire Departments' staffing levels will be maintained at the current level with changes only occurring on administrative duties. Moraska objected to the Fire Department's staffing level being reduced. Alessandrini stressed that the current staffing level for firefighters will be maintained and that only administrative changes will occur. Moraska conveyed the importance of having all the pertinent information prior to voting.

It was moved by Zolner and supported by Moraska to table the approval of the Ordinance to Establish the Department of Police and Fire Services.

Moraska	Aye
List	Nay
Revord	Nay
Alessandrini	Nay
Coe	Nay
Zolner	Aye

Motion Failed (Aye – 2, Nay – 4, Abstain – 0)

Coe Asserted that a good discussion is occurring on this topic and that the consolidation of the Police and Fire Chief positions can be reversed in the future.

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Chuck Lauersdorf – City of Iron Mountain Fire Chief

Lauersdorf relayed his desire for the part-time firefighters to decide to continue with the Iron Mountain Fire Department. He reviewed the role a Fire Chief maintains on the fireground. Lauersdorf highlighted the Fire Chief’s responsibilities and the importance of a trained commander freeing up an additional person to fight the fire. Moraska and Lauersdorf speculated that an inexperienced individual managing the fireground would not be ideal. Stanchina advised that a Safety Officer is on the scene if needed. Moraska stressed that this is the most important issue he has to be raised during his tenure on the Council. Stanchina imparted that the job qualifications in the Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual will have to be adjusted for the proposed position. Lauersdorf addressed his concern for fireground procedures, staff reductions and reduced training levels. Pirkola advocated that the ordinance only be passed if the City intends on hiring a Director of Police and Fire Services.

It was moved by Revord and supported by List to adopt the Director of Police and Fire Services Ordinance.

Moraska Nay
List Aye
Revord Aye
Alessandrini Aye
Coe Aye
Zolner Nay

Motion Prevailed (Aye – 4, Nay – 2, Abstain – 0)

Consideration of Request by Society of Creative Anachronism Re: Archery Demonstration at City Park

Stanchina presented the amended request by the Society of Creative Anachronism to hold a medieval re-creation event at City Park, including the relocation of the archery demonstration to the base of the sledding hill. He explained that the base of the sledding hill would be desirable for this event given the large natural backstop and relatively isolated location. Stanchina assured the City Council that the Society of Creative Anachronism would provide the City of Iron Mountain with liability insurance for this event. Stanchina noted that appropriate supervision and safety precautions will be taken.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Revord to approve the request by the Society of Creative Anachronism to hold an archery event at City Park, as requested; pending the City of Iron Mountain is named insured on the event’s liability insurance.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

New Business

Discussion of City Owned Real Estate Purchase Request Re: Medallion Management

Stanchina reviewed the request by Medallion Management to purchase City property for the construction of a housing complex for veterans, low/moderate income individuals and adaptive housing. He clarified that the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) would be negotiated. Moraska objected to the unfair advantage a PILT would offer to an out-of-town development over local landlords. Alessandrini conveyed that Medallion Management would offer housing options that are not currently available in the rental market. He attested to the quality of their developments.

George Trujillo (Medallion Management Representative)

He overviewed the development Medallion Management is proposing to build in the City of Iron Mountain. He invited the Council to view Medallion’s past projects on the web or in person. Trujillo assured the Council that Medallion’s properties are overseen by an on-site manager and that ongoing maintenance is a priority. Trujillo relayed that further analysis would have to take place concerning the level of homeless Veteran housing that the area requires.

Eric Antisdale (Medallion Management Representative)

He raised the concern that funds are typically not expended prior to the offer of a purchase agreement.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Revord to proceed with the request from Medallion Management to purchase City property.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Consideration of Sidewalk Removal Re: 1209 West B St.

Stanchina recommended that the City grant permission to remove the sidewalk located at 1209 West B Street due to its poor condition and location.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Revord to approve the removal of the sidewalk at 1209 West B St.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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Approval of 2014-2015 Dues Re: Michigan Municipal League

Stanchina outlined the importance of the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and recommended that the City pay the requested dues in the amount of \$4,253.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Zolner to approve the 2014-2015 Michigan Municipal League dues in the amount of \$4,253.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Consideration of Exemption to the Retiree Watch Policy

Stanchina submitted a request made by Police Chief Flaminio and Detective Haber to retain ownership of their service weapon, in lieu of a retirement watch, to the Council for approval.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Zolner to approve an exemption to the Retiree Watch Policy for Police Chief Flaminio and Detective Haber, allowing them to retain their service weapon in lieu of a watch.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Committee Appointments

Alessandrini appointed the following committee assignment amendments.

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Previous Member</i>	<i>New Member</i>
Parks and Recreation Committee	Bob Moraska	Brad Coe
Consolidated Services	Bruce Rosen	Brad Coe
Labor Relations	Bruce Rosen	Dale Alessandrini
Operation and Management	Bruce Rosen	Brad Coe
Police and Fire Pension Board	Bruce Rosen	Kay Villa

Stanchina announced an upcoming Consolidated Services meeting with Dickinson County representatives at the Sheriff's Department's Conference Room.

Approval of Memorial Day Parade Route

Stanchina detailed the Office of Veteran Affairs' road closure request for the Memorial Day Parade.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by Alessandrini to approve the Memorial Day Parade Route, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Parking Lot Closure Re: Out to Lunch

Stanchina presented the parking lot closure request for the 2014 Out-to-Lunch events.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Moraska to approve the closure of the City parking lot at the intersection of East Hughitt Street and Iron Mountain Street, between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., every Thursday between June 5, 2014, and August 14, 2014, for Out-to-Lunch.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Parking Lot Closure Re: Farmers & Artisans Market

Alessandrini detailed the parking lot closure request for the 2014 Farmers & Artisans Market.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by List to approve the closure of the City parking lot at the intersection of East Hughitt Street and Iron Mountain Street, between 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., every Saturday between June 14, 2014, and October 18, 2014, for the Farmers & Artisans Market.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports

April Claims and Payroll

Moraska reported that overtime expenditures have decreased.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by ~~Villa~~ Revord to approve Payroll in the amount of \$271,606.81 and Claims in the amount of \$924,833.44 with net Claims being \$654,242.37.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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City Manager Reports

Collective Bargaining Update

Stanchina updated the City Council on the status of collective bargaining.

Site Plan Approval

Stanchina informed the City Council that Edwards Automotive will be constructing a new facility directly behind their current one with the current facility to be removed once construction is complete.

Police Chief Retirement

Stanchina announced that the Police Chief's is retiring and that Lieutenant Mattson will be the acting Police Chief beginning June 1, 2014.

Rubbish Drop-Off

Stanchina reported that approximately 312 drop-offs took place this year verse 240 last year.

City Land Sale – Krist Oil

Stanchina suggested that the Operation and Management Committee review the City real estate sale request by Krist Oil for the property located between the Department of Public Works facility and their service station.

Stanchina informed the City Council of the upcoming budget meeting on May 27, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Stanchina stated that the Collective Bargaining Committee has been meeting and that additional information will be available in the future.

Alessandrini updated the City Council on the increased building activity that the Dickinson County Code Construction Commission has experienced.

Public Comment

None

Council Member Privilege

Moraska expressed the opinion that the recent vandalism at City Park should be dealt with firmly. Stanchina stated that the disc golf course at City Park is moving toward completion.

In response to Revord's quandaries, Stanchina outlined that the City of Marquette is developing their bid for the used skateboard park equipment and that all site plans do not require Planning Commission approval due to time restraints. Stanchina advised that the Planning Commissions duties are detailed on his new Council Member flash drive. Revord stressed the importance of addressing the Bishop Baraga Catholic School drop off.

Coe thanked the Council for their support.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer