

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, August 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen

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

Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola

Agenda

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

Executive Session

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 4, 2008 stand approved as submitted.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 28, 2008 stand approved as submitted with additions as follows:

Change the Meeting date to July 28, 2008 from July 12, 2008.

[Member Peterson noted that the \$5,057 the City paid for Worker's Compensation Insurance would need to be added to the \$182,000.]

Public Comment

Linnea Marchetti – 614 W Ludington St. – thanked everyone for a successful Italian Fest.

Richard Rahoi – 919 Houghteling St. – said the side streets are atrocious and would recommend the City issue bonds to pay for street repair. The bonds could be paid for with funds from the expiration of TIFA.

Old Business

None

New Business

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem

Mayor VanLaanen called for nominations of Mayor Pro-Tem.

Member Farragh nominated Member Rosen.

Motion failed. (3 Ayes – Farragh, Rosen and Peterson, 2 Nays – VanLaanen and Burke)

Member VanLaanen nominated Member Burke

Motion failed. (2 Ayes – VanLaanen and Burke, 3 Nays – Farragh, Rosen and Peterson)

Member Burke nominated Member Peterson

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Economic Development Committee

Member Peterson would like an Economic Development Committee for the City. She feels that there are opportunities out there and a mix of Council Members and business people could help in attracting new businesses. Mayor VanLaanen asked Member Peterson if she was unhappy with the Partnership's economic development efforts. Member Peterson stated that this committee could work with the Partnership. Mayor VanLaanen asked Member Peterson if she would be interested in being appointed as

the City's representative on the Partnership's Economic Alliance Board. Member Rosen felt that Member Peterson could give this appointment a chance to see if it can assist in her current efforts.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Rosen to appoint Ms. Peterson to the Dickinson Area Partnership's Economic Alliance Board.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Appointment of Zoning Administrator

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to appoint Mr. Jordan Stanchina, Acting City Manager as the Zoning Administrator.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Conservation District Calendar Contribution

It was moved by Burke and supported by Peterson to approve a \$250 sponsorship of a page in the Dickinson County Conservation District calendar.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Dickinson Area Partnership Contribution

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to approve a yearly contribution of \$6,000 to the Dickinson Area Partnership.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Parking Lot Closure

It was moved Burke and supported by Peterson to the close the parking lot behind Millie Street Market and Jean Kay's Pasties on September 6, 2008 from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for relocation of the Farmer's Market due to the Just Cruzin' Club Car Show.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Bike Path Input

Mayor VanLaanen started a discussion of the Bike Path Committee's desire to link the downtown to City Park. He said the Committee has discussed creating a to and from bike path on C, B, A or Hughitt St. Mayor VanLaanen acknowledges that this could cause parking issues for affected residents. Member Rosen is concerned about parking being eliminated in front of resident's houses. Mayor VanLaanen would suggest the Planning Board hold a Public Hearing for resident input. Member Rosen would recommend sending a letter to all residents on the streets that could be affected by bike path striping. Member Farragh feels that A and B Streets would be the best fit for striped bike paths.

No action taken.

Lighting at Chapin Field

Mayor VanLaanen said the City pays for the ongoing electrical charges of the lighting as they do for the other fields. Member Farragh believed that the baseball teams used to pay for the usage.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to approve a payment of \$750 to WE Energies for the installation of an electrical service at Chapin Field.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

PD Civilian Employees Increase

It was moved by Burke and supported by Farragh to approve a 2.5% wage increase for the civilian employees at the Police Department beginning July 1, 2008.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Discussion of Cable Franchise Fee

Member Burke started a discussion of the cable franchise fee and feels that the fee could be lowered to 2% because it is generating more than one half of the School Liaison Officer. Member Rosen feels that a reduction in the fee will cause a shortfall in the budget. He felt this money should have been used for right of ways. Mayor VanLaanen would like to use some of the money to broadcast the meetings on television.

New Business(cont.)

Member Peterson feels the City would need a budget amendment to replace the lost revenue if the fee was removed. Member Rosen is in disagreement with the franchise fee.

No action taken.

Acting City Manager Adjustment

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to approve a \$350 a week increase in compensation for the Acting City Manager retroactive to the first day the designation became effective.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

MML Executive Search

Mayor VanLaanen stated the City needs Council action to sign a contract with the MML to begin the City Manager search. Mayor VanLaanen stated the MML does not show all the resumes because they keep them confidential in the beginning stages of the screening process. He said that keeping the resumes confidential allows for a wider pool of candidates. Member Farragh feels the Manager search should be rolled into the budget meeting. Member Peterson does not agree with a MML search in any way. She would like to advertise in the local region first. She feels that the MML search keeps the Council in the dark. Member Rosen thinks we could test the waters by advertising in the area first. Mayor VanLaanen does not have problem advertising locally but would like to advertise in the MML or ICMA. Mayor VanLaanen suggested that the Council Members work on an ad and see what the results are of this effort.

No action taken.

City Manager Consultant

Member Rosen would like to use Mr. Jim Urbany as a consultant to the Acting City Manager. Mayor VanLaanen feels it should be left to the Acting City Manager to request help when it is needed. Member Burke feels that Mr. Brinker could be utilized. Member Rosen feels that Mr. Urbany would be the best choice for a volunteer consultant.

It was moved Rosen and supported by Farragh to place Mr. Jim Urbany as a volunteer consultant to the Acting City Manager.

Ayes: 3 (Rosen, Farragh and Rosen)

Nays: 2 (Burke and Rosen)

Motion failed.

Financial Reports

Member Rosen said the budget is in bad shape and one of the issues is retroactive pay for DPW and the Fire Department. Additionally, the Fire Department has used a third of the budgeted overtime in a month and a half. He said that the Rental Housing Ordinance will fall short of the revenue amount budgeted. Member Rosen would like a special meeting to discuss the budget.

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of July with regular wages in the amount of \$285,547.46 and OT in the amount of \$30,610.84. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$509,101.36. The Finance Committee reviewed the claims and recommends approval as submitted. Member Rosen said the vendor's report showed dues for former City Manager Marquart in the amount of \$830, which will be invoiced to Oak Forest. He said the cost of the sidewalk in front of Walgreens will be invoiced to TIFA. Mayor VanLaanen felt the dues for the City Manager were part of contractual obligations since he was still employed as City Manager at the time the dues came payable. Member Peterson asked for the total cost of the Walgreens sidewalk. CFO Bartolameolli stated the total cost was around \$10,000.

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

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Report

None

City Attorney Reports

Member Farragh asked for an update on the reassessment. City Attorney Pirkola said he has a few items to review and should have some information for the Council in the coming week. Member Rosen asked if the City Attorney looked at the voting requirements as a Council of five. City Attorney Pirkola said four votes are required for anything to pass. Member Rosen asked about having three Council Members at Committee meetings. City Attorney Pirkola said that a Committee of three members could be a potential quorum even though it takes four votes for action by the Council. The City Attorney will research this further.

Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

Jim Brinker – 1211 West A St. – offered his help to the Acting City Manager. Mr. Brinker would highly recommend the Council use the MML Manager search service because in his experience it is an effective and streamlined process. Mr. Brinker stated he would resign as TIFA Chairman to become the TIFA Administrator. He would request that the Council leave his seat on the Board open so he could go back to it after a permanent manager is hired. Mayor VanLaanen recommended having the City Attorney look at the possibility of leaving the seat open.

Mary Couper – 633 Detroit Ave. – stated that green algae are all over Crystal Lake and that something needs to be done to remedy this situation.

Bob Moraska – 224 West D St. – feels the Council should consider an Economic Development Committee. Mr. Moraska feels that repairing the streets should be a priority over striping a bike path. He would like to look for a new manager locally prior to an extended search.

Linnea Marchetti – 614 W. Ludington St. – said the Main Street Program has been operating as an Economic Development Committee for the downtown. She invited everyone to the Izzo-Mariucci Center on August 28th at 6:30 p.m. to hear the results of the downtown focus groups.

Elaine Burke – 1229 Crystal Lake Blvd. – feels that the City should stay open to putting an ad for a City Manager in the MML.

Council Member Privilege

Member Peterson stated she attended a luncheon for Habitat for Humanity and Senator Prusi was there and available for questions. She said there are always going to be a difference of opinions on the Council. She said that she is trying hard for development related to manufacturing which would be difficult to have downtown.

Member Burke sent condolences to the Johnson family for their loss of Bill Johnson.

Member Farragh said the City infrastructure is in bad shape. He said there is a lot of hydrant repair needed and he would like a Streets Committee meeting to discuss things with Mr. Becotte. Member Farragh stated that less than 5 miles of roads were paved in the last four years and 9 miles of roads were paved in the

Council Member Privilege(cont.)

previous four years. Member Farragh said he took the reassessment information to the Michigan State Police for investigation. He took it there as a private citizen not a Council Member.

Member Rosen agrees that the roads are in bad shape and he said he tried to address this issue during the budget process. He would like to place an emphasis on repairing the roads.

It was moved by Burke and Supported by Farragh to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining strategies. (8:29 p.m.)

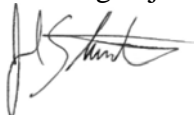
Roll call vote taken:

Burke	Yes
Peterson	Yes
Rosen	Yes
VanLaanen	Yes
Farragh	Yes

Motion carried. (5-0)

Regular Session reconvened. (9:45 p.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer