

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, December 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Alessandrini

Present: Council Members List, Moraska & Revord

Absent: Council Members Coe, Villa & Zolner

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2014

It was moved by Moraska and supported by List to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

None

Special Presentation

Resolution of Appreciation Re: Retirement of Fire Chief Charles Lauersdorf

Alessandrini presented Fire Chief Charles Lauersdorf's Resolution of Appreciation.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Revord to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for Charles Lauersdorf and Jay Goudreau.

Motion Prevailed

Resolution of Appreciation Re: Retirement of Jay Goudreau

Alessandrini conveyed his appreciation for Jay Goudreau's service with the Department of Public Works.

Old Business

None

New Business

Consideration of Special Use Permit Re: Safe Haven Adult Foster Care

Stanchina detailed the Special Use Permit request to expand Safe Haven Adult Foster Care. He indicated that there was no negative feedback received. Stanchina verified that the project met all building requirements.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Revord that the Special Use Request for Save Haven Adult Foster Care be approved, contingent upon state licensing and inspection requirements.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Consideration of Special Use Permit Re: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Stanchina outlined the Special Use Permit by the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to expand church property. He imparted that there was one letter of support and no letters of objection received. Alessandrini and Moraska observed that a lot of tax revenue is being lost to non-profits.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Revord that the Special Use Request for the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church be approved.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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Consideration of PA 328 Personal Property Exemption Transfer: The Toro Company Acquisition of Northern Star Industries/Boss

Stanchina explained that the Toro Company is purchasing Boss Snowplow and that they are requesting that the PA 328 Personal Property Exemption which Boss Snowplow held be transferred to them. He recommended that the transfer be approved as it is legally permissible and industrial personal property will soon be reduced due to State legislation. It was moved by Revord and supported by Alessandrini to approve the transfer of the PA 328 Personal Property Tax exemption from Boss Snowplow to the Toro Company, as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Traffic Control Order Re: No Parking/Loading Zone behind Blackstone Pizza

Stanchina reviewed the previous loading zone concerns regarding Blackstone Pizza. He suggested that it would be optimal to approve a traffic control order that would allow the placement of No Parking/Loading Zone signs as the snow often covers the pavement markings indicating the zone. Stanchina asserted that the loading zone does not block any access. The City Council discussed the affect angle parking has had on the 200 Block of Hughitt Street.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by List to approve a Traffic Control Order for a No Parking/Loading Zone area behind Blackstone Pizza.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval to Close City Hall Offices Re: Day After Christmas

Stanchina submitted a request to close City Hall for the day after Christmas due to Christmas occurring on a Thursday and vacation request conflicts. Stanchina noted that all of the City Hall staff is in agreement with using paid time off or no pay for the closure.

It was moved by Moraska and supported by List to close City Hall on December 26, 2014.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports

None

City Manager Reports

Payment in Lieu of Taxes vs. Non-Homestead Millage Rate Comparison

Stanchina addressed the issue of the difference between a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and the traditional non-homestead millage rate. He presented a hypothetical example based on the facility Medallion Management operates in Marquette. Moraska concluded that the project Medallion Management is proposing would not be beneficial for tax revenue. Alessandrini stressed the importance of receiving the market study prior to considering the issue.

Moraska highlighted the concern that tenants could be brought into the community specifically for the purpose of filling vacant units, possibly creating further stress on the unemployment situation and police services within the community. Revord questioned how additional people with criminal records would be brought into the community through renting at the Medallion Management facility if they do not rent to people with a criminal history. Moraska raised the concern that not everyone who is involved in illicit activity has a criminal record.

Moraska expressed the opinion that the citizens at the informational meeting were not rude; they were frustrated due to a lack of answers. He objected to the notion that the Medallion Management project would not constitute unfair competition. Moraska relayed his support for providing low-income housing in smaller units disbursed through the community as to not disrupt the makeup of neighborhoods or stigmatize those that utilize the service. He agreed with Alessandrini that it would be ideal to wait until a market study is completed to consider the issue further.

Moraska communicated the opinion that this issue is not a conflict of interest for him as it does not directly affect his financial situation.

List stated that all landlords have an option to receive funds from State assistance programs for housing if they opt to accept them.

Alessandrini indicated that tax abatements have been used in the past to encourage development and that the City of Kingsford has placed all of their subsidized housing together. He reiterated his previous comments regarding the informational meeting.

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Acting Director of Police and Fire Services

Stanchina reported that an Acting Director of Police and Fire Services has been appointed.

City Attorney Reports

Pirkola informed the City Council that the City has been offered a claims resolution in the amount of \$67,700 by DuPont for additional trees that have destroyed by the use of Imprelis. He estimated that the City would receive \$60,000 in compensation once the trees are removed. Revord asked what is happening with the logs from the removed trees. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Revord to approve the settlement with DuPont regarding trees damaged by Imprelis, pending review of the City Attorney and City Manager.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

None

Council Member Privilege

Alessandrini conveyed that his is not in support of reinstating the Cable Franchise Fee. He noted that a land bank needs to be considered and that funds may be available. Stanchina imparted that land banks are often operated by the County. Revord suggested that the cities address this problem together.

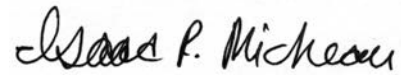
Alessandrini announced that the Dickinson Area Partnership revised their dues structure.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.


Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer