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Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, May 7, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor Tousignant  
Present: Council Members Burke, Caudell, VanLaanen and Jacobs  
Excused: Rigoni and Tchokreff  
Also Present: Asst. City Attorney Carlson

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following:

## Agenda

### VII. New Business

6. Approval for a multipurpose building re: North Side Ballpark

The minutes of the previous meeting of April 16, 2007 and the Special Meeting of April 23, 2007 stand approved as submitted.

## Minutes

## Public Comment

Rich Brook – 5521 Chason Rd., Gladstone – reassured the City Council that personal information was not compromised by a subcontractor he hired for the reappraisal. He said the City Manager raised the issue of the subcontractor’s background and at that time Mr. Brook informed the subcontractor he would no longer be working on the reappraisal. Mr. Brook informed the City Council and the residents that the subcontractor only had access to the same records that anybody else would have.

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – stated a police dispatcher was sent to the police academy and paid for by the City. The City must hire him by August 23, 2007 or the dispatcher will lose his certification. Mr. Alessandrini said the DPW Director has not saved any money on engineering as promised by the City Manager. He feels the City Manager made a bad decision in hiring Rich Brook as the part-time City Assessor. Mr. Alessandrini spoke of Mr. Brook hiring his brother in-law, a paroled felon, to help on the reassessment. He commented on the \$5, 375 paid to Mr. Brook’s brother in-law and asked if anyone double checked the amounts being paid, to the work accomplished. Mr. Alessandrini noted that the assessor’s brother in-law was convicted of identity theft, in which he gathered information from mailboxes. Mr. Alessandrini then discussed how the reassessment was bid in the first place. He said he has documents to support the poor bidding practices used for the reassessment. He said the reassessment contract stated that the reassessment should have been done for the year 2007, which it is not completed as of this date. He believes the assessor knowingly and willingly withheld information about his brother in-law. Mr. Alessandrini believes the City Council needs to fire the current City Assessor immediately.

Carl Little - 709 Blackwell Ave., Gladstone – Asst. Assessor said that he had reservations about having David Legge (subcontractor for the reappraisal) work on the City of Iron Mountain reappraisal. Mr. Little stated that based on his many years of law enforcement experience he thought Mr. Legge was ready and able to work on the reappraisal.

### **Public Comment(cont.)**

Tina Peterson – 616 East B St. – feels that actions of the City Council are underhanded or behind the back. She offered the suggestion of having periodic Town Hall Meetings, that would allow residents to be heard, about issues that are of concern. She noted that the current Public Comment sections of the Council Meetings offer no feedback. She would like interaction on a regular basis between the City Council and the residents.

Ronald Giguere – 111 W Flesheim – reminded the Council that he had a sewer backup in his house a few months ago and is still not able to live in his house. Mr. Giguere requested the City Council do something to help him get back into his house.

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – noted that there is 5 ft. of silt in the culvert that drains storm water into Crystal Lake. She understands that the City applied for a grant to test the water at Crystal Lake. This has delayed testing 5 months because the State has stopped awarding grant money due to there budget crisis. Dr. Feleppa would like to set a time table for testing and have the City pay for the testing if the grant money does not become available. She thanked the Council for giving attention to Crystal Lake.

Don Christy – 1310 E Grant St. – gave a history of the investments he has made to buildings in Iron Mountain. He said the Council constantly rubber stamps the City Managers decisions. Mr. Christy believes the City Assessor should be fired and it was the City Managers negligence that allowed this subcontractor ordeal to happen.

Ted Corombos – 1115 Wells St. – noted the Council has various powers but do not have the right to be negligent. He then commented on TIFA and said that the TIFA Board has to be a watchdog of its' own administrator, which is the City Manager. He stated that UP Concrete put in 6 accessible sidewalk corners from Carpenter Ave. west on H St. toward Kimberly Ave. Mr. Corombos said this area was not in the TIFA district and the City would have to pay for these. He said the Council lowers taxes by a fraction of a mill but than goes out and borrows hundreds of thousands of dollars for equipment. He noted that the Council brags about the general fund balance while depriving other funds. Mr. Corombos feels that City Manager Marquart can no longer be an effective City Manager in the City of Iron Mountain.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Tousignant opened a public hearing on the proposed Sidewalk Café Ordinance. **Sidewalk Cafe Ordinance**

Carol Schneider – 405 W D Street – believes that the Sidewalk Cafes are quaint but would like them set up in a way that the tables and chairs do not interfere with pedestrian traffic.

The public hearing was closed.

### **Old Business**

Council Member VanLaanen noted that this was a well written ordinance. **Sidewalk Cafe Ordinance**  
It was moved by VanLaanen and supported by Caudell to adopt the Sidewalk Cafe Ordinance.

**Motion prevailed to wit:**

**Ayes: (5) VanLaanen, Caudell, Burke, Jacobs and Tousignant**

**Nays: (0)**

**Motion carried.**

## New Business

It was moved by Burke and supported by Jacobs to establish May 21, 2007, 6:30 p.m. as the time and date for a Public Hearing for the FY 2007-2008 Budget.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**FY 2007-2008  
Budget Public  
Hearing**

It was moved by Burke and supported by VanLaanen to approve the use of the City Park Pavilion for no charge, to the Central Elementary PTO, on Thursday, May 31, 2007.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**City Park Pavilion  
Central PTO**

It was moved by Jacobs and supported by Burke to approve the use of the City Park Pavilion, for no charge, to the Dickinson-Iron ISD Head Start, on Monday, June 4, 2007.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**City Park Pavilion  
ISD Head Start**

It was moved by Caudell and supported by VanLaanen to approve a resolution granting the Garden Room a liquor license allowing outdoor sales.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**Garden Room  
Outdoor Liquor  
License**

Mayor Tousignant said the City Manager's contract contains a bonus based on performance provision, up to 10% of the City Manager's base salary. Mayor Tousignant stated that a 9% bonus was the recommendation of the Executive Committee based on the evaluation completed by the City Council.

It was moved by Caudell and supported by Burke to approve a 9% bonus for the City Manager based on the past year performance evaluation.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**City Manager  
Evaluation**

City Manager Marquart informed the Council that Vision 2020 was requesting City Council approval to move forward with the construction of a multipurpose building that will include indoor bocce courts, restrooms and a concession area.

It was moved by Jacobs and supported by Caudell to approve the privately constructed multipurpose building on City property at the North Side Ballpark.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**North Side Ballpark  
Multipurpose  
Building**

## Financial Reports

None

## City Manager Reports

1. The City Park Pavilion renovations are now complete. There will be an open house on Saturday, May 12, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. for the public to view the newly renovated pavilion.
2. Council Member VanLaanen asked about the paving of D St. east of Park Ave. Marquart noted that they would like to pave the road in May but there is possible storm sewer work that would need to be completed before the paving. He stated that the developer is responsible for the landscaping, driveways and storm sewer work that needs to be completed. Council Member VanLaanen asked to keep the road watered daily to help with the dust.
3. Council Member Caudell asked if the City could do the Crystal Lake testing if we don't receive any grant money from the State. City Manager Marquart noted the City is developing a plan for testing Crystal Lake if the grant is not received.

### **City Manager Reports(cont.)**

4. Council Member Jacobs asked if the County could be involved with the Crystal Lake testing. City Manager Marquart said the County has not been approached since Crystal Lake is fully surrounded by the City of Iron Mountain.
5. Council Member Burke expressed the sentiment that the City Assessor showed no respect for the City Council or City Manager by not coming forward and informing them of Mr. Brook's brother in-law's background. Mayor Tousignant agreed that Mr. Brook should have informed the Council or the City Manager before Mr. Brook's brother in-law started working. Council Member Caudell agreed that she would have liked the truth about the assessor's brother in-law up front. Also, Council Member Jacobs does not think Mr. Brook was fair to the City by withholding this information

### **City Attorney Reports**

None

### **Committee Reports**

Council Member Jacobs stated that the Park and Rec. Committee toured the area parks and created a list of needs for the parks. Council Member VanLaanen noted that there is a lack of parking at Ranger Field. The Committee would like the City Manager to look into the availability of acquiring adjacent land for additional parking.

### **Public Comment**

John Roberts – 500 East D St. – informed the Council that Madison St. between East D St. and East F St., is in poor condition and the grade of the street near East F St. causes cars to bottom. Also, he would like to see the City help Mr. Giguere get back into his house after the sewer backup Mr. Giguere had.

Tina Peterson – 616 East B St. – believed that the compensation bonus for the performance of the City Manager should have been tabled, due to the information given tonight.

Bob Moraska – 224 West D St. – said damage estimate increased as the house sat there for months and was not repaired. He thinks the City should give Mr. Giguere a check instead of spending money on other projects including Crystal Lake. Also, he felt a proper contract for the reassessment would have helped to avoid the situation that arose with the assessor's brother in-law.

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – reiterated his frustration with the City assessor and would like to see the Council fire him immediately. He would like the Council to get their own facts and research on topics that come before the City Council.

Partrick Arnold – 1112 Bayshore Dr. – he feels the sewer backup at Mr. Giguere's house was caused by the City and as a result the City should pay for the damages.

Bob Jayne – 1013 Stockbridge St. – stated the Police and Fire Pension millage pass through was ignored by the City Council until he formed a Committee to get the issue on the ballot. He said the Council then acted and adopted a pass through of the TIFA capture of the Police and Fire Pension millage. He wants the Council to start representing the people.

**Public Comment (cont.)**

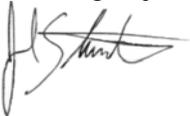
Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – reminded everyone that the original permit to release storm water into Crystal Lake required semi-annual cleaning of the catch basins.

Ronald Giguere – 111 W Flesheim St. – stated the sewer backup destroyed his kitchen and bathroom which are the two most expensive rooms to repair. He feels that \$41,000 is the amount needed to repair these rooms and any damage to other rooms from the sewer backup.

**Council Member Privilege**

Council Member Caudell believes the City Council must represent all of the residents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina  
Clerk-Treasurer