

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, June 2, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

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

## Agenda

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

## Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2008 and Special Meeting of May 27, 2008 were approved as submitted

## Public Comment

Bill Toedter – 631 East C St. – requested another meeting with the City on behalf of the Dickinson County Landlord Association. They would like to discuss remaining concerns with the Rental Housing Ordinance.

Bob Moraska – 224 West D St. – asked Member Burke about starting a neighborhood watch. He asked why Member Burke votes for things that violate the City Charter.

Joan Game – 709 7<sup>th</sup> St. – asked questions about the city health care policy. What does the policy in general provide? What is the deductible? What amount do employees contribute toward the premium? What is the 2008 budgeted amount for employee/retiree health care expenses? What percentage does that represent of the 2008 budget? Ms. Game does not agree with Member Rosen's idea of a one million dollar TIFA pass through. She feels this would be a short term band aid and not beneficial for the future of Iron Mountain. She expressed concern with the Council Members that voted against the budget. She stated that the budget is a guide and not set in stone.

## Special Presentation

Mayor VanLaanen and the City Council awarded Mrs. Margaret Johnson a plaque recognizing her years of service on the Downtown Development Authority.

**No action taken.**

## New Business

### City Park for Kingsford CC Meet

It moved by Burke and supported Caudell to allow Kingsford High School use of City Park for a Cross Country Meet on September 9, 2008 and October 9, 2008.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Display Permit

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to approve the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Display Permit for Spielbauer Fireworks Company.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

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

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Contribution**

[Member Peterson suggested possibly increasing the donation to \$600.]

It was moved by Burke and supported by Caudell to approve the contribution of \$500 to the Sons of the American Legion for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Display.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### **Planning Board Appointments**

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to appoint Ms. Julie Olson to a three year term on the City of Iron Mountain Planning Board.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to appoint Ms. Mary Rahoi to a three year term on the City of Iron Mountain Planning Board.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### **Fire Department Appointments**

City Manager Marquart said the appointments to the Fire Department of Mr. Andrew Lancour and Mr. Adam Ray are for training purposes only. Member Rosen asked if the training, bonuses and turn-out gear were budgeted. City Manager Marquart stated that the items were included in the budget. Member Rosen felt that the collective bargaining with the Fire Department is going toward not using police officers as firefighters and he feels the City could save \$17,000 from the budget by not making these appointments. Member Caudell said the Fire Chief made the recommendations and feels that they should be followed. Member Peterson asked if this could wait until the collective bargaining is complete. Mayor VanLaanen stated that collective bargaining could drag on and we should not get behind on training.

**It was moved by** Rosen and supported by Peterson to table the appointments until we see where the collective bargaining takes the City.

Mayor VanLaanen believes that spending money on training related to safety is not a bad investment. Member Peterson asked for a time frame for the collective bargaining agreement with the fire department. City Manager Marquart stated meetings have been positive but it is difficult to say when an agreement would be reached. Member Rosen stated he felt that within two months there could be an agreement. Member Farragh would like the tabling of the appointments to have a time frame of preferably 30 days.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### **Financial Reports**

None

### **City Manager Report**

City Manager Marquart stated that City Hall office hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting next Monday.

City Manager Marquart addressed the questions from public comment pertaining to health care. He said the City provides health care for approximately 55 full time employees and 66 retirees. He said this costs the City \$1.2 million per year and it is about 24% of the City's General Fund budget. City Manager Marquart said the out of pocket deductible is \$250 for a single and \$500 for a family. He said the City is currently looking at savings related to drug cards and mail order prescription programs.

Member Peterson asked for an update on having a joint meeting with Mr. Rose (health insurance consultant) and the employees and retirees. City Manager Marquart said the City is waiting for some additional information and a meeting will take place in July or the later part of June. Member Peterson

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### **City Manager Report(cont.)**

would like to have a joint Council and TIFA meeting. Member Peterson asked for any information on the Jim and Ida Goulette Park. City Manager Marquart said he has not had any contact with the representative but the City would provide assistance needed in maintaining the park. Member Peterson asked what is happening at Chapin Pit. Mayor VanLaanen stated that there is private money that will be spent there. City Manager Marquart said the Park and Rec. Committee will meet Wednesday at 2:00 o'clock to discuss what will happen.

Member Caudell asked about the trial run of taping the Council meeting. City Manager Marquart said the taping turned out alright and he will look into televising it.

Member Rosen asked for an update on his request to draft a letter addressed to Governor Granholm requesting the combination of major and local street funds. City Manager Marquart stated he is working on it and will have it ready before he goes on vacation or first thing when he gets back.

Mayor VanLaanen would like the joint TIFA meeting sooner than later. Also, he would like a meeting set up with the landlords.

Member Farragh asked about the flag pole at Timbers being painted which he requested it to be painted by Memorial Day. City Manager Marquart said that an estimate to paint the flagpole was \$7,000. Member Farragh suggested that the City could paint at a lower cost.

Member Peterson was disappointed that she did not receive notice of the Homeland Security Flood Map Modernization meeting until two days after the meeting. Member Peterson would like the ability to choose what meetings she would like to attend. Also, Member Rosen was upset by not being aware of this.

### **City Attorney Reports**

None

### **Committee Reports**

None

### **Public Comment**

Julie Olson – 212 4<sup>th</sup> St. – thanked the Council for reappointment to the Planning Board.

Bob Moraska – 224 W D St. – is concerned with the amount of money proposed to be spent on the Mariucci project. He would like the Council to fix the streets.

### **Council Member Privilege**

Member Caudell thanked Magee Johnson for the brick and sidewalk project downtown. She stated that the City needs economic development to increase tax base to help pay for things such as health care and streets.

Member Rosen feels we could not grow the tax base enough to repair the streets. He feels the streets are a core issue and we should start repair this year.

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

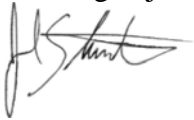
Member Farragh thanked Magee for her service to the DDA. He said he will not drop the reappraisal and is looking to discuss it with the Finance Committee and the City Attorney. Member Farragh feels that their needs to be changes made to update the City's Zoning Ordinance.

Member Burke said he introduced the neighborhood watch and was trying to be proactive. He stated that he has voted in accordance to the Charter and for the best interests of Iron Mountain.

Member Peterson said she didn't think it was wrong to ask for Council support of alternative energy manufactures. The City needs to market itself to attract these types of companies. She doesn't agree with taking chances with taxpayer money, the developer needs to be the one taking the chances. Member Peterson thanked Mrs. Johnson for her efforts with the DDA and Out to Lunch Program.

Mayor VanLaanen stated that he and Council Member Peterson will attend the MML Conference in Baraga this week. He showed a map of property north of the former Khoury Property and looked forward to discussing it at a joint TIFA meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina  
Clerk-Treasurer