

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor Tousignant  
Present: Council Members Burke, Caudell, Tchokreff, Rigoni, VanLaanen and Jacobs  
Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola

The agenda was approved with the following additions:  
III. Minutes of the Meeting of October 15, 2007  
VI. New Business  
7. Resolution of Election Results

### Agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting of October 15, 2007, November 5, 2007 and the Special Meeting of November 12, 2007, stands approved as submitted.

### Minutes

### Public Comment

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – inquired about item #53 on the Vendor Report, which had a Vendor Name of Anne Henriksen (Council Member Caudell’s mother) and a description of Work for Centers for Regional Excellence.

John Nienstadt – 717 East A St. – stated that the proposed apartment complex on the east side needs to be studied further. He feels the City Council needs to look at housing needs and then look at the City parcel map to see where a development could be built. He stated public input will be an important part of choosing a site. Also, a proposal should be developed so all interested parties would have a chance at bidding on a proposed housing development.

Dave Farragh – 1212 Hughitt St. – stated the City should address the problems with the City water system, before we share our utilities. Mr. Farragh stated the City should address the problems with the water system outlined in a letter from DEQ on 12/19/2006. The roof on the tank needs to be fixed, burning berm the dirt around the tank, water system mapping updating, comprehensive leak detection and upgrading some of the smaller mains.

### Old Business

Council Member Rigoni discussed some of the changes he would like to see put into the Utility Service Agreement with Breitung Township. On page 2 article C, Council Member Rigoni would like the City to have discretion in the build out of the system. He said this agreement provides sewer and water to the Township and the City will not be responsible to maintain the Township’s system. Paragraph E, should state the Agreement may be renewed after 50 years. He feels there should be no references to the City doing any maintenance or repair work to the Township’s system. Under Article 6, he feels the rates need to be reworked at certain levels because the rate is to close to the City’s residents water and sewer rates. Also, he feels the billing or meter reading for Township accounts should not be done by the City.

### Utility Service Agreement

### **Old Business(cont.)**

Council Member VanLaanen concurs with Council Member Rigoni's thoughts on the Agreement but he thinks this agreement helps the Township build out like the City because they have access to sewer and water. He feels the service areas on the map are too large and will result in development in the Township since sewer and water will be available. He stated that this agreement is not good for the City because it allows the Township to develop at the expense of the City.

Council Member Burke agrees with Council Member VanLaanen's comments. Member Burke stated the City needs an increased tax base through development to ease the tax burden for all residents.

Council Member Rigoni believes the annexation petitions brought the Township to negotiate for the 425 agreements. He agrees with Council Member VanLaanen that the south side agreement area is too large. He stated this agreement benefits the City by getting the 800 plus acres in the Area II 425 Agreement.

Council Member Tchokreff thinks adjusting the fee schedule could help with the development concern of Council Member VanLaanen. Mayor Tousignant said the Township expressed interest in negotiating through the Utility Service Agreement for commercial development along the US2 corridor. The Mayor stated that the communities must cooperate to encourage development. Council Member Caudell would like to know if the Utility Service Agreement could be separate and not contingent on the Area II 425 Agreement. Mayor Tousignant reminded the Council that the Area II 425 Agreement had a clause contingent on the signing of a Utility Service Agreement. Council Member Rigoni said the Quinnesec Corridor is mostly residential and established businesses. Also, the Moon Lake area is mostly residential. Council Member VanLaanen stated that if the Moon Lake area needed to switch to a municipal water supply the City could enter 425 agreements at that time. He also said the second 425 agreement has added nothing to the City at this point. Mayor Tousignant replied that the second 425 agreement calls for the land to become part of the City at the end of the 50 year agreement.

**No action taken.**

### **New Business**

It was moved by VanLaanen and supported by Caudell to approve an increase of 2.5% for the School Crossing Guards for the 2007-2008 year. The increase was already approved by the Iron Mountain School Board.

**School Crossing  
Guard Pay Adjust.**

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

Council Member Rigoni said the reservoir was unsafe and the City has two options, repair it or demolish it. Council Member Jacobs asked if grants are available to repair the reservoir. Mayor Tousignant said it was possible but he thinks the City should get cost estimates for repair or for demolition and then move forward. Council Member Caudell would like a public hearing for resident input after costs are known. It was moved by VanLaanen and supported by Caudell to refer back to staff and the Planning Board to develop plans that would detail repair/maintaining or demolishing the North Side Reservoir.

**North Side  
Reservoir**

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

It was moved by Burke and supported by Rigoni to introduce the Amended Rental Housing Ordinance and set a Public Hearing date for Monday, December 3, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

**Amended Rental  
Housing Ordinance**

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### New Business(cont.)

City Manager Marquart gave a brief summary of Ms. Vicki Esch's qualifications for the job of City Assessor. Council Member Rigoni would like the Executive Committee to have the opportunity to interview her in lieu of the debacle with the last Assessor. Council Member Jacobs asked about a background check and the City Manager stated references had been checked. Council Member VanLaanen asked why the City was changing from a part-time Assessor to a full-time Assessor. City Manager Marquart stated that the duties of the position were not receiving the appropriate attention they deserved with a part-time Assessor. City Manager Marquart stated this has been a difficult position to fill with a person that has the appropriate qualifications. Council Member VanLaanen asked about the employment agreement and the goals for the position, more specifically the completion of the reassessment. City Manager Marquart said it is a 3 year renewable agreement and she will work on tax maps and she has certification for GIS mapping which the City is implementing. He said in the longer term the reassessment needs to be finished and the City Manager believes this will require additional assistance. Council Member VanLaanen asked if the additional assistance would require a budget amendment. City Manager Marquart stated that the completion of the reassessment would be in the 2008/2009 FY budget. The City Manager said background checks will be done on any part-time assistants that may be needed. Council Member Caudell agrees with Member Rigoni to have the Executive Committee interview Ms. Esch. Member Caudell was concerned about Ms. Esch being the only applicant. City Manager Marquart stated that there was other applicants but she was the only qualified candidate. Council Member VanLaanen asked about the time frame for hiring and City Manager Marquart responded that we need a Level III Assessor as soon as possible. Council Member Rigoni believes Ms. Esch will do a fine job but he would like to meet her first. Council Member VanLaanen wanted to note that the contract included a \$1,000 moving allowance.

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by VanLaanen to confirm Ms. Vicki Esch to the appointment of City Assessor.

**Ayes: (6) Burke, VanLaanen, Tousignant, Tchokreff, Jacobs and Caudell**

**Nays: (1) Rigoni**

**Motion Carried.**

It was moved by VanLaanen and supported by Burke to approve the General Fund Reserve Adjustment. Inventory - \$39,052.16, Police Liaison Officer - \$4,717.99, Delinquent PP Tax - \$14,441.63 and Fire Safety House - \$5,185.59.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**General Fund  
Reserve Adjustment**

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Rigoni to approve street closure for the the Downtown Christmas Walk on Thursday, December 6, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The closure includes Hughitt St. from Stephenson Ave. to Iron Mountain St., Iron Mountain St. from Hughitt St. to East A St. and East A St. from Iron Mountain St. to Stephenson Ave.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**Christmas Walk  
Street Closure**

It was moved by Rigoni and supported by VanLaanen to approve a Resolution of the City General Election. David Farragh, Tina Peterson, Bruce Rosen and Jeff VanLaanen were elected at-large to a 4 year term commencing on January 1, 2008.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

**Election Results**

## Financial Reports

## Claims and Payroll

Council Member Rigoni asked about item #53 brought up in Public Comment. City Manager Marquart said Anne Henricksen does not work for the City of Iron Mountain but for the Center for Regional Excellence which is fully funded by a grant from the State of Michigan and includes Iron Mountain, Breitung Township, Norway and Kingsford.

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of October with regular wages in the amount of \$248,114.80 and OT in the amount of \$16,849.28. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$695,656.90.

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Caudell to approve claims and payroll in the amounts noted above.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

Placed on file invoice paid through automated clearing, MERS \$24,199.83, 11/15/2007

## City Manager Report

The City Manager stated that the public hearing for Mr. Randall Shivy scheduled for December 3, 2007 will have to be reintroduced at a later date because the City has not received some of the needed paperwork at this time.

Council Member Rigoni is concerned that the Iron Mountain School Board President, Mr. Bob Witter, has gone out of his way to oppose the cable franchise fee when it is being used for the school liaison officer. Member Rigoni would like City Manager Marquart to talk with Mr. Chartier to see if the School Board is in support of the school liaison officer.

## City Attorney Reports

None

## Committee Reports

None

## Public Comment

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – felt that Mr. Rigoni's comments towards Mr. Witter were unfair because the Council knows that the School is in favor of the Liaison Officer. Mr. Alessandrini stated that none of the other communities in the Center for Regional Excellence were aware of hiring Anne Henricksen. He said she received two \$600 checks for touring parks in Naubinway, Marquette, Pulaski, Charlevoix, Menominee and Gladstone. Also, she had 20 hours for meetings with the City Managers of Norway and Kingsford. Mr. Alessandrini stated that these City Managers had no recollection of the meeting. He said the grant is for regional public safety and joint code enforcement not for recreation as it is being used.

Dave Farragh – 1212 Hughitt St. – said the North Side Reservoir tank is very dangerous and would require large amount of money to repair. He suggests removing it.

## Council Member Privilege

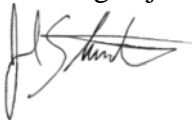
Mayor Tousignant stated the original grant application of the Center for Regional Excellence pertained to public safety. The communities decided that creating a Recreation Authority was something all the communities could agree on and the State is aware of this change. He said Anne Henricksen is paid by the State of Michigan through the grant.

### **Council Member Privilege(cont.)**

Council Member Rigoni agrees with Mr. Nienstadt's assessment of the housing issue. He agrees with Mr. Farragh that our water system is in need of a lot of repair that will be expensive. Mr. Rigoni responded to Mr. Alessandrini's public comment and stated he does not feel his question is out of line. Member Rigoni hopes the new City Council can get along and move ahead.

Council Member Caudell said having Anne Henricksen doing work for the City in her current capacity is an asset to the City. She would like to think that everyone running for City Council does it with the best intentions for the City. Member Caudell would like to bridge the gaps and move forward with the new council members. She feels that less negativity and more communication will be helpful for the community as a whole.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Stanchina', written in a cursive style.

Jordan Stanchina  
Clerk-Treasurer