

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, January 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen
Present: Council Members Peterson, Burke, Caudell, Tchokreff, Rosen and Farragh
Also Present: City Attorney Celello and CFO Bartolameolli

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting of December 3, 2007 and the Special Meeting of December 10, 2007, stand approved as submitted.

Minutes

Public Comment

Doug Rigoni – 411 Tall Pines Rd. – commented on the Millie Hill Estates Plat from the perspective of a former Council Member and as someone that was involved in developing a plat and subdivision. He discussed the requirements of the City when he was developing a plat for his subdivision. He said the subdivision would be a great asset to the City but the Council must enforce the ordinances and other necessary approvals for the project to go forward.

Chuck Meyer – N3939 N US 2 – stated that he has sent out information showing that all the planning items for the plat have been completed. Mr. Meyer stated that DPW Director Becotte said he doesn't have a problem with the lot layout or the utilities but the bond issue must be addressed. He said the plat process is separate from developing the site.

Special Presentation

Mr. Bob Schaut from Anderson, Tackman & Company PLC presented the City of Iron Mountain's FYE June 30, 2007 Audit Report.

**Audit
Presentation**

Old Business

Member Farragh stated the recommendation of the Streets Committee was to put the entire East "A" Street project on hold for at least a year to see if money from the revolving loan program becomes available. Member Farragh said the committee would recommend replacing 560' of sewer main in the 700 block of East "A" St. DPW Director Becotte estimated a cost of \$36,000 for the Department of Public Works to replace the sewer lines. Member Rosen asked if the City could be liable if the sewer lines were not replaced. Member Farragh felt the City could be liable if this section of sewer line was not replaced.

**East "A" St.
Project**

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke for the Department of Public Works to replace 560' of sewer line main on the 700 block of East "A" St. at an estimated cost of \$36,000, no other work will be done on the East "A" St. project at this time.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

New Business

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Farragh to reappoint Ms. Evelyn Zeutzius to a four year term on the City of Iron Mountain Housing Commission. **Iron Mountain Housing Commission**
Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Marquart recommended Ms. Mary Rahoi to fill an unexpired term on the Planning Board. Member Rosen felt that Mr. Dale Alessandrini was the best candidate for the Planning Board based on his experience and community involvement. **Planning Board Appointment**
It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to appoint Mr. Dale Alessandrini to the Planning Board.

Roll call vote taken:

Ayes: (3) Tchokreff, Rosen and Farragh
Nays: (3) Caudell, VanLaanen and Burke

Motion failed.

It was moved by Caudell and supported by Burke to appoint Ms. Mary Rahoi to the Planning Board for an unexpired term expiring on May 18, 2008.

Roll call vote taken:

Ayes: (4) Tchokreff, Caudell, VanLaanen and Burke
Nays: (2) Farragh and Rosen

Motion carried.

City Manager Marquart informed the Council of the status of the Millie Hill Estates Final Plat from the perspective of the City. He said there have been numerous meetings to discuss all the requirements of the land division act which must be followed for the approval of the Final Plat. The City Manager stated one of the issues is the \$5.6 million bond. City Manager Marquart said that the \$5.6 million was an estimate of the project cost from City staff. The City is requesting to have this amount covered by a surety bond or letter of credit. He said the project could be implemented in phases and would require a surety bond in the amount of each phase instead of the total project cost. **Millie Hill Estates**
Mayor VanLaanen would recommend sending this back to a Committee for a recommendation. Member Rosen feels this is a tremendous opportunity for Iron Mountain and would agree with taking it to the Committee level to discuss any differences. He thinks the City should extend the original agreement to allow additional time to review the project.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Rosen to extend the deadline one year for the vote on the Final Plat.

Member Caudell agrees with an extension at this point. Member Farragh thinks the City should do everything possible to work with the developer because this would be a benefit to the City.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of December with regular wages in the amount of \$361,186.72 and OT in the amount of \$26,551.36. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$730,493.31. **Claims and Payroll**

Member Farragh asked about claim #9. CFO Bartolameolli said this was an AT&T invoice paid by TIFA for engineering of burying the phone line for the downtown parking lots. She said the amount would be reimbursed by AT&T if the project goes forward. Member Farragh stated that overtime in the public safety area needs to be fixed and Member Rosen agreed with this statement.

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

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Report

City Manager Marquart stated that the City just received the 2008 DNR Grant info that could be used to make improvements at Crystal Lake and City Park.

City Manager Marquart noted the owner of a building has withdrawn his offer to sell the building to the City for the Signature Building Program.

Member Rosen asked if there is a master plan for both City Park and Crystal Lake. The City Manager stated there was no master plan for Crystal Lake but a master plan was started for City Park and has been placed on the backburner. Member Rosen believed that DNR grants are awarded based on a points system and additional points could be earned for hunting and fishing activities. He recommended archery at City Park and catch and release fishing at Crystal Lake as possibilities to help secure grant money. City Manager said the grants were rated on a point system.

Member Tchokreff asked about the Lilja Fund. The City Manager said that this was a trust fund for City beautification purposes.

Member Tchokreff asked about the park and drive situation around the Catholic School. The City Manager stated that school pick up and drop off is done in the alley and at times blocks the neighbors from getting in and out of their garages. The City Manager said he has talked with the school on trying to resolve this issue. Member Rosen received a call on this subject also and thinks that the school should ask parents to stop using the alley for pick up and drop off. Mayor VanLaanen stated the system the school developed works as long as cars keep moving, the problem develops when lines form with parents that arrive early. Member Rosen thought a letter should be sent from the City asking the school to remind parents not to block the alley. Member Tchokreff said that this has been an ongoing problem and agrees with a reminder.

Member Burke asked if the school liaison position has been filled. City Manager Marquart stated the Police Chief is still determining a recommendation.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

Chuck Meyer – N3939 N. US2. – said the recent packet he sent out was to show exactly what they have done. He is encouraged by the committee meeting recommended by the City Council.

Joe Lafave – 8025 Millie Hill Estates. – said his project is going to get approved or he will consider not doing the project.

Mary Rahoi – 717 W Hughitt – thanked the City Council for the vote of confidence.

Don Christy – 1310 Grant Street – said as a clergy at St. Mary and St. Joes he was surprised by the parking problem. He stated that he would look into having this matter discussed at a school board meeting to find a solution to the problem. Member Rosen asked Mr. Christy

Public Comment (cont.)

for an update on the Rental Housing Ordinance. Mr. Christy said the meeting between the landlords and the Council Committee went well. He feels that the differences have been resolved and he is hopeful the lawsuit can be ended.

Council Member Privilege

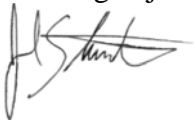
Member Tchokreff will not tolerate open dialogue with the public and feels the Mayor should be in control of the floor.

Member Caudell thanked Mr. Christy for coming forward and offering help to with the parking situation. She felt the meetings with the landlords went well as both sides were able to openly discuss their issues.

Member Farragh feels that he has every right to talk to anybody at the meeting. Member Farragh would like to move forward with the Labor Relations Committee and start looking at contracts that need to be negotiated.

Member Rosen wanted to clarify that the City will not pay for the infrastructure of the Millie Hill Estates, this cost will be incurred by the developer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer