

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, June 16, 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 Farragh and supported by Caudell to approve the agenda as submitted.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2008 were approved as submitted with an addition as follows:

New Business: July 4th Fireworks Contribution

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

Public Comment

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – would like to see more bike racks in the downtown.

Old Business

None

New Business

East Side Water Tank Improvement Bids

City Manager Marquart opened the bids received for crack repair of the east side water tank.

1. Spectrum Contracting, Grafton, WI \$122,500

Member Peterson asked if the City solicited a proposal from Dixon Engineering. City Manager Marquart stated they were not solicited. Member Farragh believed that Dixon Engineering did not do this kind of work. He hopes this work leads to the discontinuation of chlorinating the water system.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Tchokreff to refer the bid to the Streets Committee for review and recommendation.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Zoning Ord. Text Amendment Greenhouse

City Manager Marquart said this would allow for greenhouses in a B-2 zoning district by right and B-1 zoning district by special use. Member Rosen felt that the verbiage changes are simple and would like to have the public hearing as soon as possible.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to hold a public hearing with regard to amending the Zoning Ordinance for greenhouses in the B-1 Zoning District by special use and B-2 Zoning District by right. The public hearing will be Monday, July 7, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Danny Hansen Special Use Permit

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Farragh to approve a 10 year Special Use Permit for a produce stand operated by Mr. Danny Hansen with conditions as outlined by the Planning Board.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

New Business(cont.)

Liability and Property Insurance

CFO Bartolameolli stated that the City has been with MMRA for Property and Liability Insurance. She solicited an insurance quote from MML and found MMRA to still be more cost effective. Member Peterson asked if the sewer backup policy was the same as in the past. CFO Bartolameolli said it was the same as the last few years and most municipalities are going the same route. Member Farragh asked if this was for two years or one. CFO Bartolameolli said it is a one year agreement with an option for a second year that will increase by no more than 5%.

It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Burke to continue with property and liability insurance coverage from MMRA as outlined in the memorandum from CFO Bartolameolli.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

EOY Budget Amendment

CFO Bartolameolli discussed the budget amendment and stated General Fund revenues were decreased by \$68,000 and General Fund expenditures stayed the same but were adjusted between functions. Member Peterson stated that Public Safety expenditures were plus \$33,000 and adjusted out from other functions. It was moved by Burke and supported by Peterson to approve the EOY Budget Amendment per the memorandum from CFO Bartolameolli.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Zoning Board of Appeals

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Tchokreff to reappoint Mr. Wilfred Sauld to a three year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Rosen to reappoint Mr. Robert Barkle to a three year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of May with regular wages in the amount of \$311,325.88 and OT in the amount of \$31,270.14. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$520,240.22. The Finance Committee reviewed the claims and recommends approval as submitted. It was moved by Tchokreff and supported by Caudell to approve claims and payroll in the amounts noted above.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Report

City Manager Marquart informed the Council that they have the opportunity to apply for a SAFER Grant for the Fire Department. The City will submit paperwork through the Department of Homeland Security and it could be utilized for paid on call fire fighters that are a current topic of collective bargaining. The application does not require the City to make a commitment at this point. City Manager Marquart stated the Council will need to hold a public hearing in July for the purchase of a vehicle in the fire department. The application for the fire truck is through the United States Department of Rural Development and provides for a grant and loan to assist in the purchase.

Member Peterson asked for the information on the east side tank because she has a meeting with Ann Young. She asked about the status of the out of service fire hydrants. She would like to repair these as

City Manager Report (cont.)

soon as possible. City Manager Marquart said the Fire Chief and the DPW Director are working to resolve this problem and there should be cost estimates for repairs by the early part of July. Member Peterson asked if the City has been patching potholes. City Manager Marquart said we have been repairing potholes but recent rains have slowed the process.

Member Farragh asked if the rubbish pick up was complete. The City Manager thought it was complete. Member Caudell stated that Mr. Becotte said the Council should look at reevaluating the rubbish pick up due to the man hours required to complete it. Member Farragh believed one recommendation would be having the collection in the Fall. Mayor VanLaanen suggested the Streets Committee review this at their next meeting.

Member Rosen asked about the frequency of emptying the recycle bins, specifically the paper bin. City Manager Marquart said it is on an as needed basis. Member Rosen would recommend an additional paper bin because it is always full. Member Farragh said the bins are emptied two to three times a week.

Mayor VanLaanen stated that the State was creating an Act 51 Task Force and this may be an appropriate place to send the letter that the City Manager drafted at the request of Member Rosen.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Member Rosen stated that there was a question about quorums at committee meetings and City Attorney Pirkola will review the issue. He said there was a lengthy discussion with regard to the reassessment investigation. Member Caudell stated that Mr. Christy spoke on behalf of the Landlord Association and she feels that the ordinance could be presented to the Council in July. Mayor VanLaanen asked if there was a discussion of the fees. Member Caudell stated the fees were discussed and believes they are agreeable to both parties. Member Caudell said the City lowered fees but would review to ensure that the expenses are covered. Member Peterson stated an important point to the landlords was ensuring the fees do not change. She asked if there was a way to guarantee the fees do no change. City Attorney Pirkola said there was no way that this could be guaranteed.

Park and Recreation Committee

Member Caudell stated the Lilja Foundation was there and the Foundation will be financially responsible for beautifying Chapin Pit. Member Farragh said the City should address the storm water pipe that is in the beautification area. Additionally, Member Caudell said Vision 2020 will have 10 minutes in front of the DNR Board regarding the Bat Cave Trail. She said Joan Game brought the press box plans for Chapin Field to the committee.

Public Comment

Marsha Bonicatto – 738 East A St. – said the Lilja Foundation will be landscaping the recently cleared area of the east Chapin Pit. She was concerned about dog waste in the parks and would hope owners would carry a plastic bag to remove waste while walking pets.

Don Christy – 1310 East Grant St. – stated that the Landlord Association met with the City and has agreed upon the fee structure for the Rental Housing Ordinance. He felt that with the fee structure and some agreed upon language changes, the Rental Housing Ordinance could move forward and the lawsuit dropped.

Public Comment(cont.)

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – thanked the Council for expediting the zoning amendment related to greenhouses. He stated that the B-2 District zoning did not need to be amended and would like the B-1 District to allow greenhouses by special use.

Kevin Pirlot – 603 W Fleshiem St. – is concerned with allowing temporary greenhouses in the B-2 District because he feels this would be detrimental to his business. He would like the B-2 District clarified for allowing or disallowing temporary greenhouses.

Council Member Privilege

Member Rosen believed the Council should take the suggestions from public comment and not change the B-2 Zoning District and change the B-1 Zoning District to allow greenhouses as a special use. It was moved by Rosen and supported Tchokreff to rescind the original motion regarding the amendment of B-1/B-2 greenhouse ordinance change.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Peterson to amend the B-1 Zoning District to allow greenhouses by special use at a Public Hearing on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Member Rosen stated he received a call from Mike Laydon requesting the cutting down of 3 to 4 trees on Millie Hill to allow easier access for the 4th of July Fireworks Display. Member Caudell stated this issue was brought before the Parks and Recreation Committee. Member Caudell stated she walked the area and feels there is plenty of room to drive and it would be unnecessary to cut down any trees. Member Farragh asked if the road could be graveled and leveled to help the vehicles and trailers from rocking. City Manager Marquart said the City helped Mr. Laydon's organization reconstruct the pathway a few years ago. Member Caudell thought that the possible construction of the bat cave trail may prevent the current area from being utilized for the fireworks display. Mayor VanLaanen felt the trail would prevent vehicle access but not stop the fireworks display.

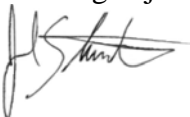
Member Caudell would agree with the public comment request for bicycle racks downtown.

Mayor VanLaanen noted that this weekend is the Red Hacker basketball tournament downtown.

Member Farragh commended Sgt. Irwin for the job done as the new school liaison officer. He stated the city has an ordinance addressing picking up after a dog but it comes down to an enforcement issue. Also, Member Farragh commented on a test in Ironwood and Bessemer that takes US2 and pares it down from a 4 lane highway to a 2 lane highway with a middle turn lane running the length of the test area. Member Farragh thought that may work with US2 through downtown.

Member Peterson thought it may help to have receptacles at the parks for dog waste.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer