

City of Iron Mountain

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Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, August 20, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor Pro-Tem Rigoni
Present: Council Members Burke, Caudell, Tchokreff, VanLaanen and Jacobs
Excused: Mayor Tousignant
Also Present: City Atty. Pirkola

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting of August 6, 2007 stand approved as submitted.

Minutes

Public Comment

Donald Bugni – 930 East D Street – said he paid his Charter bill and they charged him \$52.83 instead of \$49. He heard the City could charge \$2.50 extra to watch television. He asked why the City Manager no longer has Charter.

Old Business

City Manager Marquart opened bids for the West Boat Launch project. The bids were as follows:

West Boat Launch Bids

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. T and G United - | \$74,983.00 |
| 2. Snowden Inc. - | \$65,996.98 |
| 3. Industrial Construction Services- | \$79,700.00 |
| 4. Butterfield Yard Service - | \$80,983.04 |

City Manager Marquart stated the project estimate was \$60,000 with a State grant of approximately \$45,000 and the City responsible for the difference.

The City Council referred the bids to staff for a recommendation.

No action was taken.

City Manager Marquart stated that no bids were received for the resurfacing of the tennis court at City Park.

City Park Tennis Court Resurfacing

No action was taken.

New Business

City Manager Marquart stated that the City was looking to pave some local streets including a section of Fairbanks St. and Grant St. Council Member VanLaanen asked if the sewer and water lines under the proposed streets are in good condition.

Local Street Paving

City Manager Marquart stated that the lines are in good condition.

It was moved by Jacobs and supported by Tchokreff authorizing the City to solicit bids for the local street paving project.

Roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: (5) Burke, VanLaanen, Tchokreff, Caudell and Jacobs

Nays: (0)

Abstain: (1) Rigoni

Motion Carried

New Business (cont.)

**School Liaison
Funding**

City Manager Marquart said that three possibilities exist with the School Liaison Program. The Council could put a millage request on the ballot, discontinue the program or absorb the cost in the City's General Fund budget. Council Member Tchokreff confirmed that the City splits the cost with the School District and asked what the total cost is. City Manger Marquart stated the total cost of the officer is \$52,000. Council Member Caudell asked if it would be a problem to fund the position within the General Fund budget. The City Manager stated the City would have to look hard for the money. Council Member Burke proposed using the cable franchise fee revenue to pay for the School Liaison Program. Mayor Pro-Tem Rigoni would prefer funding the School Liaison Program internally. Council Member VanLaanen is unsure if the City should dedicate a percentage of the cable franchise fee when there is current legislation that may require a percentage of the franchise fee to pay for services provided by the cable company, such as public access channels. Council Member VanLaanen asked what percentage of the franchise fee would be needed to pay for the Liaison Officer. City Manager Marquart stated 4% of the 5% would be needed based on preliminary numbers. Mayor Pro-Tem Rigoni clarified that the Liaison Program is closer to a cost of \$86,000. Council Member Caudell believes the City should fund the program through the general budget instead of earmarking the cable franchise revenue. Council Member Burke is not happy with the 5% franchise fee but using it to fund the School Liaison Program makes him feel better about paying it. Council Member Caudell is concerned about earmarking the cable franchise fee to the first thing presented to the Council. City Manager Marquart stated the Council would have to act tonight for a November ballot proposal. Mayor Pro-Tem Rigoni feels that earmarking revenue is an acceptable way to fund the School Liaison Program. Council Member VanLaanen asked if this would be a policy that can be changed in the future. City Attorney Pirkola stated if the Council was looking at directing a certain percentage of cable franchise revenue to the Liaison Program, he has never specifically looked at the legal aspect of earmarking a certain fund and is unsure if it would preclude the administration from using that money for anything else. City Attorney Pirkola stated the Council could do something different with the cable franchise money at a later time. Council Members Caudell and Tchokreff stated support for the Liaison Officer but were hesitant to earmark cable franchise fee revenue so soon.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Jacobs to use revenue generated from the Cable Franchise Fee to pay for the City's half of the School Liaison Officer position.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by VanLaanen to accept a resolution stating the results of the City Primary Election. Candidates Dale Alessandrini, David Farragh, Sally Jacobs, Tina Peterson, Doug Rigoni, Bruce Rosen, William Toedter and Jeff VanLaanen received enough votes to have their names placed on the ballot for the November 6, 2007 General Election. Candidate Ken Tousignant did not receive enough votes to be on the ballot of the General Election.

**City Primary
Election Results**

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Marquart stated that Walgreens requested the release of three easements on property they are in the process of purchasing. The legal descriptions of the three easements are in memorandum from Planning Director Woolard. The City Manager stated that the easements are of no use to the City.

**Walgreens Release
of Easements**

It was moved Tchokreff and supported by Burke to release the three easements to Walgreens.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

New Business (cont.)

Draft Deed Schettler

City Manager Marquart said that the City made a verbal agreement many years ago to exchange land with Mr. Schettler for a road. City Manager Marquart said the land exchanged is of no value to the City. Council Member VanLaanen was concerned about drafting the deed when there is no documentation. City Manager Marquart said that the information available agrees with Mr. Schettler's word that there was a verbal agreement. Mayor Pro-tem asked the City Attorney about adverse possession with the property in question. City Attorney Pirkola stated he did not know all the facts of this transaction but an adverse possession case could be possible.

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Burke to authorize the City Attorney to draft the appropriate deed to make this transaction official.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Claims and Payroll

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of July with regular wages in the amount of \$259,370.70 and OT in the amount of \$24,704.50. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$651,585.90. Mayor Pro-Tem Rigoni asked for clarification on item #121 UP Concrete, that this is actually paid by TIFA. CFO Bartolameolli stated that TIFA pays for the sidewalks, not the City.

Invoice paid through automated clearing, MERS \$ \$24,455.10 08/15/07 was placed on file.

City Manager Report

City Manager Marquart reported on the following:

1. The City website host will submit our website for a statewide best web site contest.
2. Last Wednesday and Thursday, the City hosted the quarterly Michigan Main Street Manager Forum

Council Member Rigoni stated that he received a call about the status of the Brown St. reconstruction project. City Manager Marquart stated that this project is in the TIFA Budget and is scheduled to be completed this year. Also, Council Member Rigoni has received a call about the reconstructed Hughitt St. railroad crossing. He stated that DPW Director Becotte said MDOT has agreed to fix the crossing so that it is not so steep.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Council Member Tchokreff stated that the Tower Lease Committee would like to have a meeting with the City Manager this week.

Council Member Burke addressed the Park and Rec. Committee. He stated that someone approached him and would like to know the cost of building an additional ice arena near Mountain View ice arena. Also, he would like the committee to look at additional parking for Mountain View, baseball field and the tennis courts. Finally, Council Member Burke feels the City needs to find another football field for Mr. Lefebvre.

Committee Reports (cont.)

Council Member VanLaanen received a call from Vivien Koffman whose father was instrumental in the design of the East Side Baseball Field. The Cecil Langren Field House was named after her father because of his involvement with the East Side field. Ms. Koffman is interested in purchasing a new Cecil Langren Field House sign for the field house because the old one was lost when the field house was recently renovated.

Council Member Burke reminded everyone that Iron Mountain residents are entitled to free open skate tickets for the Mountain View ice arena.

Public Comment

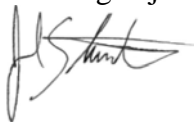
Robert Bouche – 1012 Bluff Ave. 49802 – requested diagonal parking on the south side of Brown Street when the reconstruction of Brown Street is complete.

Council Member Privilege

Council Member Jacobs commented on the new sidewalks on the south side of the City and she was made aware of extensive litter at Pine Mountain. Council Member Jacobs was unsure if the County, the Township or the City was responsible to clean the area.

Council Member Tchokreff asked if the DDA was responsible to build up the crosswalk pavers that have sunk. City Manager Marquart stated the DDA doesn't have the budget to do this but the City and the DDA would need to have a conversation on how to pay for it. Also, Council Member Tchokreff stated that with the fence issue, the City can take the fence down anytime the City wants to.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer