

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, March 17, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen
Present: Council Members Burke, Peterson, Rosen, and Farragh
Absent: Council Members Tchokreff and Caudell
Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola and CFO Bartolameo

Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2008 stand approved as submitted with the following correction:

Minutes: Special Meeting of February 29 28, 2008

Public Comment

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – discussed the greenhouse he is putting up at Vulcan St. and Main St. He stated he is paying \$400 to go to the ZBA for variances but doesn't feel he should have to pay an additional \$400 for a site plan review by the Planning Board. He would like that additional \$400 fee waived.

Elaine Burke – 1229 Crystal Lake Blvd. – does not agree with the recall and she listed some of the accomplishments of Council Member Burke while he has served on the City Council. She listed meeting with seniors, Crystal Lake ice rink, Crystal Lake cleanup and the old hospital site. She feels the entire Council must work together to keep the City moving in the right direction.

TJ Burke – 1229 Crystal Lake Blvd. – stated his dad ran for Council to make the City a nice place.

Laura Hagan – N3847 Pine Mountain Rd. – she is encouraged by things happening in the City of Iron Mountain. She would like Iron Mountain to be a progressive City and was shocked to read about the recall.

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – said that Member Burke had nothing to do with the demolition of the old hospital. He doesn't agree with 4-3 votes and believes the vote needs to change.

Public Hearing

Mayor VanLaanen opened the Public Hearing for the DNR Grants.

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – agreed with applying for a grant to construct a trail around Crystal Lake. She would like it to be a bark lined trail.

The City Manager explained the two grant applications. One application is for a trail around Crystal Lake. The other application is for a trail from Chapin Field to the bat cave to an observation area on the west side of Millie Hill. He said the Crystal Lake trail application will total approximately \$180,000. City Manager

Public Hearing(cont.)

Marquart stated another possible application could be for the flooring in the City Park Pavilion and restoration of the smaller pavilion buildings.

Kevin Trevillian – Vision 2020 – encourages support from the public for the proposed Chapin Field trail.

Kristine Trudell – 1110 Hemlock St. – would like to know the environmental impact of a trail around a Crystal Lake

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. - offered the help of the MI Labor Training Institute for in kind services with the possible construction of the trails.

Barb Kramer – 135 Bradley St. – asked if the trails would be suitable for biking.

Mayor VanLaanen closed the Public Hearing for the DNR Grants.

Mayor VanLaanen opened the Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment.

No public comment.

Mayor VanLaanen closed the Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment.

Old Business

None

New Business

DNR Grants

Member Burke stated he received a call from a resident concerned that the trail would require removal of trees. City Manager Marquart said the grant would provide for replacement of trees and shrubs. Member Rosen would like to look at the water quality of Crystal Lake and include this in the grant application if possible. He thinks the Park and Recreation Committee could be involved in recommending any possible projects for City Park. Member Peterson said the City is waiting on the study from Michigan Tech for water quality and should wait on the trail until the City knows more about the water quality and availability of easements. Member Farragh asked why a cash match was needed for the Crystal Lake Trail. City Manager Marquart stated that cash match was included for the purchase of landscaping items and benches. Mayor VanLaanen said the Crystal Lake trail will end up where the land owners allow. Member Burke said Crystal Lake has been neglected for too many years. City Manager Marquart said environmental issues will be addressed during the construction of the trail. He said the City would look at having biking on the trail. Member Rosen felt based on the discussion the City would not be able apply for a water quality grant at this time.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Rosen to approve the resolution supporting the grant application for a trail around Crystal Lake.

Ayes: 4 (Burke, Rosen, VanLaanen and Farragh)

Nays: 1 (Peterson)

Motion carried.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve the resolution supporting the grant application for the Bat Cave trail.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Marquart said the floor of the City Park Pavilion would be approximately \$10,000 to replace and a cost of \$6,000 per smaller pavilion buildings for restoration. Mayor VanLaanen would like the Park and Rec. Committee to discuss City Park grant possibilities and Member Peterson concurred.

New Business(cont.)

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

City Manager Marquart explained that this text amendment would allow for Veterinary Clinic and/or Animal Hospital as a special use in the B-1 zoning district. Member Peterson asked for an explanation as to why Dr. Nicholas's building is considered legal non-conforming. City Manager Marquart said when the current zoning ordinance was enacted Dr. Nicolas's building became legal non-conforming building and does not allow for expansion. Member Peterson feels that Dr. Nicolas's building fits under professional services and expansion would be allowed by right. Mayor VanLaanen felt a special use was needed due to the patients being animals which can be noisy.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to approve the text amendment to the zoning ordinance subject to the conditions therein, that allows for a Veterinary Clinic and/or Animal Hospital as a special use in the B-1 zoning district.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

IM-K Summer Program Contribution

It was moved by Burke and supported by Farragh to authorize the contribution of \$3,000 to the IM-K Community Schools Summer Recreation Program

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Squad Car Purchase

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to establish a public hearing date of April 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. for citizen input relating to a grant application through the United States Rural Development Agency that would fund up to 25% of the purchase price for a police patrol car and related equipment.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Special Use Permit Historical Society

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to approve the special use permit for the Historical Society to expand the museum for housing of the glider project.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Retirement of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Jeanne Berdinner

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to approve the resolution recognizing the retirement of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Jeanne Berdinner and her 25 yrs. plus of service for the City of Iron Mountain.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Council Member Rosen reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed, water meter repair/placement, City Park Pavilion rental income/fees, Mr. Alessandrini's greenhouse fees, DNR grant application, City audit bids, bidding of City engineer services, sewer backup claims and repairs to the water tank.

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of February with regular wages in the amount of \$309,266.43 and OT in the amount of \$39,488.00. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$715,624.85. The Finance Committee reviewed the claims and had no questions at this time. It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve claims and payroll in the amounts noted above.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Report

City Manager Marquart read a letter from ISO stating they were satisfied with the progress in the fire department and will not change the ISO rating at this time. The ISO will check in six months for any progress made on the report submitted by the City and Fire Chief Johnson.

City Manager Marquart introduced Mr. Patrick Reagan as the new Main Street Coordinator.

City Manager Marquart stated that the Finance Committee discussed Mr. Alessandrini's greenhouse. The City Manager would also like to see the determination by the Zoning Board of Appeals when considering this situation. Member Peterson asked what a resident can do when they don't agree with a zoning interpretation by the City. Mayor VanLaanen stated that if a resident does not like the interpretation they can go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance. Member Rosen feels that section 74.292 of the Zoning Ordinance allows for among others, flowers by right. He stated this would include greenhouses. City Manager said the City will work with the petitioner but needed to be consistent with the treatment of all petitioners.

Member Peterson stated that some items in Chief Johnson's letter to the ISO may not be achieved and asked if all items in the letter needed to be accomplished to retain a rating of 4. City Manager Marquart said the letter states no specific number but says the classification will remain the same.

Mayor VanLaanen asked about the agreement with Mr. Blomquist for the purchase of City property. City Manager Marquart said Mr. Blomquist will ask for a 3 month extension of the March 21, 2008 deadline, per the agreement.

Mayor VanLaanen stated the he and the City Manager will attend the MML Legislative conference the first week of April.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Member Farragh attended the Planning Board meeting and said nothing has been done with the water tank based on the Planning Board's recommendations. Member Farragh would like the City Attorney to work with adjacent owners of the water tank to obtain legal access through an easement. This would allow City crews legal access to repair holes and other maintenance items. City Manager Marquart said the City is currently working on obtaining legal access. Member Peterson asked if the City was currently in the process of blocking some of the holes in the water tank. City Manager Marquart responded that the City was currently attempting to secure the water tank.

Member Peterson stated that she will be attending a statewide Town Hall Meeting and was looking for any public input to bring to the meeting.

Public Comment

John Roberts - 500 East D St. – would like an increased effort on upkeep this summer at the neighborhood tot lots.

Kristine Trudell – 1110 Hemlock St. – felt the reason people come here is for the natural beauty.

Toni Strutz – Vision 2020 Coordinator – thanked the Council for their support of the bat cave trail.

Council Member Privilege

Member Rosen would like the Council to be kept informed with the progress and issues of the Mariucci Project. He commented that neighbors of the Catholic School are still having difficulty with standing traffic in the alley.

Member Farragh stated the reassessment is far behind the targeted completion date. He said there was a reassessment done in 1994 with Ralph Kramer and Joe Rogina as the Assessor. He said \$200,000 has been spent and the amount to complete the reassessment is unknown at this time. Member Farragh would like the Council along with the City Attorney to have an investigation of the reassessment.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to conduct an investigation in accordance with Chapter IV Section 4.19 of the City Charter, to find what the City has for the money spent on the reassessment.

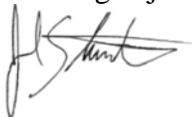
Mayor VanLaanen recommended the Finance Committee discuss the situation with the new Assessor. Member Peterson thinks the investigation should be done externally. Member Rosen thinks the Council could start with an internal investigation and than move to external if deemed necessary. Mayor VanLaanen would like to start the investigation internally. Mayor VanLaanen felt there could be a Committee meeting to develop questions and have a Special Meeting to discuss the findings.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Member Peterson would like to look at having Park and Rec. Committee meetings on specific dates to make it easier for interest citizens to attend.

Mayor VanLaanen acknowledged the passing of former Council Member and current IM Housing Commissioner Mr. Bernard Gallino.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer