

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen

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

Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola and CFO Bartolameo

## Agenda

It was moved by Caudell and supported by Rosen to approve the agenda as submitted.

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2008 were approved as submitted.

## Public Comment

None

## Old Business

None

## New Business

### Farmer's Market Street Closure

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Peterson to approve closure of a portion of East A Street from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday beginning June 14, 2008 through September 27, 2008, for the Farmer's Market.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### MML Membership Renewal

**It was moved** by Burke and supported Tchokreff to approve the membership renewal of the Michigan Municipal League for \$4,856.

Member Peterson asked if the optional Legal Defense Fund in the amount of \$398 was necessary. City Manager Marquart said the City has used this service in the past.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### Special Use Permit Laydon Development

Member Tchokreff expressed concern with access on and off of Main St. Member Rosen discussed the parking and the Planning Board requiring green space which is not required by the ordinance for a site plan with less than ten spaces. Mayor VanLaanen said the landscaping was offered by Mr. Laydon with the initial site plans. Member Peterson asked Planning Director Woolard if a nearby alley was found to be one-way or two-way. Mr. Woolard stated the Police Chief had no record of the alley changing to a one-way alley and it will remain a two-way alley.

**It was moved** by Rosen and supported Burke to approve the Special Use Permit request of Mr. Laydon with the conditions as stated by the Planning Board.

Mayor VanLaanen noted that the Council could pull the Special Use Permit if problems arise. Member Farragh thought the alley was changed to two-way by the new building owners because of a private parking lot.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

## **New Business(cont.)**

### **Lake Antoine Berm**

Mayor VanLaanen said the Lake Antoine dyke leaks when the water reaches a certain level. He said DPW Director Becotte investigated the problem and prepared a memo with a recommendation. Mayor VanLaanen would recommend following the recommendation of Mr. Becotte.

**No action taken.**

### **NEZ Certificate 620 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Caudell to approve a 15 year Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Certificate for 620 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### **Michigan Safe Routes to School**

Mr. Kevin Trevillian with Vision 2020 presented their efforts to make safe walking/biking routes to North Elementary through Michigan's Safe Routes to School Program. He said grants for this program are 100% State funded. Member Caudell felt that their needs to be a sidewalk that goes all the way to North Elementary. Member Rosen asked Mr. Trevillian for any assistance he could provide with pick up and drop off of children at the Catholic School. Member Caudell asked what actions Vision 2020 would like to take towards the effort. Mr. Trevillian said they would like to reconstruct 5<sup>th</sup> Street and have one driving lane with an off street 6' to 8' sidewalk from Vulcan Street to Broadway Street. Member Peterson asked if Vision 2020 was involved with plans for East or Central Elementary. Mr. Trevillian believed those schools have not started the program.

**No action taken.**

### **Conference Center Project Update**

Mr. Steve Mariucci presented an update on his Mariucci Development LLC events center project. He said Phase I is 11.1 acres and would preliminarily involve building the Iron Mountain Events Center, a restaurant, and possibly an assisted living facility. He said Phase II and III would require additional land acquisition but it is not necessary for Phase I. Mr. Mariucci stated the tax benefit down the road will be much greater than the initial investment. He said that there are no plans for a casino. Member Peterson asked about budgeted amounts for land acquisition of Phase II and III. Mr. Mariucci was unaware of anything being budgeted for these phases. He said nothing was requested at this point but it will be a part of future conversations. Member Peterson asked about the MEDC grant. Mr. Mariucci said they expected an approval letter this week for approximately \$1.5 million. Member Peterson asked what happens to the grant if the jobs threshold is not met. The City Manager said the State would work with the developer and City to secure the additional jobs but the MEDC could ask for some of the grant money back in a worst case scenario. Member Peterson would like to see jobs related to manufacturing/alternative energy and would like to see TIFA money go towards creating these types of jobs. She asked if this idea could work in collaboration with what Mr. Mariucci has planned. Mr. Mariucci stated the site plan has changed many times and it could change depending what is practical to the project. Member Caudell thinks as a Council they should look at the whole picture and not critique the developer's plan. She believes the conceptual plan should think big and look at what it could grow into. Member Rosen likes Mr. Mariucci's vision but residents contributed to TIFA and this obligates him to scrutinize the project. Member Caudell reiterated that TIFA's goal is to increase tax base and this is a great project to do that. Mayor VanLaanen asked if any portion of Phase I would require additional railroad property. Mr. Mariucci said it would be beneficial but not necessary for Phase I. Member Peterson said that approximately \$3.5 million from TIFA has been budgeted for the project and that may be in conflict with the need for a TIFA capture pass through to help the General Fund.

**No action taken.**

## Financial Reports

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of April with regular wages in the amount of \$252,954.34 and OT in the amount of \$21,715.23. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$687,373.24. Member Rosen gave a finance committee report. He said he would recommend pre-approval of the City Manager's travel. He stated that that overtime in the Police and Fire Department was reduced and hopefully this trend will continue. The Finance Committee reviewed the claims and had no questions at this time. Member Peterson asked if the meter reading was part of the system that would be a \$500,000 upgrade. City Manager Marquart said these interrogators are a needed as an upgrade to the current system and could be used with an upgraded system.

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

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

Invoice paid through automated clearing \$26,173.84, MERS 05/15/08

## City Manager Report

Mayor VanLaanen asked for an update about the stumps on East D St. City Manager Marquart said the City has contacted the owner of the property and he has been given time to clean up the stumps.

## City Attorney Reports

None

## Committee Reports

### Finance Committee

Member Rosen continued his Finance Committee report. He noted they discussed illegal dumping on Smith St. and possibly having a dirt section of Smith St. paved. Member Farragh felt lighting only the intersections along US 2 instead of every 300 ft. could save the City money. The City will purchase two hand held interrogators for water meter reading at a cost of \$11,000. Member Rosen stated there was another sewer backup but the City was not at fault. They discussed different ways to achieve health care savings

### Health Care Committee

Mayor VanLaanen said the committee discussed options with the City's health care consultant. Member Peterson said there was discussion of UP Blue health insurance, which she would not be in favor of because it may open collective bargaining. She would like Mr. Rose, the health care consultant, to meet with current and retired employees if changes will be made with health care expenses. Member Caudell said there would be no changes before going to collective bargaining.

## Public Comment

Mary Couper – 630 Detroit Ave. – discussed the need to have big visions for the community.

Barbara Kramer – 135 Bradley St. – said they retired early to move back to the area because of the quality of life here.

John Roberts – 500 East D St. – would like the water bill grace period increased to thirty days instead of the current fifteen days.

Joan Game - 709 7<sup>th</sup> Street – thanked Mr. Trevillian for his presentation on the Safe Routes to School. She thanked Mr. Mariucci for his vision and asked for council support on the project.

### **Council Member Privilege**

Mayor VanLaanen stated that there will be a presentation for the small town design of the north side tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., at the Immaculate Conception school building. He stated that Mrs. Magee Johnson was resigning from the DDA Board effective June 1, 2008.

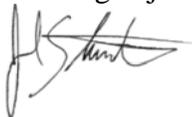
Member Rosen would like an additional budget workshop this week. City Manager Marquart will find a date and time that works for the council members.

Member Farragh would like to have a joint meeting with TIFA. Member Farragh stated he is at the point with investigating the reassessment that he needs to discuss his findings with the City Attorney. Member Rosen would like the Finance Committee to meet with the City Attorney to discuss the investigation.

Member Peterson stated the City's budget is in a precarious position and feels the City cannot do most of the financing for the conference center.

Member Caudell thank Mr. Mariucci for his presentation and belief in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina  
Clerk-Treasurer