

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen

Present: Council Members Burke, Peterson, Tchokreff, Caudell, Rosen, and Farragh

Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola

Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

None

Public Comment

Mary Couper – 633 Detroit Ave. – asked Member Peterson why she voted against the trail around Crystal Lake and the reconstruction of East A St.

Barbara Kramer – 135 Bradley St. – asked the three new Council Members why they had not attended the MML Training Sessions for newly elected officials.

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – asked the Council to rectify their differences and move the City forward. She asked the Council Members in favor of the recall if they were aware that major decisions of the City require four affirmative votes and not a simple majority. Also, she asked Council Members what they will do to keep controversy and ineffective decision making to a minimum.

Kris Leonard – 102 S Pine St. – stated that Member Rosen was circulating information that the City's ISO rating would increase from a 4 to a 6 and would result in a large increase of insurance premiums for the entire community. Mrs. Leonard said the rating increase was not true as the City Manager recently read a letter stating that the City's rating would remain a 4 for the time being. She asked why Member Rosen continued to circulate this information when it is not factual. Also, she asked if Member Peterson would abstain from voting on Fire Department related issues.

Harlan Walters – 211 Lehman Ave. – felt there should not be personal agendas but the agenda should be about the City of Iron Mountain residents.

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – feels we need to move forward but must look at the \$200,000 paid for the Reassessment, the T.V. franchise fee since there has been no school liaison officer as of January and he feels the water bills are high. He said recalls are part of a democracy and that is the way it works. He thinks the town needs to pull together but we need to fix the problems.

Theresa Fortier – 721 Hillcrest Dr. – is appalled by what is happening and thinks the recall is tearing the community apart. She felt everyone should pull together for the sake of the community and stop the recall. She stated this recall could lead to other recalls.

Elaine Burke – 1229 Crystal Lake Blvd. – said there was an IM Aware Program that received coverage in the newspaper and on the radio. She would like the new Council Members to stand up for their own issues.

Public Comment(cont.)

Doug Rigoni – 411 Tall Pines Dr. – stated when he left the Council there was positive talk of development at Pine Mountain and the Mariucci Convention Center. He felt this has stopped in the last three months. He stated one recall could lead to another and another. Mr. Rigoni asked about former Mayor Corombos managing and collecting fees from the Police and Fire Pension Fund while Mr. Corombos was serving as Mayor. He would like the Council to sit down, work things out and move on.

Ted Corombos – 1115 Wells St. – discussed his involvement in the Police and Fire Pension Fund as an unofficial advisor in 1973. He said that he was there as the fund went from \$550,000 to five million. He stated that when he was elected to the Council the then City Attorney stated he could continue to manage the fund with the approval of the Council. He said in 1975 he became a licensed investor but still managed the fund for way below the normal fees. He stated that when he formed the partnership, he invested one million dollars of his own money and charged himself a fee to show confidence in the plan.

Bob Moraska – 224 West D St. – said there have been too many violations of law and public trust. He said that he never threatened Council Member Burke. Mr. Moraska said the City has major problems and the 4-3 votes have to stop. He said the people speaking out at the meeting tonight are further dividing the City.

Mark Blomquist – 301 E Grant St. – doesn't think we need to recall Council Members and thinks the recall will be harmful. He feels this is destructive for bringing investment dollars to the City.

Kevin Pirlot – 603 W Fleshiem St. – clarified the ISO rating and said the document referred to the plan to keep our rating and allowed the City additional time to keep the rating. He said the 4 rating is here but the City will need to take additional action in the next six months to maintain this rating. He pledged the support of the firefighters to work with the Council and resolve the issue.

Bruce Varda – PO Box 2, 49801 – asked the City Council to provide a stable business environment.

Public Hearing

Mayor VanLaanen opened the Public Hearing for a US Rural Development Grant. City Manager Marquart explained the City was applying for a US Rural Development Grant that would assist in funding the purchase of a squad car and related equipment.

No one came forward to comment.

Mayor VanLaanen closed the Public Hearing

Old Business

The City Manager opened bids and the results are as follows:

Line Striper

Sherwin-Williams Marinette	\$4,145.00
Sherwin-Williams IM	\$4,279.00
EZ Liner Industries Orange City, IA	\$4,748.67
Ennis Paint	\$4,815.00
W.B. Thompson IM	\$6,423.00

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Caudell to award the Line Striper bid to Sherwin-Williams of Iron Mountain at a cost of \$4,279.00.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Old Business(cont.)

Cargo Van

Jorgensen Ford Detroit	\$15,915.00
Signature Ford Owosso	\$17,306.00
Town and Country Ford Quinnesec	\$15,631.00
Gorno Ford Woodhaven, MI	\$18,728.00

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to refer the Cargo Van bids to staff and the Equipment Committee for recommendation.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Crown Victoria

Gorno Ford Woodhaven, MI	\$22,495.00
Town and Country IM	\$21,696.00
Jorgenson Detroit, MI	\$20,496.00
Signature Ford Owosso	\$21,640.00

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Caudell to refer the Crown Victoria bids to staff and the Equipment Committee for recommendation.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Push Lawnmowers

Rocconi's IM	\$3,534.00
W.B. Thompson IM	\$2,874.00
Country Side Lawn and Sport Niagara	\$3,390.00 Toro
	\$3,720.00 Lawnboy
Hall's True Value Norway	\$4,050.00 Toro
	\$4,014.00 Lawnboy

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to refer the Push Lawnmower bids to staff and the Equipment Committee for recommendation.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

FD Ladders and Pike Pole

W.B. Thompson	\$4,248.00
Pomasl Fire Equipment	\$3,848.60
Heiman Fire Equipment	\$4,689.55
5 Alarm	\$4,437.55

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Tchokreff to refer the FD Ladders and Pike Pole bids to staff and the Equipment Committee for recommendation.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

New Business

US Rural Development Squad Car Grant

Member Peterson asked if it was possible to include a defibrillator in the grant. City Manager Marquart said that was not possible because it is not considered equipment that makes the squad car functional.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to approve the submission of a grant through US Rural Development for a squad car and related equipment.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

MDOT Invoice Small Urban Grant

Member Peterson asked if this was the final invoice and City Manager Marquart stated that it was the final invoice.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Caudell to approve the final invoice for the City's match of the 2007 Small Urban transportation grant program in the amount of \$80,101.99.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

New Business(cont.)

Garden Club Contribution

It was moved by Caudell and supported by Rosen to approve a contribution to the Garden Club in the amount of \$500.00.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Park Pavilion Camp 911

It was moved by Burke and supported by Peterson to approve the use of the City Park Pavilion at no charge for the annual Camp 911 to be held on June 10th and 11th 2008.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Water Meter Purchase

City Manager Marquart stated the City is looking to replace some large meters and he recommends the purchase and installation of the meters. Member Farragh asked if a determination has been made on what to do with the master meter on the south side that leads into Breitung Township. City Manager Marquart stated the City is waiting for the inspection company to provide a report on the meter.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Member Burke to approve the purchase and installation of water meters from Midwest Testing in the amount of \$13,055.

Mayor VanLaanen recalled that the master meter could be worked on if needed, by the company that would be in town to install the other meters. City Manager Marquart said the City will work to have this done at the same time. Member Rosen asked if the 8" master meter was necessary due to the 425 Agreements. City Manager Marquart said the 8" meter was needed but can be expensive and that is why Midwest Testing needs to look at the current meter to determine if repair or replacement is needed.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Invoice paid through automated clearing \$34,496.74, MERS 03/18/2008.

City Manager Report

The City Manager reported that part of the 425 Agreements and Utility Service Agreements provided for the joint planning meetings between Breitung Township and Iron Mountain. The first meeting will take place between the Breitung Planning Commission and the Iron Mountain Planning Board on April 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Breitung Township Hall.

The City Manager said Dr. Auer and the students from Michigan Tech will present their final report on Crystal Lake at 1:00 p.m. April 16th in the Council Chambers of City Hall and at 6:30 p.m. April 16th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Member Burke asked about the plans for the School Liaison. City Manager Marquart said an official liaison officer will be appointed within the next two weeks.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation

Member Caudell commented the Parks and Rec. Committee met and discussed Crystal Lake and the conceptual master plan for City Park.

Member Peterson said a representative of the VFW asked for assistance in maintaining the park on the Lake Antoine peninsula. The VFW will work to restore the park with the City helping as needed.

Member Burke stated the Committee discussed installing a bathroom closer to the City Park pavilion.

Finance Committee

Member Rosen said the audit services were discussed with the Committee and they are waiting for additional information prior to making a recommendation. He said they discussed the reassessment and City Assessor Esch will apprise the Committee on costs for completion. A formal investigation will be conducted at some later point. Also, the Committee reviewed costs and fees associated with business development.

Public Comment

Bob Moraska – 224 West D St. – feels the City is becoming more divided and does not agree with 4-3 votes. He doesn't think the City can move forward until the City takes care of the business at hand.

Theresa Fortier – 721 Hillcrest Dr. – she asked that the recall be stopped and stated the Council is doing a good job working together.

Patti Savarin – 820 Woodward Ave. – said there are many people that stay informed on City issues but cannot attend Council meetings due to work and family obligations. She would appreciate stopping the recall and keeping the Council together until the next time to vote.

Council Member Privilege

Member Peterson said she voted against the East A St. project because she felt borrowing \$435,000 from ourselves was too much. Also, after speaking with the State, the City was not high on the list to qualify for the State Revolving Loan Fund money. Member Peterson felt \$1.2 million was too great an expense when the only problem area was a one block section of East A St. She said STS stated that the sewer problem for the entire street was not critical. Member Peterson stated she voted against the Crystal Lake trail because she is concerned about the water quality of the lake. Member Peterson said she wasn't able to attend the MML Workshops but thinks they could be helpful. She said regarding the ISO, she knew the City will not retain a four rating unless everything on the list was completed and Member Peterson knows that all the items on the list will not be completed. She feels we have spent more money on less fire protection.

Member Rosen was impressed with all of the public comment. He said the Council has made accomplishments in the last 3 months such as progress on the Millie Hill subdivision, working toward resolving the Fire Department issues through negotiations and addressing water quality issues of Crystal Lake through MTU. Member Rosen said the Council dealt with everything on the agenda appropriately and got the job done.

Member Caudell said the only one that gets hurt from a recall is the City. She thinks the Council needs to work together and move forward even if we don't agree on all issues. Member Caudell said she always is listening and she doesn't think it is wrong to have grand ideas for the City.

Member Burke felt that Mr. Moraska threatened him with a recall during a telephone conversation.

Council Member Privilege(cont.)

Member Farragh commented that he did attend an MML meeting at George Young.

Mayor VanLaanen does not feel this Council has had an honest chance to govern. He does not have a problem with 4-3 votes and sees this as a challenge whether on the majority or minority side.

Member Peterson stated that after a long meeting of getting cut off and spoken rudely to she became frustrated, swore and threw the pen. She wants public input on the City Park Master Plan and felt that the other two Council Members would not listen.

Member Rosen said it is difficult to attend an MML Training Session with the time constraints of running his own business. He stated he has worked hard to learn the inner workings of the City.

Member Caudell does not like to be misquoted and thinks public input is very important on City Park. Member Burke agreed that input from the public is needed and the Master Plan will change.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer