

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, July 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

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

Agenda

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Caudell to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of the following:

New Business

10. Discussion of MML Executive Search Services

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 7, 2008 and the Special Meeting of July 14, 2008 stand approved as submitted.

Public Comment

Bill Buchcusi – 830 East A St. – does not understand why the City would want to sell low cost property for the Medallion Management development and will this decrease their property values. He said the area is a sports complex and does not fit with a low income development. Mr. Buchcusi is also concerned about the potential for higher crime. He said there are over 70 black walnut trees on the property. He feels this is the worst site to put the Medallion development.

Public Hearings

Aerial Apparatus for the Fire Department

Mayor VanLaanen opened the Public Hearing.
No residents came forward to address the Council.
Mayor VanLaanen closed the Public Hearing.

Amended Rental Housing Ordinance

Mayor VanLaanen opened the Public Hearing

Shannon Brooks – W7920 Lake Antoine Rd. – asked about the Code Enforcement Officers responsibility to report illegal activities found during a rental inspection. She also asked if the Code Enforcement Officer would be a mandatory reporter of child neglect.

Mayor VanLaanen closed the Public Hearing

Old Business

Amended Rental Housing Ordinance

City Manager stated the inspector will only be concerned with the condition of the unit and not what is happening inside the unit.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Caudell to approve the Amended Rental Housing Ordinance.

Ayes: 5 (Caudell, Burke, VanLaanen, Tchokreff and Farragh)

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 (Rosen)

Absent: 1 (Peterson)

Motion carried.

New Business

Comprehensive Plan Update by CUPPAD

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Caudell to enter a contract with CUPPAD in the amount of \$2,300 for the purpose of redrafting the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

New Vehicle Financing

It was moved by Burke and supported by Farragh to finance the purchase of squad car and cargo van with UP State Bank at a rate of 2.70% and total payments of \$40,338.68.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

IM Housing Commission Appointments

It was moved by Farragh and Burke to appoint Mr. Walter Lakari to the unexpired term of Mr. A.C. Costa ending January 2011.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to appoint Dr. Robert Mellon to the unexpired term of Mr. Bernard Gallino ending January 2009.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Line Striping of Major Streets

Mayor VanLaanen stated that the Bike Path Committee, of which he is a member, would request the possibility of striping bike paths along with the major streets. Member Rosen asked if we could use our own line striper for bike path routes. City Manager Marquart said it depends on the extent of the striping and it may be easier to stripe bike path lines while striping the major streets. Member Rosen would like the bike path striping as an addendum to the bid to see the separate cost from the striping of the major streets. Member Farragh stated that transportation costs can be saved if we catch a company while they are coming through for other work.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Caudell to authorize staff to solicit sealed bids for the striping of major streets and/or may include bike path markings.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Park Bocce Courts

It was moved by Burke and supported by Tchokreff to approve the designation of one handicapped stall at the City Park Bocce Courts.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Holy Trinity Church

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to approve the designation two handicapped stalls on West B Street in front of the Holy Trinity Church.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Cat. A Grant Funding IM Event Center

City Manager Marquart said this is a Resolution to show support of the Category A Grant Funding application. He said the grant is for \$800,000 with a twenty percent match from the City. He said the work will be to reconstruct Grant and Blaine St. and appropriate improvements in the US 2 right of way.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Caudell to approve the Resolution in support of the Category A Grant Funding application for the IM Event Center.

Member Rosen asked if we receive grant approval, are we obligated to the project. City Manager Marquart said we are not obligated to accept the funds. Mayor VanLaanen said part of the Event Center discussions have included the realignment of Grant St. to connect with Bellgamba Rd. He said this grant is being

New Business(cont.)

submitted with the understanding that the Grant St. alignment will change if it is aligned with Bellagamba Rd. at a future time.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

NEZ Certificate 510 Aragon St.

It was moved by Caudell and supported by Rosen to approve the application for a twelve year Neighborhood Enterprise Certificate at 510 Aragon St.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Update of Reassessment

Member Farragh started with a discussion of a timeline of events for the reassessment. Mayor VanLaanen said as part of investigation we could have Mr. Brook here to answer questions. Member Caudell said as a Finance Committee member feels the timeline does not agree with the discussions at the committee level. Member Caudell stated that Ms. Esch said a reassessment was necessary. Member Farragh and Rosen said that is not the issue but the structure of the reassessment was wrong. Member Caudell asked what direction was this investigation going. Mayor VanLaanen would like a Special Meeting to conduct the investigation further. Member Rosen would like to have people directly involved come and answer questions at a Special Meeting. Member Caudell asked Member Farragh what does he want to accomplish with a formal investigation. Member Farragh said we didn't get what we paid for and he would like to make an attempt to get some of the money back for inferior work on the reassessment. Member Rosen believes we need to learn from the mistakes that were made with this reassessment. He said he will photocopy all supporting documentation for the other Council Members. Mayor VanLaanen would suggest a Special Meeting with the City Assessor present. Member Rosen would like to have Ms. Esch and Larry Swartout present at the Special Meeting. Mayor VanLaanen asked if there was agreement for a Special Meeting next Monday night.

No action taken.

MML Executive Search

Mayor VanLaanen said there are calls to the MML on how the search could be tailored per Member Rosen's concern. Member Rosen has no problem with utilizing MML as long as the Council has first right to screen applicants. Mayor VanLaanen said that he will pass along further information as it is made available.

No action taken.

Financial Reports

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of June with regular wages in the amount of \$297,620.07 and OT in the amount of \$31,880.21. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$946,928.63. The Finance Committee reviewed the claims and recommends approval as submitted. Member Rosen noted the overtime in the Police and Fire Departments was \$25,000. Also, he commented on line item #73 and felt we should utilize in town greenhouses for flower purchases. It was moved by Rosen and supported by Tchokreff to approve claims and payroll in the amounts noted above.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Report

Mayor VanLaanen asked the City Manager about the proposed Medallion Management development lowering property values. City Manager Marquart said he could not comment on it specifically but other Medallion developments have satisfied the neighbors.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Planning Board

Member Farragh stated the Planning Board would like the Council to set aside time for the Planning Board and Council to discuss establishing a Planning Commission.

Public Comment

Dale Alessandrini – 1120 Iron Mountain St. – thanked Member Farragh and Rosen for their investigation of the reappraisal. Mr. Alessandrini did not understand why Mr. Brook was not required to carry a performance bond and why the City paid for the worker's compensation insurance. He asked if Mr. Brook was fired or resigned.

Jinx Brew – 904 East C St. – thanked Dave and Bruce for the work they are doing but she was disappointed that all the Council Members did not have copies of the supporting documentation.

Council Member Privilege

Member Rosen said Member Farragh delivered each document to the Council Members on his own time Sunday night. He stated there is extensive backup documentation that would have required additional time to copy.

Member Farragh stated it is not a personal vendetta but he wants to be responsible to the taxpayers.

Member Caudell thinks the Council should have all been enlightened as things were discovered. She feels the Council should be proactive and if we want to look back at mistakes maybe we should look back ten years for past mistakes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer